

COMPILATION OF WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

(Covering Working Sessions 12-15)

This compilation contains recommendations submitted to the HDIM Documentation Centre in accordance with the established procedure. The compilation is organized by Working Sessions and by what was submitted by Delegations / International Organizations / NGOs to participating States and, separately, to OSCE Institutions / Field Missions or other International Organizations. Recommendations are compiled in original language. This compilation contains recommendations from all documents received at the HDIM Documentation Centre by the end of Working Session 15; documents received after this time will be included later in the Consolidated Summary.

Tuesday, 4 October 2011

WORKING SESSION 12: Tolerance and non-discrimination 1

Recommendations to participating States

Council of Europe

- Encouraging States that have not yet signed or ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities or the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, to do so.
- Stressing the need to raise awareness about minority issues and about regional identity issues not only in Central and Eastern Europe, but also in Western Europe.
- Stressing the importance for States to fully implement the results of the monitoring under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, including through the adoption of relevant legislation and its implementation in practice.
- Encouraging States to ensure that there is no arbitrary exclusion of persons potentially concerned by the protection offered by the Framework Convention.
- Stressing the importance of dialogue with minorities as a necessary pre-condition for further realising the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.
- Underlining the importance of the successful co-operation that has taken place between the OSCE HCNM and the relevant sectors of the Council of Europe dealing with minority issues, and encouraging the further use of the results of the monitoring under the Framework Convention and the Language Charter by the OSCE and by the field offices of the OSCE in their assessments and their actions.

Order of St. Andrew, the Apostle

While waiting for such reforms to be translated into law but also into everyday practice, we respectfully submit that OSCE should immediately impress on the Government of Turkey the need to fully comply with the principles of OSCE, of which Turkey is a member, namely, inter alia, to:

- Fully adhere to the principles on the rights of expression, assembly and association, dissent, and religious faith and practice of all citizens without discrimination.

- Allow full legal status for Turkey's religious minorities by making all the necessary legal changes in line with religious freedom and the other human rights guarantees found in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Turkey has ratified.
- Defend and protect the health, safety, integrity, free movement, and religious activity, in all its manifestations, of all religious leaders, including the Ecumenical Patriarch.
- Establish a climate of respect, tolerance, and legitimate assistance toward the free functioning of ethnic and religious minorities and their various institutions.
- Fully implement the provisional Article 7 of the 2008 Law on Foundations. Cease all property confiscations.
- Implement fully and effectively the recent Government Decree on the return of confiscated properties or providing compensation, without restrictions, convoluted interpretations, or dilatory bureaucratic tactics. To take further steps to address, specifically, the issues of those seized (“mazbut”) non-Muslim Foundations and churches, with their assets, that have been usurped by the so-called “Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate.”

Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association

We call upon the Greek State:

Respect the collective usage of individual right and recognise the existence of a Turkish minority in Greece.

To prepare an action plan to improve the quality of the education in the Western Thrace Turkish Minority Schools.

Ensure the equal opportunity for the instruction of the official language for the minority which is Turkish and the state language.

Take steps to ensure the immediate rectification of the unfortunate consequences arising from deprivation of Greek citizenship on the basis of former Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Code for all persons concerned, especially ethnic Turks.

Ratify, without delay and any reservations, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Union des Entrepreneurs Franco-Turks (UNEFT)

Il nous semble important de formuler les recommandations suivantes :

Il devient urgent de condamner fermement ces pratiques illégales.

Il est impératif que les manuels scolaires traitent du multiculturalisme européen et la place de l'islam dans la nouvelle Europe.

Il est indispensable que le conseil appelle les différents pays européens d'arrêter de stigmatiser les musulmans pour leur tenue vestimentaire ou leurs habitudes alimentaires.

Tuesday, 4 October 2011

WORKING SESSION 13: Tolerance and non-discrimination 2

Recommendations to participating States

Wirtschafts- und Arbeitsfoerderungsverein (WIAR)

- Installation of a permanent monitoring and reporting platform under the ministry of interior, which is also responsible for the publishing and distribution of the outcomes, increasing the awareness in the public opinion.
- Higher Security measures for the Islamic mosques, because at the moment there are no visible measures at all. Very often mosques lie outside the city centres and therefore are afield, because local authorities ban them to regions where they do not disturb. This makes them more vulnerable to such attacks.
- Effective Measures against public hate paroles and anti Islamic hate speeches before and during election campaigns.
- To provide tools and a training of elementary school teachers, so that they can easily adopt pedagogical methods in their classes to raise awareness of Islamophobia.
- A harder punishment and prosecution of people involved in hate attacks against islamic centers and people, to avoid the increasing number of attacks.

Russian LGBT Network

- Вопреки заявлениям официальных лиц нарушения прав человека в связи с сексуальной ориентацией и гендерной идентичностью носят в России систематический характер. Поэтому
- мы призываем страны-участницы ОБСЕ:
- Поднимать обозначенные проблемы в рамках диалога С Российской Федерацией по правам человека
- Вовлекать российские ЛГБТ-организации в мониторинг и документированию нарушений прав человека и в программы помощи жертвам преступлений ненависти
- Мы призываем Российскую Федерацию:
- Немедленно прекратить практику преследований ЛГБТ-организаций
- Пригласить БДИПЧ для обучения российских полицейских, прокуроров и судей, которые занимаются преступлениями на почве ненависти

- привести законодательство в соответствие с обязательствами, принятыми в рамках ОБСЕ и Совета Европы и включить в него признаки сексуальной ориентации и гендерной идентичности и обеспечить его применение
- Начать сотрудничать с ЛГБТ-организациями для предотвращения преступлений ненависти и дискриминации по признакам сексуальной ориентации и гендерной идентичности

International Federation for Therapeutic Choice (IFTC)

Central Recommendation to Participating States of the OSCE:

- to draft legislation to safeguard the freedom of medical and mental health practitioners, educators and researchers:

1) to study, publish and educate other professionals and the public about the possible causes, consequences and amelioration of sexual minority attractions, behaviors, orientations, and identities; and

2) to offer their professional guidance and therapeutic expertise to persons whose sexual minority behaviors, orientations, and/or identities are unwanted and who freely choose help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions and behaviors.

Some sexual minorities find their attractions, behavioral tendencies, behaviors, and/or identity unwanted. Some of these persons freely choose, or have freely chosen, to seek professional guidance and therapeutic assistance in order not to base their relational and sexual lives according to their sexual minority attractions, behaviors, orientations, and/or identifications. Over one hundred years of clinical reports and other research literature document that some persons have been successful in achieving this goal. I refer you to the first volume of the Journal of Human Sexuality which reviews the clinical and scientific literature on this issue (cf. <http://www.narth.com/docs/journalsummary.html>).

We therefore recommend to OSCE Participating States:

- In light the aforementioned fundamental rights upheld by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- To recognize and condemn intolerance and discrimination against sexual minorities who freely choose to receive help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions, orientation, behaviors or identity.
- To draft legislation to safeguard the freedom of medical and mental health practitioners, educators and researchers: 1) to study, publish and educate other professionals and the public about the possible causes, consequences and amelioration of sexual minority attractions, orientations, behaviors, and identities; and 2) to offer their professional guidance and therapeutic expertise to persons whose sexual minority concerns are unwanted and who freely choose help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions, orientation, behaviors, and/or identity.

Human Rights Without Frontiers

Human Rights Without Frontiers recommends to the Russian authorities

- To put a moratorium on the implementation of the 2002 Law On Fighting Extremist Activity as it is used and abused to restrict religious freedom, to repress and attempt to ban non-violent religious groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses or Said Nursi readers;

- To revise Article 14 of the 1997 Law on Freedom of conscience and association which deals with the banning of the activities of Religious Organizations and their liquidation as several of its provisions are not necessary in a democratic society;
- To establish clear guidelines for the implementation of Article 282 of the Criminal Code (incitement of national, racial or religious enmity) so as to stop the misuse of it in restricting the legitimate activities of religious communities (e.g. teaching the superiority of their doctrine over those of other religions);
- To reconsider cases against individuals and organizations which have been accused of extremism for conducting normal religious activities protected under international norms and laws;
- To put an end to the harassment of Jehovah's Witnesses and Said Nursi's readers (innumerable check ups, banning of their religious literature, accusations of extremism and religious enmity);
- To dissolve the Expert Council for Conducting State-Religious Studies put in place under the Ministry of Justice as its powers have been unduly extended to limit the freedom of "non-traditional" religious movements and its members include activists of the Orthodox Church and anti-sect movements;
- To fully implement the decisions of the European Court.

Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association

Our hope and expectations are to stop these kinds of attacks which are harassing the harmony between the Christian and the Muslim societies therefore we hardly recommend the Greek State:

- To end all oppressive and discriminative practices targeting the minorities in Greece,
- To pay more attention on arresting the perpetrators of these incidents,
- And finally, to implement an objective and satisfactory legislation in order to prevent hate crimes, as well as hate motivated discourse and to take all necessary precautions to better police and prosecute these crimes.

International Institute for Education and Research on Antisemitism

- The OSCE and OSCE member states should focus on the problem of denial of contemporary antisemitism in the OSCE region and promote further programs to educate on contemporary antisemitism.
- The OSCE should extent its cooperation with the Mediterranean partner states to combat contemporary antisemitism in these states and promote tolerance programs.
- The OSCE should take serious the problem of state driven antisemitism in countries like Iran which lead to hate crime and terrorism against Jews not just in Israel, but also in the OSCE region.

ILGA – Europe

We remind participating States of their commitments to provide adequate education and training to all competent officials in the police, the prosecution services as well as the judiciary. In that respect, we emphasize the potential of ODIHR's inspiring publications and capacity building programmes;

Finally we call on all participating States to effectively ensure that peaceful public gatherings organised in the respect of the Constitution and other laws can be safely held. We call on governments to abide by commitments to respect the fundamental freedoms of assembly and association of LGBT people. Participating States must not only permit LGBTI pride parades and equality events. They should also guarantee the participants safety and security, as in the case of all peaceful public events.

International Network Against Cyber Hate

We therefore strongly urge the OSCE and its participating states to:

- Start efforts to incorporate media awareness in national school curricula
- Tangibly and structurally support NGOs like the INACH network and its members, but also others, to do their work.
- Promote and support educational projects by INACH –and others- directed towards countering hate on the Internet.

Delegation of Switzerland

Damit das geltende Recht vermehrt angewendet wird, muss es besser bekannt gemacht werden, und zwar sowohl bei den potenziellen Diskriminierungsopfern als auch in der Gesellschaft generell. Im Falle der Schweiz – aber nicht nur hier – könnten folgende konkrete Vorschläge näher in Betracht gezogen werden:

- Bei Erstinformations- und Begrüssungsgesprächen ist darüber zu informieren, wie man sich gegen Diskriminierungen wehren kann und wo man sich beraten lassen kann.
- Die zuständigen Fachstellen für Integration auf allen Ebenen sollen
- Betroffenen kompetente Beratung zum rechtlichen Diskriminierungsschutz und zum Verfahren anbieten oder Ratsuchende an kompetente Stellen vermitteln.
- Um Betroffenen die Angst vor einem komplizierten Verfahren zu nehmen, sollen niederschwellige, kooperativ ausgerichtete Streitbeilegungsmechanismen gefördert werden.
- Die zuständigen Fachstellen für Integration sollen sich verstärkt darauf konzentrieren, Strukturen oder Prozesse, die indirekt diskriminierend wirken, zu erkennen und abzubauen.

Associazione "Dossetti: i Valori" - Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom

Participating States are urged to:

- follow-up the Cordoba, Bucharest and Astana Conferences by convening in 2012 a Conference at appropriate high-level to examine in a balanced way anti-Semitism as well as intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of others religions, within the realm of existing commitments.
- protect all religions – also the majority ones – from prejudices and misrepresentation, particularly in the field of education, culture and information.

- pay more attention to the hate crimes against Christians – also where they are majority – in the questionnaire collecting data from national data collection point.
- foster the participation of Christians in public life and welcome the interventions in the public debate of the representatives of religious communities that give their view – based on moral convictions deriving from faith – about everyday's life and, in particular, on legislative and administrative provisions of their Countries.
- promote a dialogue between the representatives of the religious community that are building a new place of worship and the religious communities historically present in the places in order to foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities.

Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe

We call upon the participating states:

- 1) to ensure that "a public debate on intolerance and discrimination against Christians be initiated and that the right of Christians to participate fully in public life be ensured" - paying special attention to the problem of hate speech legislation
- 2) to put into action the recent OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Resolution on "Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in the OSCE Area". This document is a milestone and must not be overlooked.
- 4) to encouraging the media, in its key role of public awareness building, not to enflame prejudices or negative stereotypes, including those against Christians.

Türkische Gemeinschaft Schweiz (TGS)

Das kann und muss geändert werden, durch Aufklärung der Öffentlichkeit, durch Abbau der Vorurteile und durch ehrlichen Dialog. Da kommen der Politik und den Medien besondere Aufgaben zu:

- Wir erwarten von den Politikern, dass sie die notwendigen Regelwerke und Rahmenbedingungen schaffen, um ein harmonisches Zusammenleben verschiedener Kulturen miteinander zu ermöglichen. Es soll dabei darauf geachtet werden, dass die aufrichtigen Integrationsbemühungen nicht durch kurzsichtige politische oder mediale Kampagnen zerstört werden. Es wäre erwünscht, dass die Bewilligungsverfahren für die Gebetsstätten, Friedhöfe und Imame erleichtert werden.
- Der interreligiöse und interkulturelle Dialog soll intensiviert werden, um ethisch einen gemeinsamen Werte-Nenner zu finden. Die dadurch erreichte gegenseitige Akzeptanz zwischen den Religionen und Kulturen wird die Integration der religiösen und ethnischen Minderheiten in die Europäische Gesellschaften erleichtern. Dies läuft bereits in der Schweiz.
- Die Medien sollen die Ihnen gewährten Freiheiten mit mehr Verantwortungsbewusstsein nutzen. Die Desinformation der Öffentlichkeit soll durch Selbstkontrolle und die Einhaltung der eigenen ethischen Kriterien der Medien vermieden werden. Medien sollen mit uns sprechen, statt über uns. In wichtigen Angelegenheiten sollte unsere Meinung gefragt werden, statt stereotypische Vereinfachungen zu publizieren.
- Der Aufklärung über andere Kulturen, insbesondere in den Schulen soll mehr Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt werden. Andere Kulturen sollen als eine Bereicherung der europäischen Gesellschaften und als eine Brücke zwischen den Europäern und

anderen Ländern verstanden werden. Vorurteile und Feindbilder sollen abgebaut und bekämpft werden. Es soll Liebe und Verständnis für andersartige vermittelt werden. Das ist doch das gemeinsame Ziel aller Religionen.

Social Action Center in Ukraine

In light of the above stated, we would like to stress on the following recommendations to the Ukrainian State that urgently need to be implemented:

- Reform relevant legislative framework to ensure access to redress for victims of all kinds of racial discrimination. In particular in consultations with civil society organisations and relevant experts: 1) develop a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that would contain precise definition of discrimination, it's clear comprehensive interpretation and standards of identification; 2) review criminal, civil and administrative law remedies to ensure that victims of racial discrimination have enforceable right to redress of pecuniary and moral damage they might have suffered as a result of any form of racial discrimination.
- Take measures to effectively ban activities of organisations propagating and inciting racial discrimination. Adequately respond to infringement of minorities' right to dignity, security of a person, private and family life by private parties and as well as the authorities.
- Reform and re-establish institutional framework necessary for effective implementation of the right any person under Ukraine's jurisdiction not to be discriminated against on the ground of race, colour of skin, ethnicity or nationality.
- Further intensify its human rights training for the police, prosecutors, border-guards, staff of temporary detention facilities of undocumented migrants and refugees and judiciary as well as facilitate the reporting of cases of police abuse of Roma and other persons of different ethnic origin, effectively investigate complaints and bring those found guilty of such acts to justice, provide adequate protection and compensation to victims.
- Take measures to eliminate hate speech particularly by government officials and politicians against non-citizens of African, Central and South-East Asian and Caucasus origin including in the context of measures aimed at migration management.
- Recommendations to OSCE:
- Monitor Ukraine's fulfillment of its obligations and its development of national legislation to meet human rights standards in the field. Provide Ukraine with expert assistance and education, first of all to law enforcement structures to increase their capability to effectively counteract to hate crimes and spread of hate propaganda.

Constantinopolitan Society

Turkey, as an OSCE participating State, is urged to meet commitments on religious freedoms. In light of these commitments, Turkish authorities are invited to:

- Give the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate the right to officially use the ecclesiastical title of "Ecumenical", as it is a title that is historically established since the 6th century and globally recognized.

- Grant legal personality to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, so that the latter may enjoy, inter alia, ownership rights and exercise property ownership / management.
- Resolve the question of those non – Muslim Foundations considered fused / “mazbut”, which, along with their properties, should be returned to the Greek Orthodox community and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- End Turkish citizenship requirements for the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church.
- Re-open without any delay the Halki Seminary with the same status it held before 1971 and permit students to enroll from both within and outside Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarchate should have the right and the authority to call and employ priests from abroad without any residency constraints. Also, the closing of the Seminary makes it almost impossible for Turkish citizens to be trained to accept the highest responsibilities in the Orthodox Church today, thus creating a serious problem for the future of the Patriarchate and of the Church itself.
- Give permission to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to have its own printing facilities for the publishing of religious editions (books, journals etc.).
- Abolish Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, which restricts the freedoms of thought and expression and negatively affects the freedom of religion or belief.
- Return the Greek Orthodox school buildings on the island of Imvros (Gokceada) to the Greek community on the island and to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and approve the Ecumenical Patriarch’s application for the operation of the school.
- Return the three churches of Panayia Kafatiani, Aya Yani and Aya Nikola in the district of Karakoy-Galata in Istanbul, as well as their 72 immovable properties, which have been illegally and forcibly occupied by the self – declared and nonexistent “Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate (TOP)”. The latter’s involvement in the Ergenekon case deserves further investigation, as the spokesperson of TOP Sevgi Erenrol, great granddaughter of Father Eftim (Papa-Eftim), the founder and leader of the TOP, is accused in connection with the Ergenekon case. It was also alleged that one of the three occupied churches served as headquarters for the organisation.

Council of Europe

- Member States of the Council of Europe are encouraged to sign and ratify Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which provides for the general prohibition of discrimination.
- OSCE participating States are encouraged to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe’s Convention on Cybercrime, on the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.
- OSCE participating States are encouraged to enact and implement legislation against racism and racial discrimination, if such legislation does not already exist or is incomplete, and to ensure that such legislation reflects the key elements in ECRI’s General Policy Recommendation No. 7, which include the setting up of an independent body specialised in the fight against racism and racial discrimination.

- In particular, ECRI urges member States of the Council of Europe to base their policies concerning Roma on its most recent General Policy Recommendation on combating anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma. Member States of the Council of Europe are also encouraged to implement ECRI's remaining General Policy Recommendations as well as its country-by-country recommendations.

Recommendations to the OSCE

ILGA – Europe

In the light of these violent incidents and of the general context in the OSCE region, our organisations would like to call on the OSCE and all its participating States to promptly and effectively deliver on all the commitments made in the last years. In particular:

We call on the OSCE and its institutions to take a new step in combating all manifestations of intolerance, by explicitly addressing homophobia and transphobia;

We strongly recommend that all Governments enforce existing criminal legislation to duly investigate all bias-based incidents;

We recommend that all participating states deliver on their commitment to enact tailored legislation to combat homophobic and transphobic hate crimes by introducing aggravating circumstances in sentencing perpetrators;

Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF)

For these reasons, and to start a constructive process, we propose some recommendations:

- focus on the conference organised in Vienna at the end of the month on this issue and support ODIHR's initiative
- implement concrete projects against hate speech and hate crimes during the upcoming Irish chairmanship
- Adopt a ministerial decision to take action specifically against hate speech, applicable at a country level
- ODIHR should dedicate some efforts specifically focusing on anti-Muslim hate in the West like it has been done for other minorities.

International Federation for Therapeutic Choice (IFTC)

We recommend to OSCE/ODIHR, and OSCE Missions:

- To be aware of and condemn intolerance and discrimination against sexual minorities who freely choose help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions, orientation, behaviors, and/or identity.
- To assist OSCE Participating States in monitoring and drafting legislation, with special attention to safeguarding the above mentioned rights upheld by the UDHR.

Centr de Sud pour le Developpement Dialogue et Citoyente

- OSCE should support the revision of educational materials promoting hate speech in the mentioned states and support non-government-organizations to do so.
- OSCE should advocate to minimize hate speech in these countries; especially in official state media such as state television, radio and newspapers.

- OSCE should help to establish centers in those countries to observe hate crime and hate speech, and all forms of discrimination.
- OSCE should support non-government-organizations from these countries with seminars on tolerance education
- OSCE should provide and/or distribute materials to combat antisemitism, homophobia, racism against minorities, homophobia and discrimination against women.

Associazione "Dossetti: i Valori" - Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom

The Chairman-in-Office is called upon to:

- focus Prof. Introvigne's mandate on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians.
- appoint a fourth Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against the members of other religious communities and against Roma and Sinti.

The OSCE-ODIHR is called upon to:

- train law enforcement agencies, media and civil society to consider carefully also the hate crimes perpetrated against majority religions.
- raise awareness on the positive contribution of the religious communities to the building and the wellbeing of our democratic societies.

Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe

Therefore we recommend to the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE Missions:

1) to continue to recognize and condemn the problem of discrimination against Christians in its different features, in countries of the OSCE both East and West of Vienna,

2) We recommend to the OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE Missions to regularly hold meetings such as the expert meeting on hate crimes against Christians, as well as to put structures in place for a long term response by an increased focus on the issues with regard to:

- Data-collecting (TANDIS)
- Awareness-raising
- Assessing legislation and policies of participating States in view of discrimination and intolerance against Christians as regards content, interpretation and application of pending and existing laws.

Embargoed!

Embargoed! calls upon the HDIM to make the racism, intolerance and hate crimes which have been highlighted in this submission a serious focus of its future activities and to encourage the Republic of Cyprus to take genuine steps in order to institutionalise respect and dignity for all peoples of Cyprus.

Council of Europe

OSCE institutions are encouraged to continue their co-operation in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance with the Council of Europe, and in particular ECRI, by further strengthening mechanisms enabling the free flow of and exchange of information and data and common action.

Wuestenstrom e.V.

Recommendations to the OSCE/ODIHR, to:

- Be aware and raise awareness of the discriminations and hate or fear-based incidents that Christians who seek help with unwanted same-sex attraction, and those who offer help, are experiencing.
- Have a category in TANDIS that covers these cases specifically Recommendations to OSCE/ODIHR and Participating States:
- please do not promote efforts to implement culturally particular ideologies like the idea of an inherent „sexual identity“ in constitutions and laws. Subjectivity as part of the idea of human dignity must never be defined by any particular theory!

Wednesday, 5 October 2011

WORKING SESSION 14: Enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti

Recommendations to participating States

Romani CRISS

Romani CRISS urges those participating states who have first-hand experience in dealing with ethnic conflicts, such as Romania, to make such experience fully available for other participating states and for the OSCE.

Recommendations to the OSCE

Romani CRISS

The OSCE should not limit its intervention to addressing the question of the fulfilment of the political commitments by participating states or to making appeals to calm and ethnic peace. Such should be the role of NGOs or others. The OSCE is well-equipped to do much more than that. And not only is it well-equipped, but it is under the obligation to do so. The OSCE and the participating states have committed (and this commitment was also made to the Roma communities) *“to respond effectively in crisis situations to ensure protection of Roma communities at risk.”*

This is why, Romani CRISS strongly urges the OSCE to work with participating states and international organizations and to come up with a concrete common plan to ensure Roma are not subject to violence and that their security and the security of the societies they live in are properly defended, pursuant to chapter VII – point 114 of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of the Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area.

Wednesday, 5 October 2011

WORKING SESSION 15: Enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti

Recommendations to participating States

Delegation of Switzerland

Nous invitons les Etats participants à continuer à intensifier leurs efforts de mise en oeuvre des engagements énoncés dans le plan d'Action pour améliorer la situation des Roms et des Sintis, engagements réaffirmés dans les décisions 6/08 et 8/09 du Conseil ministériel. En particulier, des progrès doivent être faits pour que les communautés de Roms et Gens du voyage soient considérés comme des partenaires dans les politiques et décisions qui influent sur leur vie.

Nous appelons les autorités à oeuvrer ensemble, à tous les niveaux, pour améliorer les conditions de vie des Roms, Sintis et Gens du voyage. Il s'agit également de renforcer l'information de tous les groupes de la population majoritaire afin de créer davantage de confiance et de tolérance. Les aspects positifs des Roms, Sintis et Gens du voyage doivent absolument être mis en valeur.

Delegation of Romania

- Dedicate special attention to cooperation between central and local authorities and Roma communities;
- Raise awareness among Roma representatives about the strategies, policies and projects that target them explicitly, but not exclusively;
- Continue the practice of CPRSI/ODIHR of organizing common meetings between authorities and Roma representatives during the field visits or on thematic issues;
- Make input of Roma communities a criterion for the assessment of projects for Roma;

Rromani Baxt Albania RBA

FIRST: for us to be recognized as a POSITIVE ELEMENT in Europe. Europe should not forget that 50-60% of the Rroms are not poor and live in good conditions and good relationship with non-Rroms; they are integrated. Do not consider us anymore as a NEGATIVE ELEMENT, an asocial group, who do not want to work, who live out of social welfare etc.

Just have a look around you and see how non-Rroms work: A Rrom works much harder than that, but when he has no job, what can he do? He will live with the social aid. And if this aid is also refused to him? What will he do? He will say: too bad, they don't give me a job, and neither social assistance, come here my wife and my children, let us sit down and die slowly...

SECOND: Once we are recognized as a POSITIVE ELEMENT, the strategies are to be drawn with the participation of skilled Rroms who know the situation, and not only by bureaucrats who will perform this task exclusively on the basis of statistics, among which a half are erroneous, because their basis is erroneous. Be this in the realm of employment, of health, of education, or any other, very concrete proposals exist in the Frame Statute of Rromani People in EU, a document that is at your disposal here and also available on internet. I do not want to take more time going into the details, but you will find all these in the document I mentioned, which was written by a group of Rromani lawyers and activists 10 years ago. You might think this is too old, but it actually isn't. Ten years in the history of a nation aren't but one day.

THIRD: there is a need for adequate monitoring:

1) Not to exclude the Rroms from the projects and activities saying "We had sad experiences in the past with the Rroms, we better work for them without them". This is not possible.

- 2) Real and efficient monitoring is needed both on Rroms and on non-Rroms. Nowadays, many Rroms are mascots in non-Rromani organisations, kind of alibis for non-Rroms to be able to say “you see, there are Rroms with us”.
- 3) We are not demanding for our organisations to be 100% Rromani conducted, but they cannot be neither 100% non-Rromani conducted... they should be for example 50%-50%...
- 4) The evaluation cannot be done only on the basis of reports, one should also see the results in real life, among the beneficiaries. The evaluator should stay one month on the spot, in the Rromani quarter and see the reality, not to come there like a tourist.
- 5) Not pressing with short terms: too short terms for achieving such or such objective push the players to lie on their realisation so as they do not lose the financing
- 6) We wish to set up a clearing house in Tirana, a place in which the realities will be discussed and debated among Rroms and our non-Rromani friends, colleagues and partners. For many years we asked for financial support on this idea, but we have not any up to date...
- 7) I invite you all to read the Frame statute I mentioned before and to make sure that it is officially adopted at the European level. Our identity and our language should be recognised for what they really are and not anymore as they were treated by 200 years old tales, in a period when people did not know much about the Rroms. It is also very important that young Rroms get scholarships and high education, not only in their countries, but also abroad.
- 8) I call upon the creation of a wide group which will identify, on the basis of the grassroots experience, good practices, strategies and projects, for them to be spread and evaluated by people familiar with the reality and the mentality of the country. This group should dispose of the necessary means and tools to perform a continuous work through regular contacts and communication, and not to limit its activity to papers that remain in archives.
- 9) On April 2011 as an Albanian delegate I was invited by ERTF in Strasbourg. During my staying in France I made some work meetings including UNESCO. I learned that UNESCO will organise soon an important conference on the education of the Rroms. We should use this opportunity and write a letter to the organisers, stressing on the importance of the modern communication in education. Television is an important tool quite neglected so far in educational strategies. There exist already some TV studios (KEJA in Budapest, Clavis Films in Paris) which can contribute and distribute available educational material, for a real education of both Rroms and non-Rroms.

Recommendations to the OSCE

International Charitable Organization Roma Women Fund "Chiricli"

In light of this, we would like to ask the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues to organize special meeting in Ukraine with the relevant Ministries regarding problem with the personal identification cards and other documents of Roma population, and to establish exchange with the best practices on mentioned above issue between Ukraine and European countries.