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OSCE Working Session 2#

Combating intolerance against religions#

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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.#

I am a roman catholic Christian.#

Why I tell this? It's because this is an important part on the way to tolerance, understanding and crime-prevention related to religious groups. The origin of intolerance is mainly the lack of respect and tolerance against other religious groups except my own. The best way to break this intolerance is to get in personal touch with persons of other religions and to start a dialogue. #

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1) But dialogue needs acceptance of the other. #

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In all our national and international experiences Christian Solidarity Austria has always seen, that the only real dialogue happens, when both sides accept as partners in the talk. #

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2) What I have seen everywhere is, that a respect to the partner of dialogue only can grow if the other will find in my person a faithful counterpart. #

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As soon as the muslim, jewish, buddhist partner finds me as an person without personal believe, personal faith and ethical fundaments he will end the dialogue. #

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3) When he finds me as an secular person without personal orientation and no metaphysical believe, he will end the dialogue because he feels himself attacked by my randomness. Therefore we need more politicians like austrian vice chancellor Spindelegger, who dares to testify his christian believe, are very rarely in our european politics. #

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This follows the words of Madelaine Albright: Politicians has to turn oneself in acceptance, that religions are a central political factor in our world. That means that my personal believe is a central point for to start a fruitful dialogue between religous groups. If this dialogue starts, animosities will end and the way for a constructive and common attempt to build up our societies is open. The integrations of all religious groups is the key for a peaceful future in our societies. #

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4) And I believe, if we as Europeans show to the world that respectful dialogue and constructive society building is possible between all religious groups, we will give an example to the world. #

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5) But at the same time we have to stop with all our possibilities the discrimination of religions, also discriminations against christians. At this moment we are going the contrary way. #

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6) If we want a fruitful dialogue with muslims, orthodox christians and all other religious denominations we have to declare our own ethical backbone. #

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And we have to learn about the religious, ethical and social roots immigrants live from. A way to teach tolerance by education I will present on Thursday in our side event at one p.m. meeting room one. #