



WEG DER VERSÖHNUNG

**WAY OF RECONCILIATION,
AUSTRIAN "ROUND TABLE"**

Initiative for Unity in the Body of Christ
Boltzmannngasse 9, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
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**Intervention and Recommendations of Barbara Vittucci
Member of the Forum for Civic Responsibility**

**2009 OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementaion Meeting
28 September - 9 October 2009**

**Working Session 10
Tolerance and Non-Discrimination,
Including Discrimination Against Christians**

Monday 5 October 2009

What we would like OSCE/ODIHR/ OSCE Missions to do:

1) To recognise and condemn the problem in its different features, both in the Eastern and Western countries of the OSCE (East and West of Vienna) and **reiterate** the findings and conclusions of the **Roundtable** on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians **held in Vienna on March 4th, 2009**

2) To use all their means to work against intolerance against Christians, inter alia by

- seeing the problem as one of their core issues in the framework of its work on tolerance related issues
- raising awareness throughout the OSCE region
- collecting data
- working more closely with representatives of Christian churches
- assessing legislation in the participating States in view of discrimination and intolerance against Christians (labour law, equality law, freedom of expression and assembly, laws related to religious communities, right of conscientious objections, etc.)
- encouraging the media not to spread prejudices against Christians and train professionals to do so
- further developing the TANDIS page (<http://tandis.odihhr.pl/>) with more specific information
- devote specific attention to the issue of discrimination against Christians in their reports on human rights offences, in particular on hate crimes and hate events
- mentioning it more prominently on their website (<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/20051.html>)

3) To build a stronger relationship with NGOs working specifically in the field of intolerance and discrimination against Christians

4) To organize another roundtable to deepen the outcome of the first roundtable on the discrimination against Christians as it has taken place in Vienna in March '09

→ **What we would like the participating (=member) States to do**

1) **To ensure** freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, right to conscientious objection.

2) **To refrain** from interferences and to modify legislation that discriminates or provokes intolerances against Christians

3) **To recognise and condemn** intolerance and discrimination against Christians and **ensure** the right of Christians to participate fully in public life

4) To **take measures** against the rising intolerance and discrimination against Christians **in the media**.

5) To **scrutinize "tolerance and non-discrimination" laws and measures**, not to lead to abuses and misapplications which can actually create greater intolerance and discrimination. Examples of possible abuses that may cause discrimination, intolerance and which may dangerously limit pluralism are for instance:

- Repression of Freedom of Speech (as we are seeing this especially in the area of human sexuality)
- Hiring policies for Christian organisations
- Education policies, especially regarding curricula, or criteria for eligibility of public funding for private schools.
- The area of freedom of conscience
- The repression of academic freedoms
- The difficulty of justly legislating Hate Speech Regulations

→ **What we would like Mr Mauro (=Representative on discrimination, including a focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions)**

1) In his **mission and in his country visits** to take into account the outcome of this roundtable

2) **To be consistent** with the fact that discrimination against Christians is part of the core issues of his mandate