



**Civil Society Preparatory Meeting  
OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and  
Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding**

**Bucharest 6 June 2007**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**Background**

In 2006, the OSCE held a series of Tolerance Implementation Meetings in Almaty, Dubrovnik and Vienna. These were preceded by civil society meetings where participants formulated recommendations to the OSCE participating States and to the OSCE institutions. These meetings gave civil society the opportunity to discuss current issues and priorities related to the topics of the OSCE conferences, to inform governments of the results of their activities, to share best practices and to engage in coalitions and networks across the region. Since the meetings resulted in pertinent and constructive recommendations, and since the OSCE has committed to strengthen the involvement of civil society at policy level, this year's OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding will also be preceded by a civil society preparatory meeting.

**Purpose of the Civil Society Preparatory Meeting**

- To provide civil society with an opportunity to prepare recommendations to be presented at the opening of the Conference;
- To discuss current issues and priorities related to discrimination and the promotion of mutual respect and understanding. Topics will include trends regarding hate motivated crimes and related forms of intolerance as well as the responses provided by States and civil society;
- To exchange information on best practices;
- To provide a forum to discuss civil society's engagement with OSCE institutions including the ODIHR;
- To facilitate and enhance coalition-building across diverse cultural and religious communities and civil society groups throughout the OSCE region;

**Program**

Over the last few years, the OSCE has strengthened its commitments and instruments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination by holding a number of high-level conferences and taking important decisions. Nevertheless, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and various manifestations of hate continue to pose a

challenge to human security in the OSCE region. The program of the day will provide participants with the opportunity to assess the situation related to hate crimes and related manifestations of intolerance throughout the OSCE as well as explore ways to improve cooperation between the OSCE institutions and field operations and civil society in this area.

**During the day the participants will gather successively in working groups and in plenary sessions so as to elaborate recommendations to be presented at the opening of the High-Level Conference on the following day. The recommendations proposed during the working groups and the plenary session will be presented at the end of every session in order to give all participants the opportunity to propose amendments or supplementary recommendations.**

Following **the official opening of the meeting**, a keynote speaker will highlight existing issues and priorities regarding discrimination and promotion of mutual respect and understanding related to trends regarding hate motivated crimes and related forms of intolerance as well as the responses given by States and civil society.

**The meeting will be divided into two parts:**

**Part one** will focus on trends and specific issues regarding hate motivated incidents and crimes affecting different communities. It will also provide an opportunity to review the implementation of commitments made by participating States to address violent manifestations of intolerance.

Six working groups focusing on Racism and xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Intolerance and discrimination against Roma, Sinti and Travellers, Freedom of religion or belief, intolerance and discrimination against Christians and other forms of intolerance will be formed and participants will divide according to their main interest. The questions that could be addressed by those groups are following:

- What are the recent trends concerning hate crimes and related manifestations of intolerance?
- Are the OSCE participating States implementing their commitments regarding the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding, the prevention and the fight against hate crimes and related manifestations of intolerance?
- What are the key concerns that need to be considered in States' and civil society's responses to hate crimes and related manifestations of intolerance?
- Are the existing policies being translated effectively into practice?
- What measures can be provided by the relevant players in this field?
- What lessons have been learned?
- How can OSCE assistance in ensuring that the hate crimes and related manifestations of intolerance are prevented and fought against be strengthened? What steps can be taken?
- Can co-operation between governments and civil society be strengthened? What are the best practices?
- What initiatives from civil society can be highlighted? What activities from civil society need support from States and from IGOs?

**Part two** will focus on cross-cutting areas of common concern and interest to all communities. It will also provide the opportunity to raise concerns about new phenomena or emerging trends that have not been given enough attention by the States or which need an improved response. Three working groups focusing on the situation of civil society organizations addressing those issues, the nature of public discourse during elections and the implementation of legislation in the field of data collection and hate crimes will be formed. The questions that could be addressed by those groups are following:

- What are the key concerns that need to be considered in the areas mentioned in the working groups?
- Are the OSCE participating States implementing the commitments related to those specific areas? Are any new commitments needed?
- How can OSCE assistance in ensuring that areas of common concerns and emerging trends are adequately tackled? What steps can be taken?
- Can co-operation between governments and civil society be strengthened? What are the best practices?
- What initiatives from civil society can be highlighted? What activities from civil society need support from States, from the OSCE and other IGOs?

**Finally, the delegates will reconvene in a plenary session** to examine ways to further strengthen their involvement with the OSCE. This session will also enable a discussion on how the Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on tolerance and non discrimination can support civil society and vice versa. All recommendations of the working groups will be presented, discussed and considered for adoption in the closing session.

#### **For consideration**

The main objective of the meeting is to formulate recommendations for the conference to the OSCE participating States and institutions. As such the working sessions will follow the topics of the agenda of the High Level Conference (see <http://www.osce.org/item/23554.html>). The meeting will only last one day; therefore participants are encouraged to submit recommendations beforehand to the ODIHR (see <http://tandis.odihr.pl/conference/bucharest07>).

**9:00- 9:50 Opening session: Welcome and opening remarks**

*Opening Remarks:* **Ambassador Mihnea Constantinescu**  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

**Mr. Fernando Fernandez-Arias Minuesa**  
Director of the Human Rights Office,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Spain

**Ambassador Christian Strohal**  
Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and  
Human Rights, Warsaw

*Keynote Speaker:* **Mr. Mikko Puumalainen**  
Ombudsman for Minorities, Finland

**10:00- 11:30 Working groups: Responses by States and civil society to trends regarding hate motivated incidents and crimes in the field of:**

**Working group 1: Racism and xenophobia**

*Introducer:* **Ms. Pascale Charhon**  
Executive Director  
European Network Against Racism, Brussels

*Moderator:* **Ms. Anastasia Crickley**  
Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office on  
Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also  
focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against  
Christians and Members of Other Religions

*Rapporteur:* **Mr. Vrej Atabekian**  
Hate Crime Reporting Officer  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

**Working group 2: Anti-Semitism**

*Introducer:* **Mr. Marco Maximillian Katz**  
The Center for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism,  
Romania

*Moderator:* **Professor Gert Weisskirchen**  
Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office on  
Combating anti-Semitism

*Rapporteur:* **Dr. Kathrin Meyer**  
Adviser on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and  
Discrimination Focusing on Combating Anti-Semitism

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

### **Working group 3: Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims**

*Introducer:* **Mr. Mohamed Boudjenane**  
Executive Director  
Canadian Arab Federation, Canada

*Moderator:* **Ambassador Omur Orhun**  
Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office on  
Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

*Rapporteur:* **Mr. Taskin Soyan**  
Adviser on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and  
Discrimination Focusing on Discrimination against Muslims  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

### **11:30-11:45 Coffee Break**

**11:45-13:15 Working groups continued : Responses by States and civil society to trends regarding hate motivated incidents and crimes in the field of:**

### **Working group 4: Intolerance and discrimination against Roma, Sinti and Travellers**

*Introducer:* **Mr. Larry Olomoofe**  
Human Rights Trainer  
European Roma Rights Center, Hungary

*Moderator:* **Mr. Andrzej Mirga**  
Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

*Rapporteur:* **Ms. Jennifer Mitchell**  
Programme Officer  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

### **Working group 5: Freedom of religion or belief, intolerance and discrimination against Christians**

*Introducer:* **Mr. John Kinahan**  
Chief Editor  
Forum 18, Norway

*Moderator:* **Mr. Malcolm Evans**  
OSCE Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion and Belief

*Rapporteur:* **Ms. Simona Santoro**  
Adviser on Freedom of Religion and Belief  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

### **Working group 6: Other forms of intolerance**

- Introducer:* **Ms. Dimitrina Petrova**  
Executive Director  
The Equal Rights Trust, United Kingdom
- Moderator:* **Ms. Isil Gachet**  
Executive Secretary  
European Commission against Racism and Intolerance,  
Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- Rapporteur:* **Mr. Maxim Anmeghichean**  
Programmes Director  
International Lesbian and Gay Association, Brussels

**13:00- 14:00 Lunch offered by the Romanian authorities**

**14:15 – 15:45 Working groups: cross-cutting sessions on areas of common concerns and interest and emerging trends**

**Working group 7: What are the main threats and challenges faced by civil society in their activities combating hate crimes and hate motivated violence? Which examples of successful counterstrategies developed by civil society can be highlighted?**

- Introducer:* **Mr. Ashot Ayrepetyan**  
Executive Director  
Center for Interethnic Cooperation, Russian Federation
- Moderator:* **Mr. Aaron Rhodes**  
Executive Director  
International Helsinki Federation, Vienna
- Rapporteur:* **Ms. Stacy Burdett**  
Director for National and Government Affairs  
The Anti-Defamation League, USA

**Working group 8: What are the main challenges of intolerant public discourse, especially during electoral campaigns? How can civil society monitor and respond to this phenomenon?**

- Introducer:* **Ms. Sevdalina Voynova**  
Program Director  
National Democratic Institute, Bulgaria
- Moderator:* **Ms. Holly Ruthrauff**  
Election Adviser  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw
- Rapporteur:* **Mr. Arnaud Amouroux**  
Project Officer  
Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media,

OSCE, Vienna

**Working group 9: How is legislation on hate crimes implemented? How are the commitments related to data collection implemented?**

*Introducer:* **Mr. Paul le Gendre**  
Senior Associate  
Human Rights First, USA

*Moderator:* **Ms. Beate Winkler**  
Interim Director  
Fundamental Rights Agency, Vienna

*Rapporteur:* **Ms. Nasrin Khan**  
Legal Adviser  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

**15:45- 17:15 Plenary session: cooperation between civil society and the OSCE**

**How can the cooperation between civil society and the OSCE be made more effective? Which role can play the OSCE institutions, the OSCE Missions and the Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination?**

*Introducers:* **Ms. Matilde Fruncillo**  
Project Development Coordinator  
OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Ms. Floriane Hohenberg**  
Adviser on civil society relations  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

*Moderator:* **Mr. Michael Whine**  
Director, International and Governmental Affairs  
The Community Security Trust, United Kingdom

*Rapporteur:* **Mr. Christopher Michaelsen**  
Human Rights Officer  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,  
Warsaw

**17:15 – 17:30 Coffee break**

**17:30- 18:30 Closing session**

*Introducer:* **Ms. Margareta Matache**  
Executive Director  
Romani CRISS, Romania

*Moderator:*

**Ambassador Christian Strohal**

Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and  
Human Rights, Warsaw