

ESTONIA

Right of Reply

WS 16 (specifically selected topic): Combating Racism, Xenophobia, Intolerance and Discrimination

Thank you, Madam Moderator,

Estonia would like to exercise the right of reply and respond shortly to some misleading remarks presented in this panel.

First. Estonian Constitution prohibits any discrimination on ethnic, or any other basis. Estonia is one of a few countries where one can receive an education in Russian language at all levels from primary school to university degree. The language of instruction is regulated only at the level of the upper secondary education, which is non-compulsory.

We also support diverse media space and believe that this is what makes it possible to have all voices heard. Estonia protects freedom of speech and freedom of information. Our institutions follow these principles. According to World Press Freedom Index Estonia stands on the 12th place.

Second. Let me repeat that the Estonian Government has condemned the crimes and ideology of all totalitarian regimes in the strongest possible terms. Estonian people, like other Eastern European peoples, endured during the World War II the occupation under two criminal regimes. This is why Estonia rejects and deplors any glorification of ideologies, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Estonia, as a member of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is helping to record the memories of holocaust victims.

Thank you.