



Intervention by Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 12

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Tear down the walls of un-free speech!

What we are witnessing today is the implementation of ever-more restrictions to our freedom to speak our mind. We should not be addressing hate speech but free speech!

Who among the participating States back in the 1980's, at the height of the Cold War, with freedom and Communist oppression opposing each other, would have dreamed that we would one day be attending OSCE meetings discussing speech restrictions.

Who among the participating States back in the 1980's would have dreamed that one day we would have to tell our children to hold back their opinions in school for fear of repercussions.

Who among the participating States back in the 1980's would have dreamed that one day we would be confronted with legislation governing thought-crimes.

Who among the participating States back in the 1980's would have dreamed that one day

You, the participating States of the OSCE, were once instrumental in tearing down the walls of oppression, leading the way to freedom, the freedom to speak one's mind openly and without fear of repercussion. You have failed. By even discussing so-called hate crimes – which are nothing else than the destruction of the free marketplace of ideas – the OSCE has returned to the dark ages of oppression.

Will we sit here in the coming years discussing whatever has been allowed by OSCE participating States? How much farther will the corridor of what is “acceptable” speech be narrowed?

BPE calls on the OSCE to tear down the walls of tyranny of thought-crimes! Only a free marketplace of ideas guarantees vibrant societies.