



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination
Session II: Education and Awareness-Raising to Prevent Intolerance and Discrimination,
including Hate Crimes, Hate Speech and Hate on the Internet

Statement of the Delegation of Armenia

April 15, Vienna

Mr. Moderator

We thank distinguished introducers, Mr. Wirtitsch and Dr. Possekel for their thoughtful remarks. We fully share their view that combating hate crimes and intolerance should start from schools. We are particularly grateful for presenting their national best practices. Indeed, facing one's own history and critical assessment of past crimes are crucial from the perspective of prevention of new crimes against humanity and combating impunity.

My Delegation also agrees with your views on the value of education vis-à-vis remembrance and prevention of genocides. We hope the points of our distinguished speakers were useful for those OSCE participating States, which still have problems with addressing genocide prevention issues in the framework of combating intolerance and discrimination.

Education and remembrance of past crimes against humanity, including genocides is an OSCE commitment embedded in Ljubljana MC decision 10/05, and we should strive to strengthen implementation of this commitment.

My Delegation would like to share national experience on implementation of the commitment.

Last year, on December 9th, the international community observed the first ever International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.

This international Day has been established in September by decision of the UN General

Assembly. Earlier, in March 2015, UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the Prevention of Genocide which made a recommendation of designating such an International Day. Armenia, who has initiated these two resolutions, particularly values the fact that remembrance and prevention of genocide are strongly interlinked in the very name of the International Day. It is by remembering victims that we also prevent new genocides or their recurrence.

The OSCE, as a security organization, is well placed to address critical issues of security related to the genocide prevention. In 2008 the Helsinki Ministerial Council adopted the Declaration on the 60th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide wherein it reaffirmed the significance of the Convention as an important international instrument for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

The reference to the Convention is more than relevant with regard to the protection of religious and ethnic groups particularly in the OSCE neighborhood where mass killings of and numerous atrocities against Christians and other minorities have been taking place. The genocidal ideology of terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and other derivatives and associates of Al-Qaida, manifested also through their identity based crimes, create an urgent need to mainstream genocide prevention in all our efforts of protecting particular groups as identified by the Convention. The disrespect towards dignity and memory of the victims of genocide, which is openly communicated through justification and denial of genocide, create breeding grounds for promoting their ideology and culture of «final solutions».

We believe that we should make further efforts to mainstream Genocide prevention in our future commitments.

Thank you.