



**THE
CONSTANTINOPOLITAN
SOCIETY**

GREEKS EXPATRIATED FROM ISTANBUL
BY TURKISH COERCION

2019 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 16 to 27 September 2019

Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Working session 13: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:

- Combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination
- Combating anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions

The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey

RECOMMENDATIONS TO OSCE / ODIHR

Due to systematic and ongoing violations of religious freedom, OSCE / ODIHR is called upon to urge the Turkish government to bring its laws and practices into compliance with international standards on freedom of religion or belief.

Specifically:

OSCE / ODIHR are called upon to urge Turkey -as OSCE participating State- to:

- Grant full legal personality to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, so that the latter may enjoy, inter alia, ownership rights and exercise property ownership, administration and management.
- Reopen the Halki Seminary for the sake of the community's survival as well as for the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate itself.
- End Turkish citizenship requirements for the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church, and permit them to select and appoint their leadership and members in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs.

- Return immediately the three churches of Panayia Kafatiani, Aya Yani and Aya Nikola in the district of Karakoy - Galata in Istanbul, as well as their immovable properties, which have been illegally and forcibly occupied by the self - declared and nonexistent "Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate (TOP)" to their legal owner, which is the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and grant full legal status so as to be able to elect their governing bodies and freely administer and manage its own foundation.
- Fully comply with ECtHR rulings on freedom of religion or belief.
- Implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by withdrawing reservations that negatively impact religious freedom, and interpret the 1923 Lausanne Treaty so as to provide equal rights to all religious minority communities._