

Working Session14 (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,

We welcome that Hate Crime is among specifically selected topics the relevance of which is more than evident today.

We subscribe to the view of the distinguished introducer that the responsibility to address hate crimes lies primarily with States but there are cases when racist and xenophobic public discourse and open encouragement of hate crimes is led at state level. The absence of free media, restrictions against civil society and silencing critical voices create conducive environment for the state propaganda to radicalize the society.

Mr. Moderator

We are very much concerned with the rise of the phenomenon of glorifying hate crime and hate crime perpetrators in the OSCE area. Official glorification of hate crime perpetrator in Azerbaijan and the climate of impunity has served an encouragement for further perpetration of hate crimes, including ISIL style executions. The pardon and glorification of Ramil Safarov, who axed an Armenian officer in his sleep, is a case in point.

Mr. Moderator,

We call upon the OSCE institutions to fully utilize their early warning mandate through hate crime reporting and pay particular attention to those hate crimes which may seriously endanger peace and security and create environment of large scale identity based violence.

In this regard, we recommend the ODIHR to raise the efficiency of hate crime reporting tool with the view to address hate crimes, constituting security threat. And we encourage ODIHR to streamline its activities with the Council of Europe ECRI in order effectively to address hate crimes in the OSCE area.

Thank you.