

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE OSCE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE  
ON TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION (INCLUDING  
HUMAN RIGHTS YOUTH EDUCATION ON TOLERANCE  
AND NON-DISCRIMINATION)**

Tirana, 21 and 22 May 2013

**Plenary session 6: The role of political leadership, legislation, law  
enforcement, data collection, and civil society in combating and preventing  
intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes**

Effectively tackling the dissemination of radical ideologies, racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism and religious intolerance is closely tied to ensuring that legislative measures are in place to clamp down on these negative phenomena, the reflection of a country's international commitments in national legislation, as well as the development of mechanisms to counter intolerance, uncover hate crimes and investigate them.

Russia's millennia-long tradition of the coexistence of various ethnocultural groups and religious movements means that we are able to fight increasing xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance fairly successfully. Our country has built up experience in uncovering and investigating hate crimes. We have a system for recording, compiling and analysing information about such crimes. We pay particular attention to countering the dissemination of racist and xenophobic materials in the media. Constant monitoring of Internet resources is in place. A list of materials that have been legally classified as extremist in nature is permanently available on the website of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

It is particularly noteworthy that in the Russian Federation we have been able to stop the development of anti-Semitic attitudes, and in recent years, the number of crimes committed on this basis has been in single figures.

We should like to draw your attention to the fact that the data that we have heard at this Conference about the increased numbers of hate crimes uncovered in the Russian Federation (130 in 2004 and 696 in 2012) is indicative not so much of rising numbers of such crimes, as of improved practices on the part of the law enforcement agencies who classified many crimes within this category. Previously, as was also the case in many other OSCE countries, such crimes were often classified as run-of-the-mill. The statistics therefore indicate an improvement in the work of law enforcement agencies in the Russian Federation.

The Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation oversees the application of legislation in the fight against hate crimes and countering extremism. Every year, a detailed report is produced on the situation in this regard accompanied by statistics, analysis and proposals. The Prosecutor General's data show that attention is focused on cases regarding the use of online networks to spread propaganda of national, religious and racial supremacy that create a distorted understanding of patriotism, as well as the publication of video clips and other extremist materials. The total number of registered media outlets in Russia on 1 January 2013 was 88,305 titles, of which 64,399 were printed and 22,298 were electronic.

The Prosecutor carried out 71,613 inspections in this area and uncovered 195,236 violations. A total of 23,681 petitions were made to courts of general jurisdiction on issues of inter-ethnic relations and counter-extremism. A total of 18,878 of these were regarding the closure or prohibition of the activities of extremist associations and classification of materials as extremist.

A total of 9,660 warnings and cautions and 49,200 submissions and protests were issued regarding violations of legislation on inter-ethnic relations and counter-extremism. The fact that the majority of these manifestations of extremism were non-violent might be interpreted as a positive trend were it not for the fact that, as the results of investigations into the criminal cases has shown, material published online fuels violent crimes.

An example of how such activities were halted in 2012 was the issuing by the Prosecutor of ten cautions to Internet service providers regarding the publication on YouTube and other websites of the film *Innocence of Muslims*, later judged by Tver district court in Moscow to be extremist material. Furthermore, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation examined a petition from the Prosecutor General and granted a claim to categorize the international neo-Nazi organization *Blood & Honour* as extremist and prohibit its activities within the territory of the Russian Federation.

One of the most important issues is that of preventing young people from being drawn into extremist and radical activities. Unfortunately, it is the young generation that is particularly susceptible to the influence of neo-Nazi ideology. Data from the Prosecutor General's Office for last year indicate that the majority of hate crimes were committed by groups of young people under the age of 30, or by minors, whose behaviour was particularly aggressive. In 2012, courts in the Russian Federation passed down guilty verdicts on 320 individuals, 33 of whom had committed crimes while still under the age of 18.

In this regard, there is an urgent need for combining the efforts of the State and civil society. We should also not underestimate the role of political leaders, whose assessments, speeches and interviews regarding manifestations of ethnic and religious intolerance have a serious impact on public opinion. Particular attention must be devoted to the spread of extremist ideas using the media and the Internet.

We believe that not only national law enforcement agencies and human rights institutions, but also the OSCE executive structures (the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities) should focus their efforts on combating hate crime and hate speech, and on thwarting the spread of radical and extremist materials and

propaganda through the media and online, as well as on preventing the recruitment of new members of extremist organizations.

Thank you for your attention.