



Associazione culturale “**Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori**”  
**TUTELA E SVILUPPO DEI DIRITTI**

Osservatorio per la Tolleranza e la Libertà Religiosa  
Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2008 – Session 10

Recommendations of the  
Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom  
Associazione “Dossetti: i Valori”  
(Italy)

To the OSCE participating States:

Participating States are urged:

- to welcome the concerns of religious communities regarding legal or administrative provisions or the alternative initiatives of those communities;
- to reject the claim that a democratic and pluralistic society should relegate to the realm of private opinion its members' religious beliefs and the moral convictions which derive from faith;
- to fully respect and guarantee the exercise of the right to conscientious objection of those who work in Public Administration;
- while respecting freedom of expression, to adopt practical measures to ban the vilification of religions and of their identity symbols;
- to guarantee that the media and the public discourse are respectful for religions, their teachings and symbols;
- to adopt effective and tailor made commitments, particularly in the next Ministerial Council Decisions, to firmly combat discrimination and intolerance against Christians, especially in the field of education, in the media, in public discourse and in the fight against hate crimes;
- to follow-up the Cordoba and Bucharest Conferences by convening in 2009 a Conference at appropriate level to examine in a balanced way anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination against members of others religions in the OSCE area, within the realm of existing commitments.

To the ODIHR:

- The ODIHR should not consider hate crimes and hate speeches against majority religions less serious than those against minority religions because hate crimes and hate speeches are serious per se. Therefore the ODIHR is urged to continue to monitor and report the recurring episodes of



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intolerance and discrimination against Christians, not only East by also West of Vienna.

- The ODIHR and CiO Personal Representatives efforts should focus more to fulfilling the existing commitments agreed upon by the 56 participating States and pay less attention to other concerns out the boundaries of the OSCE *acquis*.

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