



INTERVENTION BY THE CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY

OSCE Human Rights Dimension Implementation Meeting

**Working Session 6
Freedom of Religion or Belief**

Warsaw, 26 September 2013

Thank you Madam Moderator,

Center for Security Policy is concerned with how emerging definitions of “incitement” can be open to permissive interpretations that include claims of being incited by the free and open exercise of one’s faith both individually and as a group. Increasingly, there is a trend to associate incitement with the harsh responses of others that have the effect of blaming the victim for the hostile responses of the abuser. This cannot be allowed to establish itself as an international legal standard.

Related concerns are expressed with regard to the emerging use of terms like “intolerance” and “discrimination” when applied to the free exercise of one’s faith.

CSP RECOMMENDS THAT the ODIHR ensure that terms like “incitement” not be allowed to have open-ended definitions that can be foreseeably used to cause a chilling effect on what would otherwise be protected speech and faith.

Thank you for your time and attention.