

# OBSERVATORY ON INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE

ENGLISH only

## **Session III: Challenges of combatting anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims, and members of other religions**

OSCE/ODHIR SHDM, 23 June, 2017: Vienna, Austria

### **Recommendations from the Observatory on Intolerance & Discrimination against Christians in Europe**

#### **Participating States are urged to:**

- Consult with religious communities in order to adopt anti-discrimination laws that do not violate the autonomy and self-organization of the religious communities.
- Guarantee freedom of conscience and the right to exercise this freedom through conscientious objection, not only to compulsory military service but also in the performance of other morally sensitive activities.
- Guarantee the right to wear religious symbols and attire in public spaces, which is encompassed by freedom of religion or belief.
- Guarantee the right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children.
- Foster the participation of religious communities in public life and welcome the interventions of religious leaders in the public debate.
- Provide disaggregated data on hate crimes, paying due attention to hate crimes against Christians in all areas, including where they are majority.
- Register religious affiliation of refugees and asylum seekers at reception centres.
- Declare the systematic targeting and killing of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria genocide.
- Recognise the special status of Christians and other religious minorities, and receive refugees and asylum seekers from alternate channels, instead of solely from UNHCR camps.
- Train and educate police, social welfare office staff, and accommodation security on the topic of religiously-motivated conflict.
- Improve the balance in ethnic/religious composition of refugees, as well as staff, security, and translators in asylum centres, and remove offending staff in incidents of religiously-motivated bias or violence.
- Permit anonymous reporting of religiously-motivated incidents, protect whistle-blowers, remove perpetrators from accommodations, and deport violent offenders.
- Support private accommodations for Christians. As a last resort or temporary measure, in the absence of the above-mentioned protections, establish separate accommodations for Christian refugees.
- Compile and publish a national report on hate crimes, including against Christians.
- Develop training programs on hate crimes for public officials and law enforcement agencies operating at local level.
- Adopt national action plans in order to prevent and effectively respond to hate crimes.

**The OSCE/ODIHR is called upon to:**

- Raise awareness about the positive contribution of religions to our democratic societies.
- Develop guidelines for educators on countering intolerance and discrimination against Christians.
- Develop and strengthen capacity-building activities for the protection of all religious properties, including Christian sites.
- Train law enforcement agencies, media, and civil society to recognise and report hate crimes perpetrated against majority groups.

Contact information:

Ellen Fantini, Executive Director

Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians

Möllwaldplatz 5, A-1040 Vienna

Tel: +43 / 1 / 274 98 98

[observatory@IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu](mailto:observatory@IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu)

[www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu](http://www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu)