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**Key Recommendations to the OSCE and Participating States  
OSCE Summit Astana Kazakhstan, December 2010**  
for:  
Civil Society Forum 26. November Astana 2010  
Review Conference 26. - 28. November Astana 2010  
OSCE Summit 1. - 2. December Astana 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**The key recommendations of the Austrian Round Table for Reconciliation, to the OSCE Summit in Kazakhstan 2010 arise from the need to implement OSCE commitments in the following areas, based upon current cases of discrimination against Christians in Europe, as documented by the *Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians*, [www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu](http://www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu):**

- **To Defend Freedom of Speech** - to include that Christians can teach Christian/Biblical understanding of the human person, faith and morality.
- **To Defend Freedom of Conscience** - to include medical personnel as well as Christian teachers and magistrates.
- **To defend parents "prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children"** as stated in the UDHR, ICCPR, ECHR and multiple other international documents: "...the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religions and philosophical convictions" (ECHR Art. 8, Art. 9, Art. 2 of Protocol 1).
- **To Recognize the Specific Dangers of Hate Speech and Anti-Discrimination legislation** - which often restricts freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, freedom of contract, and causes reverse discrimination & partiality.
- **To defend the following freedoms for persons who have unwanted same-sex attractions: Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Conscience, freedom of choice of therapy and/or pastoral care, Freedom to pursue scientific research, freedom to provide therapy and pastoral care to those who chose to seek change for unwanted same-sex attractions** (for a description of current discriminations in this area see addendum).
- **To Maintain Freedom of Religion, Conscience and Expression as a Key Mandate of OSCE/ODIHR** and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office's Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, Mr. Mario Mauro, in **reiteration of the findings and conclusions of the OSCE/ODIHR Roundtable on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians held in Vienna on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Please see Addendum below.

24.11.2010/msh

**Addendum:****STATEMENT OF THE REGISTERED ASSOCIATION "WUESTENSTROM"  
to the OSCE/ODIHR and Participating States, OSCE Summit Kazakhstan 2010**

Our Association, Wuestenstrom, works with persons in Germany, Austria and Switzerland who desire to live their sexuality in accordance with the principles of their Christian Faith. They tend to be more on the conservative side, or they may have sexual feelings that are unwanted or inconsistent with their fundamental beliefs and personality. Both of these viewpoints are, at their core, based upon legally and scientifically valid principles: that a person should have the freedom to live according to his/her values, and that a person may experience his /her sexual feelings as being unwanted. Yet we experience strong interferences with our work in this area. Additionally, those who come to us for help are confronted with tremendous pressures from organizations from the outside.

- For example the German Organization of Lesbians and Gays (Deutsche Lesben und Schwulen Verband) is attempting to restrict the freedom of choice of therapy for persons who experience unwanted same-sex attractions. They have an official campaign underway, which can be viewed on their homepage under the heading "Mission Statement" ([www.lsvd.de](http://www.lsvd.de))
- The German Bundestag is presently discussing whether "sexual identity" should be protected under constitutional law.

In light of the number of acts of harassment and the repression that even our institution alone has experienced in recent years, it is apparent that this is not just a matter of protection of a minority. On the contrary, all of the measures undertaken by the Gay and Lesbian organizations show their intent to scandalize, radicalize and marginalize those persons, who simply want to have the freedom to live out their sexuality according to their religious convictions, as well as those who choose another path because they have a different psychodynamic insight into their sexuality,

**Several Considerations:**

- In recent years Gay and Lesbian organizations have been approaching the highest levels of social service organizations in order to discredit organizations that support persons in their choice to live their sexuality in orientation and their religious values. Correspondence on this issue can be viewed on the homepage of the Organization of Lesbians and Gays (Deutsche Lesben und Schwulen Verband) under the heading "Mission Statement" ([www.lsvd.de](http://www.lsvd.de)). The goal of the Gay and Lesbian organizations is to force the Christian organizations out of the social services, because they support persons in their free choice to seek change in their sexual orientation.

- Several years ago our organization, Wuestenstrom, despite thorough examination that confirmed good reputation and scientific basis, was refused admission to an umbrella organization for social services because anonymous gay and lesbian psychotherapists, represented by the Association of Gay-lesbian Psychologists (Verband der Schwul-Lesbischen Psychologen) claimed that our counseling causes persons to commit suicide. At our request the umbrella organization could bring no evidence whatsoever for the allegation. On the contrary, the allegations were made anonymously and with no factual evidence. As a result we were not admitted to the umbrella organization. And at the same time our reputation was damaged. Ever since then the Gay and Lesbian organizations in Germany have used this occurrence against us.
- My participation at the Congress for Psychiatry and Religion in Graz, Austria, was attacked and turned into a huge campaign by the Gay and Lesbian organizations, who exerted pressure on the sponsors of the Congress. All we wanted to do was to offer observations from our work to contribute to the scientific discourse.
- Similar things happened at two other events in Germany where we offered seminars. Both a youth event in Bremen and The Congress for Psychotherapy and Counseling in Marburg could only take place with protection from the Police because of the harassments.

### **My questions to the OSCE and to Participating States:**

- To what extent are the insights of the sexual sciences taken into consideration in the legal debates surrounding "sexual orientation"? These have clearly recognized that the talk about "sexual orientation" is a matter ideological self-interest of the Gay and Lesbian organizations (see Prof. Rolf Gindorf, Geschichte des Begriffs Homosexualität, Berlin 1995).
- Are the OSCE, Participating States, in their assessing of legislation, aware of the fact that within the discourse of the sexual sciences a distinct "sexual identity" is no longer spoken of, but rather that these are subject to a person's decisions and choices?
- Whoever would dictate sexual identities or even forbid therapy robs the person of his/her human right to perceive his/her own sexuality according to his/her own choice. We would call the OSCE/ODIHR to take this fact into consideration in its assessing of legislation and proposed legislation of Participating States.
- How can governing bodies account for supporting one particular point of view, the goal of which is to exclude all other points of view from the public discourse?
- Should persons and institutions that make differing scientific observations be allowed to take part in the public discourse? What protection is given to such organizations, scientists and persons?
- Should it be allowed that scientists and practitioners be barred from public events because they are alleged to have a context of religious values?
- Should persons who have come to other decisions in the area of sexuality, based upon their personal faith, be denied the right to free choice of therapy?

For the Registered Association Wuestenstrom

Markus Hoffmann, Chairman