

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw September 25, 2019
Working Session15 (specifically selected topic) Hate crime

Statement by Ms. Lilit Grigoryan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control Division,
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Mr. Moderator,

Crimes against humanity and genocides can be prevented by combatting hate crimes, racism and xenophobia and by addressing identity based violations of human rights.

Genocide remembrance and education are essential part of OSCE commitments also reflected in Ljubljana MC decision, which is strongly interlinked to preventing hate crimes. Glorification of hate crimes, impunity and justification of atrocities and genocides are the main obstacles to prevention. Our experience lies behind special responsibility of Armenia to stand at the forefront of genocide prevention efforts and we continue to actively contribute to international efforts.

The 3rd Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide, held in Armenia in December 2018 became an important forum to address among other pertinent issues, topic of prevention of hate crimes, remembrance and education,

In the framework of the OSCE Armenia promotes the topic of combating hate crimes, targeting ethnic and religious groups. Last year during the OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan Armenia jointly with Cyprus came up with an initiative to mark the 70-th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. We are pleased that in their Joint Statement the vast majority of the OSCE participating States welcomed the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of 9 December as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and committed to intensify activities aimed at full implementation of their obligations under Genocide Convention. I would like to make the following recommendation in this regard.

- OSCE institutions, in particular ODIHR should streamline in its activities Genocide remembrance and education, including human rights education for prevention of hate crimes

Thank you.