

**Intervention by Sille Jansen on behalf of Magenta Foundation, Plenary session 6:
Addressing public manifestations of intolerance in
accordance with OSCE commitments and promoting understanding through open
dialogue in the media, including the Internet, OSCE High-Level Conference on
Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Astana, 29-30 June 2010**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm speaking also on behalf of INACH, the International Network Against Cyber Hate, a network of organizations in 18 countries working to counter hate on the internet.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right, and should be respected by all governments at all times. However, rights also come with responsibilities. If used by a majority against a minority, the freedom of expression can be a danger to peace and security.

Hate speech, where it concerns hatred and incitement to hatred and violence against groups of people, based on race, religion, sexual orientation or handicap should not be tolerated.

Important in this regard is the Internet as a growing influence on daily life and society as a whole.

While the Internet offers many possibilities and has made distances between people smaller, it also offers a platform to express and feed hate against Muslims, Jews, Roma, LGBT and other minorities.

Online hatred feeds and supports offline discrimination and hate crimes, e.g. attacks on property and places of worship, beatings, arson and even murder.

Therefore, challenging hate speech is an important part of fighting discrimination and intolerance as it is seen in the OSCE region today.

We recommend the OSCE participating states to:

- Conduct studies on the possible relationship between hate speech on the Internet and the commission of hate crimes;
- Develop educational programmes and training materials for young people about hate speech on the Internet.
- Train investigators and prosecutors on how to effectively prosecute incitement to hatred and violence on the Internet.
- Support Civil Society initiatives that aim to curb hate speech and incitement to hatred and violence on the Internet