



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT BY NORWAY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw 24 September, 2013.
Working Session 2: Tolerance and non-discrimination II

Thank you, Madame Moderator,

First let me recall the important High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, held in Tirana in May. This conference contributed to greater recognition of the fundamental importance of these issues in the work of the OSCE.

Madame Moderator,

Combating and preventing intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes, is a top priority for Norway.

In May this year the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore organised a conference entitled “Right-wing Extremism and Hate Crime: Minorities under Pressure in Europe and Beyond”. This conference brought together more than 150 experts and academics from over 25 European countries and 70 organisations, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union as well as the OSCE.

The participants discussed challenges and possible solutions related to the rise of right-wing extremism and hate crime towards minorities. Topics included the legal and policy framework, how to mobilize through social media, trust-building and identity in multicultural societies, as well as the role of the media and civil society.

Madame Moderator,

Allow me to briefly mention some of the main recommendations of the Conference:

First, states and international organisations should take effective measures to address and combat hate crime, hate speech and other forms of intolerance.

Second, states should swiftly investigate and effectively sanction incidents of hate crime. They should provide access to justice and the right to remedy when appropriate.

Third, states should enact legislation to combat intolerance, discrimination and violence against minorities, including through the Internet and social media. But they must at the same time safeguard other fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression.

Fourth, states should guarantee the systematic collection and analysis of data on hate crime, hate speech and other forms of intolerance, in order to ensure informed public debates and policy-making.

Fifth, civil society organisations should contribute to the monitoring and reporting of discrimination and hate crime. They should provide practical assistance, such as legal advice and counselling. States should provide the necessary legal and political framework.

Sixth, states and political leaders should implement national action plans to combat discrimination, hate crime and intolerance. It is of particular concern when negative stereotypes of minorities are ignored, or even condoned, by political leaders.

Seventh, governments, politicians, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations should engage in debate on these issues and publicly condemn manifestations of hate and acts of violence.

Eighth, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and secure the sharing of best practices, the Conference further recommended international cooperation in the search for new and more effective measures to counter right-wing extremism, hate crime, hate speech and other forms of intolerance.

Madame Moderator,

These were only some of the main recommendations from the Conference which I particularly wanted to emphasise. It is the responsibility of all countries to take these and other steps to combat hate crimes and all other forms of intolerance.

Thank you, Madame Moderator