

Stellungnahme des Österreichischen Freidenkerbundes

Statement by the Austrian Freethinker Association

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

**„Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes Through
Educational and Awareness-Raising Initiatives“**

November 10-11, 2011

Wortmeldung bei der Wiener OSCE/ODIHR Konferenz

Session 2

We must be able to criticise religions in order to scrutinize them if and to which extent they comply with the Human Rights Declaration (HRD)

Sure, all representatives of religious organisations do softpaddle their relationship to HR as we have heard here several times. The truth is that progress comes from criticising an unsatisfactory status, usually against religions.

With respect to xenophobia, it is found in many holy books. Real achievements are based on the application of reason, like the Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There are immense numbers of achievements that work well and that are based solely on reason, e.g. flight traffic and computer communication.

We are in fact grown-ups in a technical sense, on a philosophical level, however, we are still sitting in front of a camp fire like 3000 years ago, telling each other fairy tales. In order to fight racism, we need more secular thinking without religious boundaries, especially since we are living in a world that experiences conflicts, almost all of which are religious ones.

The Freethinkers recommended to OSCE/ODIHR to ensure that participating States legislate based on reason rather than on belief.

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