

Recommendations for OSCE Review Conference in Warsaw

ENGLISH only

from Youth network against Racism and Intolerance, Youth Human Rights Movement, Moscow Helsinki Group

The participating States should:

- Create specialized national institutions responsible for confronting racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and discrimination along with the previous OSCE and Council of Europe recommendations (Final Report of the Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting "The Role of National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with a Special Focus on Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Migrants", Vienna, 29-30 May, 2008; ECRI General Policy Recommendation №2 adopted on June 13, 1997)
- Pay a special attention to ensuring security of human rights defenders and civil society activists active in the field of confronting racism, xenophobia and hate crimes (in lines with the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms), thoroughly investigate the cases of threats and attacks on them because of their activities.
- Be accurate and consistent in implementing the existing legislations on hate crimes and combating extremism for it not be abused to persecute and harass groups and individuals carrying out legitimate human rights activities, as well as representatives of certain religious denominations and youth subcultures which are not aggressive and do not propagate hate and violence.
- Support international and transnational civil society initiatives aimed at confronting racism, xenophobia and discrimination and promoting intercultural dialogue, especially those active in post-conflict areas of the region.
- Specifically address the issues of racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in education and youth policy, focusing not on the vague concepts of "mutual understanding", but rather on the examples of the history of Holocaust and other manifestations of ethnic discrimination (genocide in various countries, apartheid in South Africa, etc.), as well as on contemporary controversial issues such as migration problems, anti-terrorism and islamophobia, etc. (also through adopting and implementing ECRI General Policy Recommendation N°10 on combating racism and racial discrimination in and through school education).
- Pay attention to alternative channels of disseminating and propagating hate (in addition to traditional media and the Internet) appealing primarily to young people, such as hate symbols and graffiti on the streets, hate music, etc., develop jointly with non-governmental organisations specializing in this filed strategies to deal with these channels to reduce their effect.
- Support the current Council of Europe "Stop discrimination" campaign, and make efforts to multiply its methodology in all the OSCE participating states.