

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019**  
**Working Session 14 – Statement by the Delegation of Canada, delivered by Leonard Reil,**  
**Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

Moderator,

Canada offers the following recommendations:

- 1) That OSCE participating States go beyond reactively responding to hate and discrimination, and to proactively foster inclusion and respect for diversity to prevent hate from building;
- 2) That participating States make full use ODIHR's expertise to implement best practices on countering hate crime and promoting inclusion.

Moderator,

We must take a stand, in Canada and around the world, to denounce hate speech and the incitement to violence. Attacks on the basis of identity are an assault on the fundamental dignity and rights of every person. Hate crimes target both the integral and visible parts of a person's identity, and affect individuals and their communities.

Canada is a multicultural and multi-faith country. The most recent census data from 2016 shows that almost one quarter (22.3%) of Canadians report being members of a visible minority, and Canada's population is expected to become even more diverse in the coming decades. We cannot be complacent in countering the threat of hate and its devastating consequences, both online and offline.

The spread of online hate speech and its real world effects is of serious concern. We have witnessed increased targeting of Christian minorities, like the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, and increased attacks on Muslim communities including in New Zealand, as well as anti-Semitic violence as seen in the Pittsburgh synagogue mass shooting. We have seen the impacts in Canada as well, when, in 2017, six lives were lost and many were injured during a horrific shooting at a mosque in Quebec City. The shooter translated his hateful anti-Muslim speech online into violence. We cannot afford to add any more names to this list.

Canada believes that good internet governance is crucial in addressing online hate and abuse effectively, and in finding balance between security and dignity. Online platforms have increasingly become a tool to incite, publish, and promote terrorism, violence, and hatred; the Christchurch attack was a harrowing reminder that we need to take coordinated multilateral action to prevent social media and other online platforms from being used to promote and incite such hatred and violence.

In May 2019, Canada's Digital Charter was enacted to build on our commitments to a safe online space. One of its fundamental principles is freedom from hate and violent extremism, and that Canadians can expect that digital platforms will not foster or disseminate hate, violent extremism or criminal content.

The government of Canada will continue bilateral and multilateral efforts to work with digital industry, including social media platforms, to better address violent extremism and online hate. This is an area that the OSCE should, and must, pursue to counter hate crimes in defence of our collective comprehensive security.

Thank you.