



Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians
30 September 2015, Warsaw
Discrimination of Christians and Christianity in Society

The *European Centre for Law and Justice* (ECLJ) would like to draw attention to a growing hostility against Christians and Christianity in Europe. National authorities, courts and media treat them with discrimination. They do not enjoy their fundamental rights and they are deprived of protection, as the offences and crimes against them are often ignored.

In this situation, the ECLJ believes that one cannot request tolerance for Christians and Christianity. To tolerate means to accept an evil to avoid a greater evil. Requesting tolerance would mean that their behavior or faith is evil, unjust and irrational. Instead, they should be treated with justice, as they do not represent a danger to our society and their practices are not contrary to human dignity. Christianity is a religion depending on reason. Christian faith is based equally on Revelation and reason.

Moreover, since centuries, Christianity and Christians have contributed substantially to society. Therefore, their merits should be recognized acknowledged and freedoms guaranteed. They built and shaped the Western civilization and they continue to do so. Modern science, the wealth of free market economics, the security of the rule of law, the unique sense of human rights and freedom, charitable work, the university system, splendid art and music and philosophy grounded in reason were possible thanks to Christianity. The experience showed that when State moves away from reason, embracing ideological or religious fanaticism, Christians are in danger.

Therefore, the ECLJ recommends to the participating States: to publicly recognize the contribution of Christianity and Christians in all the fields of the society and to encouraged the media to do so too; to recognize and condemn crimes and discrimination against Christians and ensure their right to participate fully in public life; to monitor carefully the growing phenomenon of hostility against Christians and take appropriate measures in response; to brief and train law enforcement officials as to protect Christian activities adequately within the framework of the law; and to follow up the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolution of July 2011.

The ECLJ suggests to OSCE/ODIHR and to International Governmental Human Rights institutions: to report on crimes and discrimination against Christians and recommend appropriate action to their member states; to encourage governments to monitor the situation of Christians carefully and to collect segregated data on hate incidents and crimes against Christians; to examine their own documents and recommendations with regard to indirect discrimination against Christians and to recommend to the EU not to adopt the proposed 5th equal treatment directive.