



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

ENGLISH only

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

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Too often the media and the Internet contribute to creating negative stereotype and prejudice against Christians. There are recurring episodes of incorrect portrayal, disparagement of, or incitement against Christians or Christianity. There are also TV programs or videos on YouTube that show irreverent treatment of Christian symbols.

Participating States should create an atmosphere of tolerance and appreciation of religions within which freedom of religion or belief can best flourish. This space should be open to all and the media can play an important role in the creation of this space.

In order to promote tolerance and non-discrimination my Observatory urges the participating States to protect all religions – also the majority ones – from prejudice, negative stereotype and misrepresentation. Participating States are also called upon to adopt practical measures to assure that the media as well as the political and public discourse are respectful for religions, their representatives, teaching and symbols.

My observatory also urges the ODIHR and the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media to provide guidelines for voluntary professional standards and self-regulation of the media (or other mechanisms) in order to prevent intolerant discourse against religions.

This will allow the public opinion to develop in a correct, mature way and it will foster a climate of mutual confidence and respect between religious communities as well as between believers and non-believers.

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