



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

**2010 OSCE Review Conference – Forward-looking Discussions**  
Astana, 27 November – Working Session 5

**Statement by Dr. Mattia F. Ferrero**  
Coordinator of the  
**Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom**  
**Associazione “Dossetti: i Valori”**  
(Italy)

The movement of migrants in the OSCE Region in the last decades have reached substantial proportions and it certainly constitutes an enriching contribution to our democratic societies. Religious diversity, for example, is a positive factor for their building and well-being.

Protection and promotion of migrants’ rights – including freedom of religion or belief – should be the primary concern of the participating States in order to prevent intolerance and discrimination.

You all know that there are people who will subdue the right to build mosques to the reciprocity with Islamic Countries. At this regard I find appropriate to remember that the principle of inter-State reciprocity in human rights has no place, as was remarked also by the UN Human Rights Committee in General Comment No. 22. But on the other side this does not mean that all Participating States should not make every possible effort in all international *fora* to promote reciprocally in every Country and in the different contexts the effective and full exercise of the freedom of religion or belief, including the right to establish and maintain freely accessible places of worship.

We should also consider that the availability of places of worship will be subdued to the zoning laws and ordinances. In fact they keep into account the demand of an equilibrated and correct land use and the artistic, cultural, religious and environmental features of the society of the Country in which migrants live. Of course, when a building is not used only as place of worship, is legitimate that, in regard of the other activities *de facto* undertaken, this building is subject to the consistent legislation, not exclude the police one.



Associazione Culturale "Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori"  
Observatory for Religious Freedom and Tolerance

In order to foster a climate of mutual tolerance and understanding between believers of different communities, we call upon the participating States to promote a dialogue between the Muslim representatives and the religious communities present in the places where mosques are to be built.

**Dr. Mattia F. Ferrero**

Coordinator

Associazione "Dossetti: i Valori" - Observatory for Religious Freedom and Tolerance

Mail address:

Corso Monforte, 2  
I-20122 MILANO  
ITALIA - ITALY

e-mail: [mattia.ferrero@unicatt.it](mailto:mattia.ferrero@unicatt.it)

Phone: +39-02-89452122

Fax: +39-02-89452125

Mobile phone: +39-339-6938096