

“The reason why we gathered here for the past two weeks was to review the human dimension, and to move forward in addressing shortcomings and new challenges. The purpose of this Meeting is not to name and shame. Its purpose is to make sure that we live up to the standards that we have set ourselves.



Since the Helsinki Final Act, participating States took an important decision: not only to internationalize human rights, but also to tie their protection even further to their collective security, opening what had formerly constituted their ‘internal affairs’ to collective accountability and peer review. This accountability, and this review, cannot be limited to the annual human dimension events. They are a daily challenge, and a common responsibility”

*Ambassador
Christian Strohal,
Closing Remarks*

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

Warsaw, 24 September – 05 October 2007

CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
II. PARTICIPATION	6
III. RAPORTEURS' REPORTS	7
IV. COMPILATION OF WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS	47
WORKING SESSION 1: TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION I	47
<i>National Minorities:</i>	47
WORKING SESSION 2 & 3 (SPECIFICALLY SELECTED TOPIC): COMBATING INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING – IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS	52
WORKING SESSION 4: FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS I:	62
<i>Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief:</i>	62
<i>Freedom of movement:</i>	67
WORKING SESSION 5: HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS I:	67
<i>Refugees and displaced persons:</i>	67
<i>Migrant workers, integration of legal migrants:</i>	70
WORKING SESSION 6 & 7: OSCE ACTION PLAN ON ROMA AND SINTI: PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE, OVERCOMING DISCRIMINATION	73
WORKING SESSION 8: RULE OF LAW I, INCLUDING:	77
<i>Separation of powers</i>	77
WORKING SESSION 9: RULE OF LAW II, INCLUDING	78
<i>Exchange of views on the question of the abolition of capital punishment</i>	78
<i>Prevention of torture</i>	81
<i>International humanitarian law</i>	87
<i>Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism</i>	88
WORKING SESSION 10 & 11: GENDER ASPECTS OF SECURITY	90
<i>Prevention of violence against women</i>	90
<i>United Nations Security Council resolution 1325(2000):</i>	93
WORKING SESSION 12: HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS:	94
<i>Trafficking in human beings:</i>	94
WORKING SESSION 13: RULE OF LAW III:	97
<i>Independence of the judiciary:</i>	97
<i>Right to a fair trial:</i>	98
WORKING SESSION 14: DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS:	100
<i>Democratic elections:</i>	100
WORKING SESSION 15: DISCUSSION OF HUMAN DIMENSION ACTIVITIES (WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PROJECT WORK)	103
WORKING SESSION 16: FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS II	104
<i>Freedom of expression, free media and information</i>	104
WORKING SESSION 17: FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS II	111
<i>Freedom of assembly and association</i>	111
<i>Ombudsperson and independent national human rights institutions:</i>	116

V. ANNEXES.....	118
• KEY-NOTE ADDRESS AND OPENING SPEECHES	118
<i>Opening statement by Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director, OSCE ODIHR.....</i>	<i>118</i>
<i>Opening statement by H.E. Alberto Navarro Gonzales, Secretary of State for the European Union.....</i>	<i>122</i>
<i>Opening statement by H.E. Witold Waszczykowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE ODIHR</i>	<i>126</i>
<i>Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities</i>	<i>129</i>
<i>Mr. Miklos Haraszti, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.....</i>	<i>132</i>
<i>Mr. Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director of the International Helsinki Federation.....</i>	<i>136</i>
• LINK TO THE TIMETABLE.....	139
• MODALITIES FOR OSCE MEETING ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES	139
• LINK TO THE ANNOTATED AGENDA	139
• LINK TO THE OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS.....	139
• LINKs TO JOURNALS.....	139
• INDEX OF DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTS.....	140

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The twelfth OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) took place in Warsaw and traditionally it attracted a great number of participants from the OSCE area, partner countries as well as international organisations. This event is the traditional annual meeting organised by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to review the broad range of ideas, good practices and the OSCE's activities in the field of human dimension. The HDIM provides a unique opportunity for the representatives of the Civil Society of the participating States to meet and exchange ideas not only with their Civil Society counterparts from other countries, but also with government representatives and international organisations.

The meeting was opened by a statement of the ODIHR Director, Ambassador Christian Strohal. The opening plenary was continued by the State Secretary for the European Union of Spain Mr. Alberto Navarro Gonzalez and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Mr. Witold Waszczykowski. The OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Knut Vollebaek and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media, Mr. Miklos Haraszti, also delivered opening statements. Mr. Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director of the International Helsinki Federation, delivered the key note address. All addresses are enclosed in this compilation.

The Working Sessions of the first week were devoted to: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding-implementation of commitments II, Fundamental freedoms I, Humanitarian issues and other commitments I, OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination II, Rule of Law I.

The Working Sessions of the second week included: Rule of law II, Gender Aspects of security I, Gender Aspects of security II, Humanitarian issues and commitments II, Rule of Law III, Democratic institutions, Discussion of Human Dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work), Fundamental freedoms II, Fundamental freedoms III.

In the Closing Plenary Session, the Rapporteurs presented their reports from the Working Sessions. Then the session was followed up by a number of statements by Portugal representing EU, Council of Europe, USA, Russian Federation. A closing statement was given by the Director of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Christian Strohal.

The following moderators were involved in the HDIM: Ambassador Christian Strohal chaired the Opening and Closing Sessions as well as the Working Session on Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding- implementation of commitments and the Working Session on Democratic institutions, including: Democratic elections, Democracy at the national, regional and local levels, Citizenship and Political rights. Ambassador Barbara Gibson, the Permanent Representative of Canada to OSCE chaired the session on Tolerance and non-discrimination I. Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop the Head of the ODIHR Tolerance and non-discrimination programme moderated the Working Session on Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding-implementation of commitments II. The working session on Fundamental freedoms I, was moderated by Mr. Jeremy Gunn, Member of the ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on

Freedom of Religion or Belief. The Working Sessions on Humanitarian issues and other commitments were moderated by Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski, who is a Labour Migration Specialist at International Organisation for Migration in Geneva and Ms. Shivaun Scalanan, Senior Anti-Trafficking Adviser, ODIHR. Ms. Victoria Mohacsi, a member of the European Parliament, moderated the Session on OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. Mr. John Kellock, the Head of Communications and External Relations, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights moderated the Working Session on OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. The Rule of Law sessions were moderated by Mr. Alan Page from University of Dundee, top LSU Expert, Mr. Zbigniew Lasocik from Warsaw University, Department of Criminology and Criminal Policy and Ms. Rahela Dosen, Director for European Rule of Law Projects, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe. Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringeus, the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE moderated the both Working Sessions on Gender aspects of security. The Working Sessions on Fundamental freedoms were moderated by Mr. Roland Bless, the Director of RFoM OSCE and Mr. Serghei Ostaf, Director of the Resource Center for Human Rights, Moldova, FoA Panel member. The First Deputy Director of ODIHR Mr. Toralv Nordbo moderated the Working Session dedicated to Discussion of Human Dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work).

A total number of 35 side events profiled a broad range of human dimension topics. These provided opportunities for governments to present best practices, for NGOs to brief on their activities and for more in-depth and focused discussion on various topics. (A detailed list of side events and conveners is available in the attached timetable).

Participating States as well as NGOs provided a wide range of recommendations on human dimension issues that addressed the implementation of OSCE commitments in participating States and relevant programmes for OSCE Institutions. These recommendations were compiled thematically by the ODIHR for each working session and distributed on daily basis to all participants. The final compilation of written recommendations is the main part of this report.

For the fourth consecutive year the ODIHR used its electronic Documents Distribution System (DDS). This tool allowed all documents and recommendations to be immediately displayed in electronic form on terminals available at the conference venue and accessible through OSCE website. With the possibility of sending documents via e-mail directly from the terminals, the system facilitates additional impact to the debate. It also significantly reduces costs of the Meeting. A list of documents distributed during the HDIM is attached to this report. A CD-ROM with copies of all documents will be distributed among all participants and be available upon request from the ODIHR. During the Meeting participants also had a possibility to familiarize themselves with two other main tools developed and offered by the ODIHR – Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System (TANDIS) and the Legislationline. The TANDIS is a tool allowing the ODIHR to serve as a collection point for information related to tolerance and non-discrimination as tasked by the 2002 Ministerial Council while Legislationline is a free-of-charge online legislative database assisting the participating States in bringing their legislation into line with relevant international human-rights standards. Both databases can be accessed through the ODIHR's website.

II. PARTICIPATION

A total of 1020 participants attended the HDIM, including 444 representatives of 51 OSCE participating States (except: Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Monaco, San Marino and Turkmenistan). There were 443 representatives of 334 Non-governmental Organizations from the entire OSCE region also present during the Meeting.

There were 7 representatives of 5 OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (except Jordan) as well as 1 representative of the Republic of Korea (OSCE Partner for Co-operation).

Additionally during the 2007 HDIM the following attendance was noted:

30 representatives of 9 International Organizations:

- Council of Europe
- Council of Europe; European Roma and Travellers Forum
- Council of the European Union
- EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
- European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia
- European Parliament
- International Labour Organization
- Int'l Organization for Migration (Headquarters in Geneva and Office in Poland)
- Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- UNESCO
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Branch Office in Austria and in Warsaw)

17 representatives of the following OSCE institutions:

- Secretariat
- Strategic Police Matters Unit
- Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Conflict Prevention Centre
- Office of OSCE Representatives on Freedom of the Media
- Office of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

78 representatives of all 17 OSCE field missions:

- Presence in Albania
- Centre in Astana
- Centre in Ashgabad
- Office in Baku
- Centre in Bishkek
- Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mission to Croatia
- Centre in Dushanbe
- Mission to Georgia
- Mission in Kosovo
- Office in Minsk
- Mission to Moldova
- Mission to Serbia

- Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje
- Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
- Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- Office in Yerevan

III. RAPPORTEURS' REPORTS

Working Session I: Tolerance and non-discrimination I

Address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

National minorities

Prevention of aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and ethnic cleansing

In his first address as HCNM to the HDIM the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ambassador Knut Vollebaek outlined his dual approach: co-operation with the parties concerned and preventive diplomacy, on the one hand, and assistance to these parties by means of standards and best practices, on the other. He referred to the firm base of expertise in dealing with minority issues which his predecessors have built up since the establishment of the HCNM in 1992. The High Commissioner referred to the importance of elaborating standards, guidelines and best practices in normalising minority relations. He explained that the central overarching goal of the HCNM office is integration with respect for diversity. Fundamental elements are the right of persons belonging to minorities to preserve their identity; the obligation of the states to promote the societal integration of minorities and the responsibility in co-operating with the state in pursuing an effective integration. In order to achieve this goal the HCNM's predecessors have established principles and standards regarding the participation of minorities in a number of relevant fields such as public life, education, language policy and media. The HCNM also reiterated the importance of addressing factors which lead to social and economic exclusion.

A large number of NGOs from many different countries took the floor. Their interventions highlighted the fact, that in the OSCE region a large number of minority situations exist where sufficient trust and understanding between the parties yet has to be built up. One of the most pressing concerns many NGOs voiced was the lack of possibilities for education in and use of the mother tongue. A large number of participants mentioned education as most effective instrument to promote harmonious minority's relations.

A representative of the Council of Europe took the floor and recommended that 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, do so.

Recommendations to Participating States:

- HCNM recommended continuation of practical cooperation between various international organizations, including between the OSCE structures (such as HCNM), EU and Council of Europe

- MPDL recommended the international community to pay more attention for the national minorities in Kosovo. Recommended the Government of Croatia to adopt a law to protect national minorities in Croatia. Suggested Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries to look into possibilities of adopting specific anti-discrimination laws.
- Turkish Community of Kosovo requested adoption of common strategies in support for minorities, material and financial support for education in minority languages.
- The Western Thrace Minorities Graduates Association recommended Greece to fully implement the international instruments pertaining to minority rights.
- Order of St. Andrew recommended Turkey to respect the status of Ecumenical Patriarchate. Restore the property rights of Ecumenical Patriarchate. Reopen the Halke Ecumenical School.

Working Session 2 & 3 (specifically selected topic): Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding – implementation of commitments

All three OSCE Chairman-in-Office's personal representatives to promote greater tolerance and combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination, Ambassador Ömür Orhun, Professor Gert Weisskirchen and Ms. Anastasia Crickley, participated in either Working Session 2 or 3.

Working Session 2 focused on assessing the present situation in the OSCE region. ODIHR Director Ambassador Christian Strohal as moderator stressed the importance to address all forms of discrimination and intolerance comprehensively. He thanked all national focal points for their contributions to the recently published ODIHR report on hate crimes. He also commended the excellent cooperation with other relevant international actors such as the Human Rights Representative of the Council of Europe.

As keynote speaker, Ms Gordana Rabrenovic draw attention to the various aspects of intolerance and hate crimes. She appealed to recognize the specific problems of all affected groups in a fairer way, arguing that minorities are often victims, but can sometimes also be acting forces in ethnic or religious conflicts.

Ambassador Orhun saw an increasingly hostile environment towards Muslim communities in Western Europe and Northern America. He gave recommendations how to improve mutual understanding, cultural and religious diversity as first steps to combat discrimination and intolerance.

Professor Weisskirchen gave examples for anti-Semitism in various OSCE participating states and reminded the participating states of their commitments to tackle all forms of anti-Semitic and racist discourse, including on the internet – as confirmed in May this year at the Bucharest conference.

Several NGOs addressed problems of discrimination and intolerance in OSCE participating states including xenophobic and racist discourse, used also by some politicians and parties and mostly against national minorities, migrants and other citizens of foreign background,

Sinti and Roma, Jews, Muslims and other religious groups as well as intolerance on the basis of sexual orientation. Several delegations also expressed concern about the presence of right-wing extremist parties in the EU Parliament.

Some delegations admitted that some of these problems persisted in their own states. Some delegations also criticized cases of intolerance and discrimination in other participating states. Several delegations highlighted their states' measures to enhance tolerance and non-discrimination, some of them by using their right of reply.

Several NGOs argued that atheists and other persons of similar orientation were stigmatised in various OSCE countries. One speaker saw religious freedom abused by organisations that he described as totalitarian and referred to as "sects" – a notion that some NGOs refused to accept in this context. Instead, these NGOs saw themselves as targets of discrimination and requested participating states not to support the activities of what they referred to as "sect-hunting organizations".

Working Session 3 focused on forward-looking approaches to overcome intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region - and in particular on the role that parliamentarians can play in this context.

As Introducer, the British MP Dr Denis MacShane, expressed concern about a resurgence of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish discourse in the OSCE region. He highlighted the all-party parliamentary enquiry undertaken in the UK to counteract this worrisome trend. Also as Introducer, the Italian MP Ms Tana de Zulueta, gave examples for xenophobia and racist discourse, including by some politicians, against Muslims, Roma, asylum seekers and other migrants. She referred to various international instruments such as the European Charter of Political Parties for a non-racist society, however admitting their limited impact so far.

Several delegations highlighted best practices in their countries or presented measures, initiatives and programmes their own states have taken or are currently preparing to take against xenophobia, intolerance and racial discrimination. Some delegations also highlighted positive examples in other participating states. Several delegations also commended the role played by the three special representatives of the OSCE chairmanship for tolerance and non-discrimination and suggested an extension of their mandates.

Some speakers also appreciated the work done by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities as well as by ODIHR, citing as an example its recent report on hate crimes. They expressed concern about the various aspects of growing intolerance shown in this report. Several speakers also commended the outcome of the Bucharest conference and looked forward to building up on it at the forthcoming conference on discrimination against Muslims in Cordoba. One NGO requested for more information about the Cordoba conference and a more NGO-friendly conference organization at this event.

The representative the Council of Europe reported concerning trends of xenophobia and gave detailed recommendations how to react to these. The representative of UNESCO reported on international efforts in the UN system to enhance tolerance and non-discrimination, in particular since the 2001 Durban Conference. Inter alia, the Regional Coalition of Cities against Racism was cited as an example.

In her concluding remarks, Ms Anastasia Crickley, described the difficulties that OSCE participating states were facing in implementing their strategies and action plans so far. She called for effective actions that go beyond what she called “box-ticking” implementation, including key elements such as inclusion and participation of minorities and more power-sharing.

Recommendations given by the participants of this working session included in particular the following:

- legislative actions, such as penalizing hate crimes and racist groups, including political parties;
- introducing mechanisms for victims of racism and intolerance to seek legal redress;
- establishing mechanisms to suppress public financing of such groups;
- thorough implementation of legal provisions against racism, including against members of political parties;
- self-regulatory measures undertaken by political parties such as codes of ethical conduct;
- guidelines encouraging parties to work towards representation of minorities;
- drafting of national action plans and setting up institutions to implement these;
- open debate on racism including all parts of society and lead by parliamentarians and other responsible politicians in line with the relevant decision of the Brussels MC; improved dialogue with all relevant NGOs;
- sharing and identifying of best practices among OSCE participating states;
- improving data collection and information sharing on hate crimes including better focus on the victims;
- better integration of immigrants, such as simplified access to citizenship and family reunification, granting local voting rights, proactive employment and education measures;
- monitoring of public discourse regarding racism and xenophobia in OSCE election observers’ field operations;
- further improving coordination of efforts between various international actors such as OSCE, UN and Council of Europe;
- enhanced cooperation of OSCE bodies with national Parliaments and Parliamentary Assemblies.

Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I

Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief Freedom of movement

All aspects of the fundamental freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, including the right to practice any religion or no religion at all, to change one’s religion or belief, the right of religious communities to legal personality, maintaining their places of worship and to educate were addressed during this meeting.

Several statements voiced concern that in a number of participating States the **conditions of religious freedom** have worsened in the last year.

A number of participants stated that **religious communities** particularly those not part of the dominant or traditional face problems of varying degrees of difficulty in a number of participating States. The difficulties reported ranged from discrimination on issues like education and property to government harassment and repression. Along with governmental discrimination and repression, negative societal attitudes and actions were also outlined.

On the issue of **registration**, it was stated by many speakers that it should never form a prerequisite to exercise the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief in community with others.

Strong views were expressed on the question of **sects and cults** and government supervision measures which several participants felt were not in line with OSCE commitments.

In reply to this criticism several representatives of participating States gave explanations regarding their regulatory framework. Several state representatives also informed about their efforts to promote inter-religious dialogue.

Conscientious objection to military service on religious grounds was also touched upon by several participants.

ODIHR was commended on its work in promoting religious freedom and belief. One recommendation was to increase support for the ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief's and its activities to be expanded. In this regard one speaker referred to the relevant recommendations made at the Tolerance Conference in Bucharest in June 2007.

Recommendations to participating States included:

In general

Associazione culturale "Giuseppe Dossetti: I Valori":

- Urged the OSCE participating States to fully respect and guarantee the religious freedom through the compliance with all the OSCE commitments in the area of this freedom.

Forum 18 News Service:

- Advised that participating States enabled citizens and groups to challenge prejudices, stereotypes, denigration and hate speech expressed against all persons and communities, whatever their religious or non-religious beliefs. In this context, particular attention should be paid to the media, the public discourse of political and social leaders as well as state officials, and public training and educational programs"

European Human Rights Office, Church of Scientology International:

- No current formal complaint procedure exists for concerned groups and individuals who are victims of religious discrimination in OSCE Member States. A clear and simple complaint procedure should be initiated so that religious groups, targeted individuals and NGOs could raise religious discrimination complaints against states for investigation and remediation.

- A complaint procedure should be created so that concerned religious groups, their members or NGOs would be able to lodge a religious discrimination complaint against OSCE states for investigation and remediation by the Special Assistants.
- A High Commissioner for Religious Freedom be established with a mandate over all OSCE religious issues. This position would be similar to and complement with the OSCE High Commissioner for Minorities.

Group of countries

The Office of General Counsel of Jehovah's Witnesses:

Appealed to Armenia, Turkmenistan, South Korea, in harmony with international standards, to:

- Pardon the conscientious objectors presently in jail;
- Institute a purely civilian service which is not under military supervision; and
- To have a dialogue with our representatives who are present at this meeting.

Central Asia

Christian Solidarity Worldwide:

- In light of the new EU strategy on Central Asia, EU and OSCE and its member states should strive to strengthen and develop further the co-operation between to the two institutions.
- To ensure that any action plans on the implementation of the EU Central Asia strategy should be guided by OSCE working principles and incorporate existing OSCE commitments in the field of all human rights including freedom of thought, conscience and belief.
- To promote complementarity of policies especially in the field of human rights.

To countries in alphabetical order

GREECE

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe:

- International society should consider this situation and make some attempts by Greek Government in order to cure those injustices. Because, violations explained before cause not only anti-democratization of Greece but also give harm to European democracy and human rights values which are accepted globally.
- European society which always defends democracy and human rights should intervene to those anti-democratic practices. If not, it should be known well that European values will be wounded seriously and inexpably.
- Recommended Greece to respect minority's right to elect its own religious leaders.
- Recommended Greece to fully apply the provisions of the agreements that she signed and ratified for the protection of human and minority rights in Western Thrace.

TAJKISTAN

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe:

- We urge Tajikistan to seek technical assistance on the draft law from the OSCE Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

TURKMANISTAN

USA:

- Urged the unconditional release of Pastor Vyacheslav Kalataevsky, sentenced in May to three years in jail.

TURKEY

Order of St. Andrew:

- Urged Turkey to work with the Ecumenical Patriarchate to reopen the religious school at Halki, and urge reforms of the Foundations Law that removes the power of expropriation and allows groups to recover lost properties.

UZBEKISTAN

European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses:

- Urged the unconditional release of Pastor Dmitry Shestakov, sentenced to four years in a labor colony. Urged also for the release of two Jehovah's Witnesses sentenced in Samarkand to two-year labor terms for "illegally" teaching religion.
- To adapt its religious legislation to the standards of the OSCE in matters of freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom of worship, freedom of education and freedom of expression.

Recommendations to the OSCE/ODIHR:

Associazione culturale "Giuseppe Dossetti: I Valori"

- Urged the ODIHR to pay attention to the effective implementation of the OSCE commitments to fight discriminations against Christians and to ensure the religious freedom in the whole OSCE Region.
- To promote complementarity of policies especially in the field of human rights.
- To ask the OSCE Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief to produce policy paper on practical ways in which EU could *promote dialogue with civil society and respect for freedom of religion* in the context of the Central Asia Strategy.

Forum 18 News Service:

- Recalling recommendation from Bucharest Conference: "Encouraged the ODIHR to address the connections between fundamental human rights and tolerance and non-discrimination issues and we recommend that this be reflected in the internal structure of ODIHR by designating dedicated staff to all the aspects of the issue [freedom of thought, conscience and belief] in the Human Rights Department".

On the three Personal Representatives

European Human Rights Office, Church of Scientology International:

- The OSCE has instituted a system of Special Assistants to the Chairman-in-Office to deal with a range of subjects relating to religious freedom. This is an excellent initiative, but the Assistants are part-time and have a very heavy work load. Funding should be provided to provide full time staff for the Special Assistants.
- Our second recommendation is that additional funding be provided in the form of full time staff to the Special Assistants to facilitate their activities to combat religious discrimination.

On the Advisory Board of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief of the OSCE / ODIHR.

Forum 18 News Service:

- Recalling recommendation from Bucharest Conference: “and [that] the OSCE / ODIHR Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief’s activities (...) be expanded. We call for resources to be given to enable this to happen...”

European Human Rights Office, Church of Scientology International:

- To widen the mandate of the Panel of Experts so that it can determine its own priorities and make public (or private) pronouncements on activities of religious intolerance or discrimination that is brought to its attention.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide:

- To ask the OSCE Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief to produce a policy paper on practical ways in which EU could *promote dialogue with civil society and respect for freedom of religion* in the context of the Central Asia Strategy.

Working session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I:

Refugees and displaced persons

Migrant workers, integration of legal migrants

Treatment of citizens of other participating States

The discussion on Session 5 focused mainly on migrant workers, integration of legal migrants and internally displaced persons. Key themes and issues raised during the session were the recent legislative developments in the OSCE area, such as the adoption of new immigration legislation in the Russian Federation and Germany; temporary migration programmes for low skilled migrants in Canada; proposed EU general framework directives on the social and economic rights of migrants from third countries and admission of highly skilled migrants; EU’s intention to develop “mobility partnerships” to the South and East of the EU; implementation of the OSCE commitments regarding protection of the rights of migrants and their families; a widening discussion on migration and development and in this regard July 2007 – Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels as a follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue at the UN; inter-agency co-operation, such as the OSCE-ILO-IOM handbook on labour migration policies.

A number of participants, in particular from civil society, presented their views on several cases of new legislation which indicate a tendency towards limiting the rights of migrants' including family reunification and introducing more stringent citizenship requirements.

Although the participants agreed that one of the effective strategies to stem irregular migration was widening of the possibilities for regular channels of migration, caution was expressed with regard to temporary and circular migration which may not guarantee protection from exploitation especially for low skilled migrant workers. Possible difficulties in implementing integration measures for temporary and circular migrants were also raised.

Several participants underlined that the general human rights framework is applicable to those of different nationality and even legal status. The progress in ratification of some UN and ILO international instruments in the past years was mentioned in this regard. Wider ratification of the UN Migrants' Rights Convention was recommended by several speakers. Regularization of irregular migrants under certain conditions was also discussed with its pros and cons. It was recommended that such regularization should be accompanied by the reform of the immigration legislation as well as awareness raising campaigns to counter possible resentments from the larger society which may exacerbate tendencies of racism and xenophobia towards migrants. It was also recommended that the special vulnerabilities of women and children migrants should be paid due attention, particularly when dealing with irregular migration.

Some delegates have drawn attention to the growing consensus in many countries about the potentially positive benefits that migration can bring about to all countries involved. There was a call for discussion on how to harness these positive impacts also as means to counter xenophobia and intolerance towards migrants.

One key recommendation to the participating States and the OSCE institutions was to assist in empowering and capacity building of the migrant associations so that they can make their voices heard and claim for their rights. The interventions during the session confirmed that migration and integration remains to be a matter of common concern to participating States.

As for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), persisting problems on freedom of movement and return, access to property and tenancy rights, compensation for damage suffered and possibilities for possible integration were underlined. Participants agreed that the primary responsibility to address these issues lie within the states. In this respect, integration of the UN Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement into national legislation and policies was recommended.

Working session 6 and 7 (specifically selected topic): OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination

In his introductory remarks, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe pointed out that the Action Plan is a solid basis for improvement of the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region, but that more vigorous action is needed regarding its implementation. He underlined that Roma and Sinti communities are vastly underrepresented in political processes in Europe, and that they are frequently marginalized and excluded, as the result of long-standing discrimination. There are some good examples of positive actions

taken by several participating States, but the main problem remains the participation of Roma and Sinti on the local level. There has been little interest in participating States to include Roma and Sinti populations on voters' lists, in election campaigns and as candidates in major political parties. The Commissioner presented the participating States with various recommendations aimed at encouraging the participation of Roma and Sinti in political and public life and at the end of his presentation, the Commissioner pointed out that it is necessary that mainstream political parties take responsibility for encouraging the Roma and Sinti population to participate in the political process in Europe.

Participants generally agreed that the commitments for the improvement of the situation of Roma and Sinti, as embodied in the Action Plan, are appropriate, but that now it is important to ensure their implementation. Although positive steps have been taken by many participating States, the overall situation of Roma and Sinti is not improving in all fields, be these social, economic or political. Increasing the public and political participation of Roma and Sinti is however of fundamental importance in overcoming discrimination. Furthermore, Roma and Sinti problems present a challenge for the entire OSCE region and require states to use innovative approaches to deal effectively with these problems. The participating States should do their best to deal with these problems and to increase the political will to effectively implement the Action Plan. Some participants elaborated on their national policies for the improvement of the situation of the Roma and Sinti and the implementation of the Action Plan, illustrating the legal framework and administrative measures that have been put in place as well as the means to translate laws into actions. The activity of OSCE Contact Point for Roma and Sinti was appreciated, especially as regards to updating the Status Report on the implementation of Action Plan.

Most of the discussions in the two sessions were devoted to the questions of the low level of Roma and Sinti participation in public and political life and the causes and barriers that prevents Roma and Sinti to becoming a political stakeholder. In this context, the Representative of the ODIHR Elections Department drew attention to a series of findings from ODIHR elections Observation Missions: (1) there is a lack of comprehensive mechanisms which would permit the participation of minorities in political processes; (2) minorities are underrepresented in national assemblies; (3) in election campaigns, little attention is paid to the issue of the participation of minorities; (4) there is a lower voter turnout rate and a lower level of interest in elections amongst the members of minorities; (5) the Roma and Sinti face many civil and voter registration problems; (6) there is a need to present ballots and election education materials also in minority languages; (7) election irregularities, such as vote buying, are reported at a higher rate by Roma and Sinti voters; and (8) there is a lack of systematic monitoring mechanisms and data collection. The participants agreed on the importance of Roma and Sinti being able to register as residents, being able to vote and being included as candidates on the lists of political parties in order to participate effectively in political life.

Another issue raised by some participants was the issue of “shared responsibility” and the importance of Roma and Sinti to be actively involved, together with the governments, in the processes aiming for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti.

Some participants expressed concern regarding the xenophobic and discriminatory statements, attacks and violent incidents against Roma in Europe. They pointed out that the phenomenon of “anti-Gypsyism” in Europe is growing and States and intergovernmental organizations should promptly and strongly condemn such acts and increase their efforts to counter and

prevent such attitudes. Furthermore, some participants warned that the poor living conditions of the Roma and Sinti population can encourage human trafficking and prostitution, especially among women and children. It was recommended that the gender perspective should also be taken into consideration when elaborating national policies. The problems of insufficient access to education and the low level of integration of Roma and Sinti children in educational systems were also discussed. Roma and Sinti are still frequently subject to discrimination, segregation and are often not fully integrated into the normal school system. Moreover, they are more likely to be placed in state institutions for the mentally disabled, and to be removed from their homes for purely material reasons.

At the end of the Special Day on Roma and Sinti, the participants were informed that this year's Max Van der Stoep Award will be presented by the High Commissioner for National Minorities to the European Roma Rights Center.

The following recommendations were made during the Working Sessions 6 and 7:

- More efficient implementation of already existing commitments, embodied in the Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, is needed. A mechanism to co-ordinate policies targeting Roma and Sinti populations in the OSCE should be established, thereby drawing all possible benefits from an integrated approach.
- It was also recommended that the OSCE should develop new mechanisms to enforce the implementation of the national strategies and plans for the improvement of the situation of Roma and Sinti.
- The participating States were called upon to facilitate adequate data collection, which would help to determine the true state of affairs and the steps to be taken in order to address the problems of the Roma and Sinti.
- Roma and Sinti issues should be brought to the top of the European political agenda. For the implementation of commitments, it is essential to ensure the cooperation and harmonization of activities between various international and regional organizations, as well as between governmental and non-governmental organizations. The dialogue between the national and local institutions and Roma and Sinti representatives should continue. Nevertheless, the Roma and Sinti communities themselves should also take their share of the responsibility for the implementation of commitments.
- Participating States should provide sustainable means to facilitate the participation of Roma and Sinti in public and political life, also through the adoption of relevant legislation in order to implement the Action Plan on this issue. It is of great importance that appropriate steps are taken regarding the registration of Roma and Sinti voters, to establish a system of reserved seats in political assemblies for their representatives, and to promote and conduct civic education in Roma and Sinti communities in their language. Awareness-raising campaigns among officials and the majority population on the issue of the importance of the participation of the Roma and Sinti should be conducted. Efforts should be made to ensure that they are better represented in public structures at the local and the national level, especially in police forces and law enforcement institutions.
- In order to encourage the participation of Roma and Sinti in political and public life, it is recommended that the interaction between governmental institutions and representatives of Roma and Sinti communities be ensured at all stages of the law-making process - from the elaboration of relevant public policies, through the process of adoption, to implementation and evaluation.

- Positive actions should be taken in order to promote Roma and Sinti representation in mainstream political parties and to increase their chances of being represented in elected bodies in all levels. Mainstream European parties should be called upon to be open for political dialogue with Roma and Sinti.
- Regarding the issue of discrimination, the participants recommended the adoption and enforcement of comprehensive anti-discriminatory legislation. Furthermore, the participating States and international organizations should prevent and react appropriately to xenophobic and discriminatory statements and violent acts against Roma and Sinti. Participating States should ensure that the Roma Holocaust is not forgotten and proper recognition should be given to it.
- It is necessary to ensure a mainstreaming of issues affecting Roma and Sinti women, with the aim of promoting their participation and representation in politics. This should be done by means of public campaigns and by placing Roma and Sinti women on eligible places on electoral lists.
- Concerning the housing crisis of Roma in Europe it was suggested that OSCE should organize a special meeting on the issue of arbitrary and forced evictions of Roma.

Detailed recommendations were also raised by:

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)

- Participating States should fully assume their responsibility for the overall situation of non-improvement of Roma situation and increase their efforts in implementing the existing Roma-related strategies and policies
- There is a need to re-enforce political will and leadership- message from more senior level needs to go out that supports Action Plan
- Positive action is needed which creates a level space for Roma to participate fully in political processes
- Honest assessment of progress on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti should be made by participating States, as a prerequisite for advancement towards this goal

United States of America:

Recommendations to OSCE Institutions

- In light of the magnitude and complexity of the emerging housing crisis and arbitrary forced evictions faced by Roma, we believe the OSCE participating States should consider giving greater attention to this

Recommendations to participating States

- Bosnia and Herzegovina should immediately address the issue of Roma being barred from holding political office.
- Bulgaria prohibition on minority groups needs to be addressed
- Based on ODIHR Elections assessment on France, concerning the issue of residency requirement for Roma (gens du voyage), recommends that France is paying attention to solve this issue
- Municipal authorities to ensure that Roma are able to vote; it is essential that Roma are registered as residents, possess proper identity documents and be registered on voters list.

Hungary:Recommendations to participating States

- Participating States should promote more the corporate social responsibility strategy, anti-segregation policy in field of housing and education

Norway:Recommendations to participating States

- Basic needs must be met and social inclusion and cohesion ensured in order to develop the political potential the Roma and Sinti represent.
- The main challenge, how to mobilize and increase the interest and participation in politics among the Roma at large by information and training, must be met.
- To remedy the political participation at the grass-root level, as this is still to a large extent lacking.

Romania:Recommendations to OSCE Institutions

- Strengthen horizontal cooperation with international bodies that have particular expertise in the field - the newly established Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues within ODIHR/OSCE, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe - especially the Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Roma and Travellers' Forum, as well as relevant organizations in the UN system, as the UNDP or UNICEF.

Recommendations to participating States

- Approach the specific problems of the Roma and Sinti communities with coherent, integrated inclusion policies at European scale, a task not only for the European Commission and European Union members but for all OSCE participating states.
- Promote a genuine and constructive partnership between state bodies and Roma NGOs, which should result in increased participation of Roma and Sinti in decision making bodies at EU and national level, including in Parliaments, and in implementation institutions alike. Strengthening Roma organizations to work together with State institutions
- Affirmative action is needed to make sure that Roma are represented across State institutions and thus contribute to overcoming widespread discrimination against Roma
- Wide public awareness raising and anti-discrimination campaigns are required
- Refine and enforce the monitoring and sanctioning mechanisms regarding compliance of EU Member states with the provisions of the Council Directive 43/2000EC on equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin and with other relevant norms and recommendations of the EU, such as those pertaining to the Lisbon Strategy and detailed in the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion;

Slovenia:Recommendations to participating States

- Recommend to other OSCE Participating States that have not yet done so, to follow the example in adopting relevant legislation, such as the Slovenian adopted Roma Community Act, necessary for the implementation of OSCE Action Plan.

Council of Europe:

Recommendations to participating States

- Lund recommendations from 1999 and the Warsaw guidelines from 2000 shall be followed by participating States in order to increase the level of participation in public an political life of Roma and Sinti communities.
- Proactive measures are needed, partly to compensate for the long history of exclusion and marginalization.
- Efforts to increase the level of participation shall start with the local/municipal level.
- Participating States should clearly and strongly condemn racist and xenophobic statements and actions against Roma.
- Advisory bodies could be set up to give such consultations more continuity and promote the legitimacy of the Roma representatives. Authorities should be open to support Roma cultural centers – where this have been tried it has had positive effects also for inter-Roma communications.
- Comprehensive anti-discrimination measures must be set-up in countries /states
- Mainstream political parties must take on responsibility to include Roma in the process

Recommendations to Roma and Sinti

- Roma need to take more responsibility for political participation
- Roma should vote for solid leaders

European Roma and Travellers Forum:

Recommendations to OSCE Institutions

- OSCE ODIHR CPRSI should increased their efforts in addressing Roma issues and support Roma to define themselves internationally
- Permanent Council of OSCE and Council of Ministers of CoE needs to take up Roma issues and set for participating States and member countries priorities from the OSCE Action Plan
- Implementation of the Action Plan should be enhanced by mainstreaming Roma issues to a larger extent across the various OSCE Institutions, Field Operations and ODIHR Departments
- Better harmonization and synergy of actions and resources is needed among OSCE and other IGOs and IOs such as CoE, ECRI, FCPNM, EU FRA, EC, UN institutions

Recommendations to participating States

- Call upon OSCE participating States to manifest at highest level political commitments and action against anti-Roma, anti-Gypsyism, and hate-crimes and racist rhetoric; Issue of anti-gipsyism shall be raised at the top of European political agendas of all stakeholders including national member states and Intergovernmental Organisations; Urgent action is needed by international organizations-EU, OSCE and participating States to combat this phenomenon
- increased political participation of Roma and Sinti is recommended in order to effectively counter the anti-gypsyism
- In regard to tolerance and non-discrimination action implemented at the grassroots is recommended in order to make a difference in the daily life of the Roma.
- Stronger political commitment is necessary to replace existing lack of action
- State agendas should include Roma issues among their priorities

- Participating States should address immediately the problem related to lack of adequate drinking water in Roma communities due to which many Romani children die every year
- Participating States should pay attention and implement preventative measures regarding the vulnerable status of Romani children, many of whom fall victims of trafficking in human beings and exploitation, due to poverty
- Roma IDPs/refugees within and outside Kosovo live in unstable and often unacceptable conditions in locations other than their place of origin, facing with many difficulties and problems that are endangering their existence and future. In order to improve their situation we need more concrete measures and actions plans to deal with discrimination, poverty, lack of personal documentation, infrastructure and housing conditions regarding Roma families, safe living conditions on Kosovo and many others.
- To establish procedures to provide comprehensive survey in the matter of the Roma minority protection on Kosovo, such that all subject will be brought to justice, and Roma members and their families have access to due remedy.
- Concrete Plan and Strategy for the Roma refugee and IDP's community should be adopted and implemented as well, developing the following issues:
 - Political participation and representation of Roma in decision making bodies and to establish other equality bodies for minorities on Kosovo.
 - Civil registration and lack of personal documentation among the Roma community must be solved based on proper statistic database for census or elections on Kosovo, and the fact that personal documentation is condition for performing other civil rights.
 - To assist to IDP's and returnees to repossess their real estate and personal property on Kosovo as pre-condition for normal living or to secure for them normal living standards and housing if needed in other possible areas.

Amnesty International (Jointly with European Roma Rights Centre and Roma Education Fund):

Recommendations to European Union

The organizations call on the European Union to:

- Ensure that the EU does not support projects which are associated with human rights violations, including forced evictions and that do not lead to segregation in the fields of education, housing, healthcare.
- Ensure that participating States actively fight discrimination against Roma in education and promote the full inclusion of Romani children in education.
- Encourage participating States to undertake awareness-raising campaigns.
- Monitor the correct transposition and implementation of the anti-discrimination directives into the national legislation.
- Pursue an integrated approach through developing an EU Framework Strategy on Roma inclusion, which would provide coherence and complementarity in policies, systematic and sustainable initiatives and a coordination instrument. This framework would ensure an effective mainstreaming (i.e. Roma issues are addressed in EU policies) and specific (i.e. affirmative) actions targeting Roma when required. And for the EU member states it would offer guiding principles and exchange of best practices.

Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance “Amalipe-Bulgaria”:

Recommendations to participating States

- Participating States should begin a real implementation of Roma-related strategies and policies by allocating adequate funding, human resources and administrative support
- Participating States should strengthen Roma participation in public and political life as prerequisite for improving their situation and ensuring full integration in society
- Bulgarian government should mainstreaming Roma strategies into its overall policies

European Roma Grassroots Organisation:

Recommendations to participating States

- Call the participating States to increase their efforts in implementing more effectively the Action Plan focussing on local level; call the participating States to adopt adequate budget for implementation of their Roma-related policies and of the Action Plan, and adopt measurable indicators as a solution to transposing words into reality
- Awareness raising and dissemination campaigns of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti should be implemented by participating States
- Participating States should address promptly the rampant anti-gypsyism in their countries
- Early warning work should be conducted by participating States to prevent inter-ethnic tensions among Roma and majority

Fundacion Secretariado Gitano (Spain):

Recommendations to OSCE Institutions

- European institutions should back the Roma in their efforts to become political stakeholders

Recommendations to participating States

- Law enforcement institutions need to recruit more Roma
- Participating States should increase efforts to integrate Roma by ensuring a stronger political participation on their behalf - both left and right wing ideals
- Non-Roma must assist Roma, to become more engaged in political life

National Agency for Roma, Romania:

Recommendations to OSCE Institutions

- The National Agency for Roma is calling for cooperation with the International Organizations to develop its national framework for addressing the objective of improving the situation of Roma citizens through non-discrimination, political and public participation in all spheres of their societies.

Recommendations to participating States

- Participating States should make use of the existing practice acquired by Romania in implementing provisions of the Action Plan and the national strategy, in close partnership with the Roma civil society.
- In addressing the situation of Roma and for achieving sustainable development it is essential that the majority population of the respective states is directly participating in the process. This requires measures to change the perception of majority towards Roma through awareness-raising campaigns and involve the majority into solving Roma issues.
- The National Agency for Roma is calling for cooperation with NGOs and political actors to develop its national framework for addressing the objective of improving the situation

of Roma citizens through non-discrimination, political and public participation in all spheres of their societies.

Nationella Central for Bundet Antidiscrimineringscenter Roma:

Recommendations to Roma and Sinti

- Roma must be responsible for finding solutions themselves, which must benefit of adequate budgetary allocations and human resources.

Roma Civic Alliance:

Recommendations to participating States

- The political parties should become more aware of the importance of supporting the access of the vulnerable groups to the political life.

Roma Cultural Institute of Spain:

Recommendations to participating States

- Activities should be undertaken to promote harmony and understanding between different communities through raising awareness of Romani language and culture

Romani CRISS:

Recommendations to OSCE Institutions

- The HCNM should continue in a more visible and efficient way to promote inclusion of Roma in political life- there is a limited number of Roma in political positions

Recommendations to participating States

- Calls on participating States of OSCE, including Romania and Bulgaria, to firmly and promptly condemn and punish racist statements and inciting by politicians, especially pre and during election campaigns

Ruhama Foundation, Romania:

Recommendations to participating States

- The non Roma political parties and the Government – should budget and implement the existing policies aimed to improve the Roma situation.
- Civil society should accompany their project results by supporting the Roma communities in identifying their political representatives and teach them strategies to become elected in the local councils.
- Civil society should capacitate Roma political leaders and councillor by providing them with training in negotiation, partnership, community development, lobbying and advocacy and assume together with authorities the responsibility to improve the life of Roma communities

Recommendations to Roma and Sinti

- The Roma communities in special and the Roma institutional actors in general, should focus on long term solutions such as:
- The Roma civil society should decide to support the Roma Communities in issues such as Civic Election Education, the importance of local political representation.

Working session 8: Rule of law I

Separation of powers Democratic law-making

Working session 8 of the HDIM addressed fundamental principles of democratic societies, including separation of powers, democratic law making.

ODIHR first deputy Director in his opening address stressed the importance of the effective implementation of separation of power principles in a transparent manner.

Director of the Scientific Institute for Direct Democracy in St. Ursanne, Switzerland, Mr. Andreas Gross underlined that separation of powers is a key element to improve democracy. He noted that the comprehension of freedom is much more than a free will of choosing. Its origin, he said, can be sought with the historical reference to the French revolution where the ability to act upon own common life and on own essential base was introduced as an important element of democratic society. It was also underlined that the aim of democracy is to solve all sorts of conflicts avoiding crisis. He pointed out that involving civil society in the legislative process through discussions is the main condition of constructing of the democratic legislation. Such discussions should take place in parliaments, publicly, with the participation of media and non-governmental organizations. He noted that the separation of powers indissolubly connected with its decentralization. Representational democracy is essential to democracy – but should not monopolize it. Mr. Gross also mentioned that people should decide when they will vote on a given issue and on issues they propose themselves – that is direct main principle of democracy. In conclusion Mr. Andreas Gross underlined the importance of the democratic voting process, when people can choose and combine candidates from different parties, representing different political bases and views. Not less important is improving the law making process through strengthening the Parliaments by giving them a realistic possibility to initiate draft laws. This ability should not only be available for governments themselves.

In following discussion many participating delegations noted the great importance their States attach to need of a greater support and further development of separation and decentralization of powers. Almost every state noted that separation of powers is the essential and key element in introducing of democracy and government credibility. Touching on issues of democratic law-making processes some of representatives of national delegations pointed the transparency is an important element. Freedom of expression is vital and a threat to this is a threat to whole law making process. A large number of other participating States align themselves with this proclamation.

One of the delegations noted that in accordance with ODIHR-report of 2005 “Common responsibility. Commitments and Implementation” the OSCE participating States should clarify competences of branches. This point was supported by one of Non-Governmental Organisations representatives, who stated that OSCE member states should adopt more specific commitments on separation of powers and democratic law-making.

Some of the participating Non-Governmental Organisations expressed their concern on misbalances among legislative and executive powers in different OSCE member states. Others concerned on dependant Parliament and Judiciary system. One of them proposed that NGOs should be involved in Law-making process.

Some NGOs representatives declared that in some circumstances Democracy can constitute a threat to freedom, especially when situation in State is unstable and there is need for strong executive branch or strong president to make vital changes.

Another civil society representative, concerning shortcomings of OSCE obligations in Central Asia region, noted that Kazakhstan, as a leading democratic power in this region should play more active role in spreading its positive liberalization experience on neighboring countries.

A number of detailed recommendations were made by delegations during this working session, which can be summarized as follows:

Recommendations to the OSCE:

- To activate work on more in-depth involvement of civil society in law-making as well as to provide civil society an opportunity of stating its opinion;
- OSCE should forward a proposal to some of the participating States with the request to make the Law on death penalty public as well as to publish it for free access to population;
- OSCE should introduce training programmes for civil society to increase knowledge of NGOs participation in law-making process;
- To establish a commission under the OSCE/ODIHR representing the diversity of spiritual praxis followed by the OSCE participating States. Such commission on request would issue recommendations
 - 1) to national parliaments on legislative matters in order to secure the respect of non domesticated spiritual praxis and
 - 2) to the national agencies regulating mass media in order to hinder campaigns and aggressions towards any specific spiritual praxis based on spiritual xenophobia
- Search further responsibilities on separation of powers and clarify the competences of branches, cf. the ODIHR-report of 2005 “Common responsibility. Commitments and Implementation”;
- Adopt more specific commitments on separation of powers and democratic law-making.

Working session 9: Rule of law II

Exchange of views on the question of the abolition of capital punishment

Prevention of torture

International humanitarian law

Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism

Working Session IX looked at the abolition of the death penalty, prevention of torture, and the protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism. The Moderator, Mr. Zbigniew Lasocik, introduced discussion suggesting that what bound these topics other than their being rule of law issues, was that each raised conflicting viewpoints among countries with shared values and commitment to human rights.

For example, on the **death penalty**, some considered it was just punishment for those who showed no respect for human life. Others considered that it might in itself violate the right to life. A number of interventions questioned whether capital punishment presented an effective deterrent, and expressed concern that any miscarriage of justice would be irreversible.

Speakers noted that the trend in the OSCE region was towards abolition and that in some of the States where the death penalty remained, de facto moratoriums were either in place and/or the number of offences that carried the death penalty had been reduced. A few OSCE participating States repeated their commitment to removing the death penalty but explained that they first needed to build up the capacity of their prisons to house more prisoners on life sentences.

A majority of participating States called for universal abolition of the death penalty, not just in the OSCE region, but globally, and many interventions supported the initiative to adopt a resolution at the 67th UN General Assembly calling for a global moratorium on the use of capital punishment.

On **torture**, participants underlined the absolute prohibition on torture in all circumstances. However, there was concern that in a number of OSCE participating States torture continued in practice when prohibited under national and international law. Loopholes in national legislation as well as poor implementation were blamed for this. Detaining people without immediate access to legal counsel, without the individual being made aware of their rights, and without their being able to inform family or a friend, increased the likelihood of torture in pre-trial detention. As did provisions of law increasing the time before which a detainee was required to appear in court.

Participants were concerned that after a country had abolished torture in law, the political will evaporated to weed out the problem. Key to eradication was tackling impunity, ensuring that all allegations were appropriately investigated and the perpetrators punished. It was noted that in some States investigatory bodies had been set up, but that they lacked independence from the authorities often accused of committing torture. Participants called for independent international and national monitoring mechanisms to be set up in OSCE participating States, and increased access to detention centres for international organisations like the ICRC. The Moderator stressed that national preventative mechanisms were the key and that by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture States had to set up such mechanisms. He appealed to participating States to sign the OPCAT noting that only 17 of 56 in the OSCE had done so.

Concern was expressed over the policy of deportations with assurances adopted by some States, and allegations of rendition of detainees from an OSCE State through other OSCE States to third countries where they might suffer torture. One State responded to make clear that its use of DWAs was conditioned upon the right of the detainee to judicial appeal.

States expressed their determination to fight **terrorism** with full respect for international human rights law. However, participants were concerned that some States used the labels of terrorism and extremism to clamp down on peaceful criticism of government policies. One intervention highlighted the importance of independent legal bars and courts to protect against this. An independent media was also an effective check. Another intervention noted that in the new climate, religious groups, however innocent, were often viewed with suspicion and might

wrongly be accused of facilitating radicalisation. It was important that freedom of religion did not suffer in the fight against terrorism.

Speakers considered that new anti-terror measures could accrue to collectively infringe significantly on civil liberties in OSCE States. Measures such as stop and search and admitting protected witness statements in court without witness cross-examination were eroding long-held liberties such as privacy and fair trial rights.

One State supported a previous recommendation of a European Parliamentarian to discuss further the applicability of classifications of combatants in International Humanitarian Law to the fight against terrorism, making clear that they considered the fight akin to a situation of war.

One participating State walked out of the working session in protest at the participation of an NGO it alleged incited terrorism. Over thirty States took the floor to support the participation of this NGO in line with the Helsinki 1992 document.

One intervention lamented the fact that only one working session was provided for in the agenda to discuss such important topics.

Recommendations

Death Penalty

To participating States:

- abolish the death penalty;
- support a resolution at the 67th UNGA calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
- review the sentences of all those on death row;
- publish the number of executed and the names of those on death row;

Torture

To participating States:

- provide all detainees with immediate access to legal counsel;
- inform all detainees immediately of their rights;
- ensure all detainees have access to medical staff on request;
- allow the detainee to inform family or a friend immediately upon detention;
- improve prison conditions where overcrowding, lack of light, fresh air, sanitation etc. can create an environment increasing the likelihood of torture;
- provide an impartial mechanism for the filing of complaints of torture;
- tackle impunity, providing for independent investigations into all allegations of torture, and subsequent punishment commensurate with the gravity of the offence to all perpetrators;
- provide investigatory bodies with psychiatrists;
- provide redress to victims of torture;
- ensure evidence obtained by torture is not used in court;
- ensure independence of judge presiding over torture cases;
- combat the use of heavy handed policing of peaceful demonstrations that can lead to torture and extra-judicial killing;
- set up national preventive mechanisms;

- sign and ratify OPCAT which also requires the establishment of national preventive mechanisms;
- audit national legislation for loopholes that could promote torture;
- limit the time before which a detainee is required to appear before a court in line with international best practice;
- desist with the practice of using deportations with assurances;
- ensure bodies investigating torture have independence from the authorities accused of committing the torture;
- allow access to all places of detention to organisations like the ICRC and Doctors Without Borders.

To OSCE institutions and field missions:

- increase monitoring of torture;
- play a more active role in torture prevention.

Fight against Terrorism

To participating States:

- do not use the labels of extremism and terrorism to clamp down on peaceful dissent;
- ensure independent legal bars and courts as a check on abuse of the labels extremist and terrorist;
- ensure a free media as a further check;
- protect freedom of religion, and the right of religious groups to register and practice without impediment, in the new climate of suspicion towards religious groups;
- discuss further the applicability of classifications of combatants in International Humanitarian Law;
- review anti-terror policies to ensure their compliance with civil liberties and international human rights law, especially in the areas of privacy rights, the right to a fair trial, and discrimination;
- respect the right to a fair trial for those detained accused of terrorism.

General

To participating States:

- allow more time for the discussion of the issues in working session IX in next year's agenda.

Working session 10 (specifically selected topic): Gender aspects of security I

***Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality
Equality of opportunity for women and men
Prevention of violence against women***

In her introductory remarks the moderator, Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringeus of Sweden to the OSCE, underlined that the common task of today was to translate into reality the commitments, taken within the key framework documents in the field of promoting equality of rights and opportunities, such as the UN SC Resolution 1325 and the 2004 OSCE Action Plan to Promote Gender Equality, noting that the responsibility lay with all participating States, OSCE institutions and field missions.

The introducer, Mr. Heinz Drobesh from the Styrian Regional Parliament, Head of the Administration, stressed that need for a wide adoption of the gender mainstreaming strategies to promote the use of concrete measures in support of advancing women's equal rights and opportunities. He presented the Austrian experience in this area, which included development of federal and regional strategies of gender mainstreaming in government policy-making, future set-up of gender focal points in all political groups within the regional parliament, the use of equality indicators in the recruitment to monitor the imbalances in the composition of the state bodies and to address them through recruitment of the representatives of the disadvantaged sex, the introduction of paternity leave. He also mentioned the practice in another country, where the drug abuse treatment centres had a gender-specific approach in treating drug-addicts. The experience, accumulated by the Austrian authorities in the prevention and prosecution of domestic violence, was summarized by the introducer in the following points:

- the legal basis for cooperation between state authorities should be laid down for actions in prevention and prosecution of domestic violence;
- formal and informal cooperation should be established among the state and non-state agents;
- effective victim assistance can be developed through close victim advocate cooperation, one example of which is the NGOs accompanying the victims in the court room.

He noted that the acquisition of security tasks and roles by NGOs had proven to be an effective strategy in providing safety and security to victims, especially through the ongoing threat assessment and threat management in relation to victims.

It was also noted that female genital mutilation, honour killings, stalking were serious crimes which were still practiced in many countries in the OSCE area and needed to be addressed effectively.

Strengthening criminal prosecution, cooperation among law-enforcement and civil society organizations, enhanced implementation of gender mainstreaming were identified as the key policy steps that policy-makers and practitioners needed to undertake in order to create more democratic future for our countries.

During the discussion many delegations provided information about their national steps in promoting gender equality and advancement of women in decision-making process, which embraced the adoption of national strategies and action plans, development of parliamentary, governmental and regional mechanisms and initiatives, increased cooperation between state structures and NGOs, introduction of gender aspects in all local, regional, nation programmes.

The activities of another regional organization in the advancement of gender equality standards and mechanisms, which included compilation and dissemination of recommendations and specific best practices in developing gender equality laws, regulations and specific policy measures, as well as publication of statistics and the campaigns against violence against women were highlighted.

Among the existing challenges pay and remuneration and reconciliation of family and professional life, as well as the threats to women right defenders in various OSCE were particularly emphasized.

The examples of national legislation to address violence against women, including domestic violence, as well as other measures, such as creation of victims assistance centers were mentioned among the concrete steps taken by governments in some OSCE participating States. Reference was made to various local, national and regional initiatives on prevention and combating violence against women, in particular, with regard to domestic violence.

In relation to the 2006 OSCE Secretary General's review of the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan the need to promote recruitment of qualified women into the managerial positions across the OSCE field presences, institutions, as well as within the participating States was stressed.

It was noted that in some participating States there had been some progress in eradicating honour killings. It was also pointed out that in some OSCE participating States domestic violence was not criminalized as a separate crime.

The recommendations of the working session concentrated on:

- the promotion of gender mainstreaming and co-operation among the law-enforcement and civil society in support of preventing and combating violence against women;
- the OSCE and the ODIHR's assistance to those participating States that do not host missions;
- the ODIHR's work to support NGOs in the civil society development and capacity building of local gender experts, assistance in the implementation of the media campaign for sensitizing the public as well as policy-makers to gender equality issues, in particular, in the light of the growing trends of the religions fundamentalism and limitation of women's rights and freedoms;
- the importance of appointing more women to senior level positions within the OSCE as well within participating States.

On the issue of combating domestic violence recommendations included:

- the need to criminalize domestic violence and to adopt all necessary measures to provide effective victim assistance measures;
- the need for the increased role of the OSCE in the field of criminal justice reform to promote the goal of effective prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence and establishing victim assistance centres;
- the importance of addressing the needs of perpetrators, in particular, through the involvement of specialized agencies in this treatment.

Working session 11: Gender aspects of security II

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325(2000)

The afternoon session had a special focus on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), with the aim to identify very concrete and practical tools and strategies for advancing the goals of this resolution. It also addressed the role of women in

conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict reconstruction as well as the disproportionate impact of conflicts on women.

In presenting the topic, the moderator of the session, Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringeus of Sweden underlined the importance of the UN SC resolution 1325 (2000) as a priority for the OSCE and the need to mainstream the resolution within the three OSCE dimensions.

The introducer of the session Dr. Susanne Schmeidl stressed that integration of a gender perspective in the security agenda, in particular in early warning and conflict prevention, can have far-reaching benefits for the early recognition of conflict, for the work towards preventing the outbreak of violence, and for the improvement of responses in the aftermath of conflict for the following reasons:

- it allows to look at previously overlooked signs of instability and insecurity and generate more practical, accurate and realistic strategies in the early warning practices;
- gender analysis and perspectives into formulation of responses ensure that discriminatory policies are not perpetuated.

It was noted that the Handbook for Practitioners on Effective Conflict Prevention and Early Warning, prepared by the ODIHR, provided a useful practical guidance for participating States on how gender perspectives can be included in the development of strategies for conflict prevention and early warning. The ODIHR's work in gender and security sector reform was mentioned as another valuable instrument. It was pointed out that there was a need for further research and guidance on how to translate policy into practice.

During the discussion the participants recognized the importance of the UNSCR 1325 (2000), which provided a comprehensive approach to gender aspects of security comprising inclusion of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Some delegations provided information on the development of national strategies or action plans for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 (2000), which embraced the involvement of various actors, and called for similar actions in other states. The role of civil society in this process was specifically noted. A number of initiatives were mentioned, such as training programmes, publishing gender-related books, development of manuals and guidelines, monitoring of women's rights in refugees camps.

The discussion of the inclusion of women in peace processes addressed the need for better representation of women in field missions, involvement of women in civil and military components of peacekeeping operations, women participation at all levels of decision-making. It was pointed out that to achieve better participation of women in political and governance structures, women should be included in the political agenda and security issues should be included in the women's agenda. The important role of early education of both men and women in this regard was also highlighted.

Special emphasis was made by many delegations on the importance of the full and effective implementation the OSCE 2004 Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality. Reference was also made to the 2005 OSCE Ministerial Council decision as a major step with regard to gender aspects of security, which commits the participating states to undertake necessary measures to promote and protect human rights of women and tackle violence against women

and girls. The handbook for field presences on integrating a gender perspective, prepared by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center, was also regarded as a useful practical tool.

It was noted that the effective implementation of national gender policies in some OSCE participating were hampered due to the lack of adequate mechanisms and funding.

It was observed that since states were more and more outsourcing to the private security companies, the states should ensure that gender perspective is implemented there too. The importance of training and capacity building and the need for associated actions to educate women and to encourage women to create networks were particularly emphasized.

It was recommended that:

- participating States adopt action plans on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 (2000);
- participating States share experiences and best practices on how to ensure better participation of women in political and governance structures;
- the participating States enhance analysis and research to include women in security agenda and share lessons learned and best practices in this regard;
- the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field presences be more active and give priority to gender aspects in their work with respect to conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict reconstruction and share experience with other international organizations;
- a special OSCE rapporteur be appointed to further develop monitoring of the implementation within the OSCE region;
- the work of the ODIHR with regard to the promotion of women rights and the inclusion of a gender perspective in the security agenda is reinforced;
- the participating States develop a more active policy to place higher priority on the involvement of women in civil and military component of peace keeping operations, as well as on the prevention and fight against sexual exploitation and abuse of women;
- the OSCE ensure better representation of women, in particular in field missions;
- the replies to the Questionnaire to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security of 1994 should include information on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000);
- the UN Secretary-General should appoint a woman as a special envoy to Cyprus in order to restart peace negotiations as soon as possible;
- the OSCE and its participating States consider gender aspects and equal representation of women and men in all decisions taken, especially in security related matters;
- the OSCE and its participating States ensure greater access of women to security undertakings, in particular in South Caucasus.

Working session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments II

Trafficking in human beings

Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

In her introductory remarks the moderator, Ms. Shivaun Scanlan Senior Anti Trafficking Adviser at the ODIHR, stated that labour trafficking remains invisible in many OSCE States, which means more effort still needs to be made to identify and assist victims. She also noted that there are new challenges associated with the exploitation of 'authorised' migrants in an enlarged EU. On assistance and protection to victims ODIHR activities on labour exploitation had shown that the traditional trafficking NGOs are not especially experienced on labour trafficking. Instead the lead is being taken by labour unions and migrant organisations who pursue a broad rights-based agenda for many exploited migrants and workers and rarely focus only on trafficking victims, to the extent that they can be distinguished. She called for more support to these organisations to continue with their important work. It was also hoped that this session would contribute to the on-going discussions on the adoption of possible new commitments on labour trafficking. She thanked the key-note speaker, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Ms. Eva Biaudet, for her and the Alliance against Trafficking work on labour trafficking; this was later repeated by many of the participants.

The key-note speaker explained that the session would focus on labour exploitation. She underlined that trafficking for forced labour is covered by the UN Palermo Protocol as well as the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking. The CoE Convention will enter into force in March 2008. The Office of the Special Representative has arranged two conferences on labour trafficking to assist the participating States in their efforts to combat it. Moreover, the ODIHR has arranged several expert meetings on labour exploitation which have contributed to the debate. Ms. Biaudet explained that most of the participating states have identified cases of labour trafficking not only in low paid work but also in other sectors, including the public sector. She stated that work permits linked to only one employer make migrant workers vulnerable to exploitation. She also stated that the participating states should confiscate the profits obtained through trafficking.

Ms. Biaudet, and other speakers, underlined the fact that roughly half of those trafficked are children. Children easily become victims of trafficking because they are cheap and obedient. Many of these children are asylum seekers disappearing within days after reaching the country of destination.

During the discussions the participating States reaffirmed their commitment to fight all forms of trafficking in human beings. They shared information about the legislative measures taken, institutions set up, co-ordinating bodies, national referral mechanisms (NRMs) established and national plans of action. In relation to NRMs it was emphasised that civil society must play a role in the identification and assistance to victims and the development of policy. Many countries still fail to involve NGOs who, through their networks, have access to the most vulnerable and exploited groups. The importance of giving residence permits, free legal advice and support to victims of trafficking was emphasised. Several speakers underlined the fact that the identification of victims is problematic where many victims do not see themselves as victims but voluntarily working in very exploitative conditions. The fear of expulsion from the destination country and the fact that there are no realistic options to claim outstanding wages through the courts prevents victims from coming forward to the

authorities. One delegation pointed out that since many of those exploited are irregular migrants it would make sense to widen the opportunities for people to migrate or regularise their status and therefore reduce the extent of irregular migration and vulnerability to exploitation.

It was also noted that definitions are problematic and we still need more of a discussion on where labour exploitation starts and ends and how low wage labour fits into the picture. One speaker noted that there are no 'Chinese walls' between different kinds of exploited persons who may just be undocumented, documented, trafficked or smuggled and that such distinctions in practice may in fact be artificial. Instead it was recommended that the correct approach is to focus on tackling exploitation. We need to build bridges between the different kinds of vulnerable individuals to provide protection.

One speaker pointed to new developments in the context of the EU and the Directive on Employer Sanctions. It was noted that the Directive called for the non-criminalisation of civil society actors who assist exploited migrants; that migrants will be entitled to receive outstanding wages; that residence permits would be extended to those reporting exploitation; that EU subsidies in agriculture would be forfeited by those employers exploiting migrants. It was also noted that systemic features of the labour market have been tackled in certain countries, such as Italy, which had developed indicators of exploitation on the basis of the low sale price of certain products.

Poverty, unemployment, discrimination against women and organised crime were by many regarded as the main reasons behind labour trafficking. The new dynamics of a globalised labour market that demands cheap labour was also highlighted and the 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting's Special day on trafficking recalled that had focused on demand issues. Increased labour protection was called for by a number of speakers including the need to license labour providers. Some delegations explained how wide-spread corruption in countries undermines the fight against trafficking. One delegation described their efforts in setting up micro credit schemes to women entrepreneurs in poor rural areas. Small businesses run by women may contribute to poverty reduction and reduce discrimination against women while at the same time prevent trafficking.

The important work of the NGOs, labour unions and migrant organisations was underlined by most delegations and NGOs were encouraged to share information gathered with each other. Networks between NGOs and governmental institutions were also highlighted, as well as regional and bilateral cooperation across borders.

Several speakers, the key-note speaker included, emphasised the importance of the training of the police and labour inspectors in order to identify victims, as well as the training of prosecutors, judges and other officials to better understand the patterns of the different forms of exploitation. The need for a collection of case law on labour trafficking from the participating states was called for.

The need to tackle migration and refugee issues was underlined by many during the debate. Several speakers pointed out that victims should be eligible for work permits during their rehabilitation. According to some speakers, victims of labour trafficking are often treated as criminals instead of being helped. Some speakers also noted that destination countries do not identify victims at all and they are deported to their origin countries.

A number of delegations described their efforts in informing their population about the dangers of trafficking and stressed that people should think twice before accepting job offers from abroad. Information to those attending school and those who have dropped-out was considered to be of special importance.

In her closing remarks Ms. Biaudet declared that much attention is being paid to trafficking in human beings in various countries, especially with regards to victim assistance. Helping victims is significant, but not enough since the majority of victims in labour trafficking are not detected and therefore do not receive help. She reiterated that the structures of society in the participating states make it difficult for victims to receive the assistance needed and that current labour laws visa and work permit requirements make migrants and other vulnerable groups at risk of exploitation. The moderator once again called for increased labour protection in certain work sectors, and the need to support organisations working on broad rights based agendas to secure decent work for all, irrespective of the kind of victim of exploitation.

Working session 13: Rule of law III

Independence of the judiciary Right to a fair trial

The Moderator began the session by noting that judicial appointments should be made through transparent procedures that preclude corruption and nepotism. Judges should be provided with proper working conditions and salaries and disciplinary proceedings should also be transparent. To ensure a fair trial, the right of access to a lawyer is key.

The introducer, commenting on problems of judicial reform in post-communist countries noted that States must be careful about transferring powers to a system that is not prepared, designed, or accustomed to receive them. It is not enough to have guarantees of judicial independence in the Constitution and the law, good faith efforts at implementation of commitments are also needed. Independence should go hand in hand with judicial efficiency. She cited the introduction of a system to assign cases by computer in one country as a good example of measures to limit improper influence on judges by other branches of government. The publication of judgments is also conducive to well reasoned decisions and the appearance of impartiality. Predictable and unified jurisprudence helps to develop a system and generates public trust in it.

She commented about the problems of lax social attitudes to small scale corruption in judiciary. Even when judicial salaries are high, corruption persists in some countries and judges protect each other even when they know who is corrupt. In some cases, corruption investigations are politically targeting only those in opposition to government policies.

A number of countries and delegations noted the increasing problem of limits on observer and media access to judicial proceedings in several countries to include closing trials to public scrutiny. Other examples of how countries limit access to judicial proceedings are through the use of ID checks and citing lack of space for observers as the reason to deny access.

Some delegates described the increasing use of the judiciary to harass political opponents in two countries including through the use of administrative detention and arrest before planned

public demonstrations. The political use of the judiciary in some post-communist countries was noted by several delegations. Some courts sanction illegal police action against civil society.

Delegations spoke about judicial corruption as a problem in several countries.

The lack of implementation of court decisions was cited as a problem as was the lack of political will to implement judicial reforms.

Several delegations spoke about the lack of independence of judiciary, in some countries, the judiciary exists to implement ruling of the Head of State. Some judges see their role to defend the state rather than seek justice. Other examples include executive branch influence on judicial selections.

The violation of judicial proceedings was cited as problematic. Examples include not informing lawyers or defendants of trial dates. In some countries, trial transcripts are inadequate or not available. In some cases, the right to a jury trial is being denied. A national delegate demurred stating the jury trials are not automatic, they must be justified. He noted planned improvements such as a video record of judicial proceedings to be available to all. He justified existing judicial practices citing the need for efficiency in judicial transformation and said government must act in interests of society. Other government delegations described implemented and planned judicial reforms to move judicial systems into compliance with international standards.

One country delegate claimed that the judiciary ignores charges of torture – with 80% of defendants recanting pre-trial statements.

Lack of impartiality of courts was also noted as a problem. In one country it was claimed that the court system delivers guilty verdicts in 99% of all cases. People are presumed guilty until proven innocent. The particular problem of trials involving foreign defendants was noted with problems in the areas of consular access, family notification, bail, access to attorney and presumption of innocence.

Inadequate protection of victims and witnesses was cited.

Some judicial systems are politicized. For example, the praise of accused war criminals by politicians in one country was met with international community silence. Future status considerations cannot influence role of law commitments it was noted.

Improper pressure on prosecutors and the judiciary through media and public discourse is a problem when the system is dealing with unpopular cases involving minority or religious groups.

Some courts aren't bound by international commitments on human rights. In other cases, governments have not ratified important international legal instruments necessary for fair trials.

One delegate claimed that people are harassed for appealing court ruling with judges suing appellants saying that their dignity or professional reputation is impugned when verdicts are appealed.

Recommendations:

On independence of the judiciary:

- OSCE participating States must focus on promotion, appointments and salaries of judges as key issues for judicial independence
- OSCE should request participating States to engage in more judicial/ legal reforms. OSCE should monitor individual cases of human rights violations and increase its monitoring of legislation and independence of the judiciary.
- The OSCE, governments and NGOs should focus on the independence of the judiciary and look in particular at efficiency and accountability.

On fair trials:

- To develop education for judges; improve position of lawyers at the pre-trial stage; investigate allegations of torture; raise judges' salaries; and establish an adequate legal aid system.
- OSCE should support an education program for young democracies to explain the right to be different, to remove pressure on judges and ensure fair trials.
- Preventive detention should be the subject of international scrutiny and close monitoring by the OSCE missions.
- OSCE should take measures to ensure that the judiciary develop in countries of the former Soviet Union including discussions of trial by jury and a self-regulating judicial legal body.

Working session 14: Democratic institutions

Democratic elections

Democracy at the national, regional and local levels

Citizenship and political rights

Follow-up to the 16-18 May 2007 HDS on Effective Participation and Representation in Democratic Societies

Working session 14 focused on the promotion of democratic institutions in the OSCE region, primarily democratic elections, as well as democracy at the national, regional and local levels, citizenship and political rights. Follow-up to the Human Dimension Seminar on Effective Participation and Representation in Democratic Societies was also discussed. The Director of ODIHR, Ambassador Christian Strohal as moderator opened the session by praising elections as the moment of truth in bringing together the work of democratic institutions such as the parliament, political parties and the judiciary. ODIHR was noted for its significant experience in assisting participating States in improving their electoral processes.

The introducer cited the landmark documents that set the OSCE standards for democratic elections and institutionalized international election observation, primarily the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the 1990 CSCE Copenhagen Document.

The equal application of the Copenhagen commitments to all OSCE participating States as well as the importance of unhindered international and domestic observation of elections were

underscored. The introducer informed on the Office's past and ongoing efforts in observing and assessing elections in OSCE participating States and outlined a number of key challenges that participating States face in the conduct of democratic elections. He reminded of the commitment of participating States to promptly follow up ODIHR recommendations and referred to the OSCE/ODIHR 2005 Explanatory note on the possible elaboration of additional commitments in the area of elections, supplementing the existing ones.

32 interventions were made following this introduction, of which 20 by non-governmental organizations. In addition, 7 participating States made use of their right of reply in response to previous interventions.

Many delegations voiced their support to the ODIHR's operational autonomy, its standing methodology and practices in election-related activities. They called on the participating States to reiterate their commitment to conduct democratic elections, to invite foreign observers in a timely fashion and to effectively follow-up ODIHR recommendations. They welcomed measures undertaken by ODIHR in response to Ministerial Council decision 19/06, particularly to increase diversification of election observers, ensure a wider geographic coverage of ODIHR's election-related activities, enhance the transparency and competitiveness of recruitment of observers, strengthen observer training as well as the linguistic inclusiveness of election observation. Effective parliamentary assistance to elections was emphasized.

Some delegations voiced their concern over the lack of clarity, transparency and equitability in the composition and work of ODIHR election observation missions. They called for the elaboration of unified standards of election observation and greater accountability of ODIHR election activities to the Permanent Council.

A number of delegations informed on their efforts to implement ODIHR post-election recommendations in their electoral practices and legislation as well as on preparations for upcoming elections. Others disagreed with some of the Office's recommendations, which they felt serve to bureaucratize rather than democratize the election process.

While some non-governmental organizations remarked on progress achieved in the preparation and conduct of elections in their countries, most drew attention to disturbing trends as well as remaining deficiencies in this sphere. Among the enumerated concerns were particularly cited the uneven conditions for campaigning, misuse of administrative resource, restrictions on effective domestic observation, challenges to freedom of expression and association, lack of independent media as well as exclusion of parts of the population from the election process. A number of non-governmental organizations disagreed with the language of ODIHR assessments regarding electoral events in their countries. Information was provided on efforts by non-governmental organizations to enhance election processes in their countries through national capacity-building, domestic election observation and engagement of the civil society.

A number of recommendations were made during the working session that can be summarized as follows:

Recommendations to the participating States:

- To enhance effective implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of democratic elections
- To undertake greater efforts to follow up ODIHR's recommendations with a view to improving national election legislation and practices
- To acknowledge ODIHR's expertise in election observation and invite ODIHR observers to national election proceedings in a timely fashion
- To engage in an open dialogue among participating States on ways to further the implementation of election-related commitments
- To draw upon the principles of transparency, accountability and public confidence laid down in the 1990 Copenhagen document as the basis for adopting additional election-related commitments, supplementing the existing ones
- To further enhance transparency of the election process, in particular through extending the rights of domestic election observers during voting and counting of votes
- To address deficiencies in the electoral legislative framework, in particular those related to campaign financing

Recommendations to the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:

- To provide objective, politically neutral assessments of elections in participating States and to swiftly react to cases of non-implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of democratic elections
- To provide further efforts in assisting OSCE participating States in implementing their election-related commitments
- To strengthen ODIHR's election observation methodology by elaborating a unified body of rules and regulations governing ODIHR's election observation activities
- To conduct comparative expert analysis of national election legislation of participating States for its compliance with OSCE commitments and standards
- To ensure greater accountability of ODIHR's election observation to the OSCE Permanent Council
- To enhance the transparency and competitiveness of recruitment to ODIHR election observation missions
- To maximize the effectiveness of follow-up to ODIHR's election recommendations, *inter alia* through enhancing post-election dialogue with OSCE participating States, conducting follow-up visits and issuing periodic reports to the Permanent Council on the state of follow-up
- To give more attention to long-term observation of elections with a focus on the post-electoral phase
- To pay more attention to increasing public awareness of the standards and procedures for democratic elections and of OSCE activities to this effect
- To further develop cooperation between ODIHR and parliamentary bodies engaged in election observation, in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the basis of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement, as well as the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
- To address challenges of new voting technologies

Working session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)

Ambassador Strohal introduced the working session by emphasizing the importance of partnerships within the OSCE, including ODIHR and its departments, with participating States, outside organizations such as UN bodies and the Council of Europe, as well as NGOs. This working session would allow ODIHR to present concrete examples of partnerships with participating States. The moderator, First Deputy Director Toralv Nordbo, introduced the speakers, who would present ODIHR projects in the following areas: 1) Reform of the electoral system in Georgia; 2) assistance to Albania on civil registration; and 3) legislative assistance.

The first project was presented by Ms. Marie-Carin von Gumpenberg of the OSCE Mission to Georgia, with Gerald Mitchell, Head of Election Department, providing additional remarks. The project involved reviewing Georgia's electoral legislation and providing technical assistance to the Central Electoral Commission in order to improve their capacity. Key to the effective implementation of the project was the co-ordination and constant exchange of information, at different levels, between the various international actors involved, such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the bilateral missions. Ownership of the project by the host country, at the highest level, was viewed as essential to its success. Recommendations were made to, and examined by the Georgian authorities with a view to the adoption of an amended electoral code, the improvement of electoral institutions and updating of the voters list.

The second project was presented by Ms. Pascale Roussy, Head of the Human Dimension Department, OSCE Presence in Albania, with additional remarks made by Robert Adams, Deputy Head of the Democratization Department of ODIHR. The project involves modernizing the administrative addresses and civil registration system in the country. This in turn would provide a foundation for the preparation of future voters list, a prerequisite for the proper organization of elections. This work is being done at the invitation of the Government of Albania and will last until 2009.

The third example of ODIHR work was presented by Mr. Denis Petit, Head of Unit, Legislative Support Unit, ODIHR. Professor Alan Page added his remarks. Mr. Petit highlighted the type of assistance provided to help participating States to meet their OSCE commitments through changes to national legislation. Assistance was provided notably in the fields of electoral law reform and the fight against trafficking in human beings – where States were supported in living up to commitments under the Palermo Protocol. The speakers underlined the importance of intervening early in the legislative process, in order to be able to have maximum influence, as well as the need to understand well the local legal and political context. One should not have preconceived ideas about what is needed. Assistance must be based on actual needs. One also has to contend with gaps not only in legislative drafting capacity but also in policy making capacity.

It is also important to follow-up with local authorities on any follow-up made to ODIHR's recommendations (the field missions play an essential role here), to have an inclusive consultation process, and to coordinate with other actors, especially the Council of Europe and its Venice Commission. Reforms take time, requiring long-term strategies.

Later during the session, the OSCE Center in Astana presented some of its projects. The first of these involved training members of NGOs in trial monitoring, in co-operation with the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan. The OSCE Center also helped Kazakhstan to implement nationally the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it ratified in 2005. Lastly, the Office worked on gender issues, including on the drafting of laws on equal opportunities and on domestic violence.

Main Points of Discussion

Several delegations expressed strong support for ODIHR's activities. The importance of co-ordination within ODIHR, with other OSCE Institutions, with participating States, with parliamentary organizations, with International Organizations and with members of civil society was stressed as crucial for the success of ODIHR's activities.

Views were expressed on the areas of focus for ODIHR's activities, with several delegations indicating that these should be where ODIHR can add value, where the needs are greatest, where violations are more frequent or evident and where there are more opportunities for improvements. In particular, some delegations suggested that the focus of activities in the human dimension should be in the areas of freedom of association, freedom of assembly and protection of human rights defenders. Priority should also be given to elections assistance and observation as well as to gender mainstreaming. Other delegations favoured a focus on tolerance and non-discrimination, trafficking issues and implementing reforms of the elections monitoring rules on the basis of Ministerial Council Decision No. 19/2006. One NGO participant thought that the ODIHR should consider the issue of rights of, and discrimination against, the elderly.

One Delegation stated that there should be no hierarchy between tolerance and non-discrimination themes, while another said that the focus in this area should remain on the four consensus themes.

Concern was expressed about obstacles placed before ODIHR in implementing its activities, and participating States were urged to remove these. Similarly, some delegations voiced support for ODIHR's continued independence and freedom of action within its mandate. In this connection, the view was expressed that ODIHR's extra-budgetary contributions should not be subject to the same controls and decision-making mechanisms as apply to the Unified Budget. One delegation indicated that, in its view, ODIHR's activities in the field of election monitoring should be subjected to greater scrutiny by the Permanent Council.

Several delegations singled out for particular praise ODIHR's activities in the field of elections assistance and monitoring. The Institution's work was considered to amount to the international standard in this field. One NGO participant, in particular, mentioned the useful assistance provided in the field of e-voting. Another emphasized the utility of ODIHR training of short-term observers. Some Delegations expressed the view that ODIHR's elections monitoring process was problematic in several respects and that the Ministerial Council Decision No. 19/2006 had not been satisfactorily implemented, with a view to improving this process. They pointed to a proposed Ministerial Decision for the Madrid Ministerial Council, which would provide for basic principles for electoral monitoring. In response, some Delegations objected that the large majority of participating States support the way ODIHR performs its election-related work, that they were fully satisfied with implementation of

decision 19/2006, and that this Decision also called on States to address deficiencies in the implementation of their existing commitments in the field of elections.

One Delegation criticized the Human Rights Defenders report prepared by ODIHR, both in terms of its substance and the methodology used to compile it. In response, one Delegation indicated that they had invited a formal discussion of the contents of the report, but that this had been refused by the Delegation objecting to the report. Another Delegation invited more discussion on this subject as part of negotiations of a draft Ministerial Decision on this topic.

The question of the candidacy of Kazakhstan for the Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE for 2009 also was mentioned by a number of participants.

Recommendations

Some Delegations suggested that the focus of activities in the human dimension should be in areas where flagrant and frequent violations occur, such as freedom of association, freedom of assembly and protection of human rights defenders. Priority should also be given to elections assistance and observation, and to gender mainstreaming.

Other Delegations favoured a focus on tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as anti-trafficking issues, and a reflection of this balance in internal allocations of ODIHR's budget.

- The OSCE should not promote the implementation of Council of Europe or European Union commitments, when some participating States are not members of these organizations.
- Participating States should not retreat from existing commitments in the area of election observation.
- Participating States could take on new commitments in the field of elections, provided existing *acquis* is not undermined. Another Delegation recommended that the focus be on implementing existing commitments.
- The format of the HDIM could be improved so as to be more effective.
- The OSCE should get involved in activities dealing with the rights of, and discrimination against, the elderly.
- Greater donor harmonization is to be encouraged.
- Participating States should establish long-term master agreements with the OSCE and ODIHR for the provision of extra-budgetary funding.
- The OSCE should ensure that results based management practices are applied.
- Further work should be undertaken to implement all aspects of the Ministerial Council Decision No. 19/2006.
- A proposal for a Ministerial Decision on elections monitoring should be discussed among participating States.
- A proposal for a Ministerial Decision on human rights defenders should be discussed among participating States.

Working session 16: Fundamental freedoms II

Address by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Freedom of expression, free media and information

Working Session 16 addressed the numerous OSCE commitments on ensuring the individual's freedom of expression, freedom of information and the freedom of the media. As was highlighted in the very first words of this session, the media should be placed in the custody of the society instead of in the custody of the state.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklos Haraszti, focused in his speech on the gravest problem or "danger number one" as regards the work of the free media: violence against journalists.

This is the most intimidating form of punishing journalists for their valuable work. Violations therefore include harassment, physical attacks and murder of media workers. Journalists covering issues such as human rights or corruption are most likely to be in the frontline of being targeted. The distinguished Representative called for governments to do the utmost in the fight against this phenomena and he listed several root causes for the evolution of violence against journalists, such as:

- practical impunity for assaults against journalists
- criminalisation of journalism
- discrimination against the independent press
- intolerance vis-à-vis coverage of demonstrations

A majority of the interventions following Mr. Haraszti's speech addressed the issue of violence against journalists and the safety of journalists when exercising their profession. The commemoration of the murder of Anna Politkovskaja gave a face for this phenomenon and its cruel, tragic nature. Many interventions therefore made a reference to Anna Politkovskaja, Hrant Dink and Elmar Huseynov. In general, several interventions called for support to the work done by human rights defenders.

There was a wide concern on the situation of the free media in the OSCE region. According to some evaluations, crises and conflict situations as well as election periods provoke the undermining of freedom of the media. A variety of problems were referred to in the discussions, such as problems relating to access to information, hate crimes, confiscations or closures of newspapers. On the other, hand positive measures were reported as well, such as new legislation or an increasing amount of independent media.

The self-regulation of media as well as defamation was also discussed.

In spite of progress being made in decriminalizing defamation legislation, its use in some countries was brought to the attention of the session. A reference was made by Mr. Haraszti to the feedback from the Council of Europe (CoE) praising the work on defamation done by the OSCE. Self-regulation was supported and the quality and the responsibility of the media were also addressed.

Also the importance of dialogue between the media, civil society, governmental representatives and the international community was discussed. A reference to media's role in the globalised world was made.

Recommendations:

In summary, the recommendations of Working Session 16 concentrated on the following:

- The issue of violence against journalists should be put high on the national agendas and the grave nature of this phenomenon has to be taken into account. The distinguished Representative called for an unmistakable declaration thereto.
- The investigations should be given a journalist-friendly handling.
- Governments must also adhere to the UN Security Council Resolution 1738 (“Condemning attacks on journalists”) and Resolution 1535 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (“Threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists”).
- The need for constant debate on freedom of expression was called for as well as the need for open dialogue and cooperation.
- The OSCE was encouraged to carry on with its important work and to continue regional monitoring.
- The importance of decriminalization of libel was an overall theme during the discussions. Instead, the so called ordinary cases should fall under civil law.

Finally, the distinguished Representative referred to the importance and added value for the dialogue between participating States, the civil society and the OSCE. He also referred to the need for improvement as regards freedom of expression, free media and freedom of information and called for participating States to continue work in this field. In general, during the discussions many actors reported both on progress made and on room for improvement.

Working session 17: Fundamental freedoms III

Freedom of assembly and association

Follow-up to the 29-30 March SHDM on Freedom of Assembly, Association and Expression

Ombudsperson and independent national human rights institutions

Follow-up to the 12-13 July 2—7 SHDM on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Working session 17 of the HDIM addressed fundamental freedoms with a particular focus on freedom of assembly and association.

Such a principle together with freedom of expression rests at the core of any functioning democratic system, as Ambassador Strohal stressed, while opening the meeting.

The introducer (Ms. Liubov Vinogradova, Russian Research Centre for Human Rights) underlined that the right to freedom of assembly, as well as its limits, are clearly stated in article 11 of the “European Convention on Human Rights”, and most constitutions and fundamental laws echo this document or establish similar principles. The OSCE itself has founded its reflection as well as its action in this field on the prescription of the European Convention”. In fact, “The Copenhagen Document” of 1990 and the “Istanbul Charter for

European Security” of 1999 both define and clarify the fundamental principle and recognize NGOs a particular role within a democratic society.

The introducer, however, drew the attention of participants to the difficulties inherent in striking a balance between emergencies, such as terrorism, and freedom of assembly and association, even though it is recognized nowadays in the legislations of participating States. In this regard, she highlighted the importance of strong democratic institutions and of a free civil society, able to express itself through independent media, in fostering a constructive debate within States on the proper balance between security needs and fundamental liberties. Ms. Vinogradova stressed how the abuse of antiterrorism norms could lead to the denial of the right of freedom of assembly and association.

During the following discussion, all Delegates from participating States restated the commitment of their countries to freedom of association and of assembly as defined by their national constitutions and by the international treaties and declarations they have subscribed to, the OSCE acquis among those.

Nonetheless, several delegations expressed their concern over the misapplication of laws upholding the principle, in the name of security imperatives in the OSCE area. Some States strongly commended the ODIHR Guidelines on the freedom of peaceful assembly as a useful tool, in order to effectively implement the general norm, thus avoiding its violation by means of inadequate or negligent implementation by state bodies and securities apparatuses. To the same end, numerous States stressed the need for a stronger linkage between national organizations, such as independent national human rights institutions and ombudsman offices, and international organizations and fora.

Several representatives of civil societies voiced deep concerns over the misapplication of national laws regulating NGOs’ registration and authorization of public meetings and rallies. In their view, it, together with overzealous implementation of antiterrorism laws and sometimes deliberate harassment by police forces, leads to the effective denial of the right to freedom of association and assembly in some participating States. Unclear norms and the consequent deprivation of certainty for citizens were another reason for worry shared by most NGOs.

Concerning the registration laws some participating States underlined that registration is just a notification and not a precondition to NGOs exercising their rights.

The need for adequate tools to protect human rights defenders constituted a priority for representatives of civil societies. In this perspective, several NGOs encouraged the OSCE to develop synergies with the action of the CoE and of the UN Special Representative, and praised ODIHR’s report on human rights defenders.

They stressed how such measures were sorely needed, because of the deteriorating situation of human rights defenders in different states within the OSCE region.

A number of recommendations to the OSCE as well as to participating States emerged from the debate. They can be summarized as follows.

- OSCE and other International Organizations should monitor the respect of freedom of association and assembly more closely in the region.
- OSCE should intensify its support for civil society and independent information.
- Participating States should have a clear registration law that cannot be misinterpreted. And any administrative as well as legal obstacles to NGO exercising their right to freedom of association and assembly should be removed.
- Participating States should improve their legislations and practices along the lines of ODIHR's Guidelines on the freedom of peaceful assembly.
- NHRI should be further developed and national laws should guarantee their full independence (legal and financial)

Human Rights Defenders

- OSCE should expand its commitments in line with the UN and CoE standards on human rights defenders.
- OSCE should develop synergies with the CoE and the UN action in this field.
- OSCE should establish a mechanism for intervention and protection of human rights defenders.
- OSCE participating States should develop specific policies for protection of human rights defenders.
- OSCE participating States should ensure adequate support to initiatives in favour of human rights defenders.
- OSCE participating States should provide funds and support for the ODIHR Focal Point to continue its monitoring work.

IV. COMPILATION OF WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS

WORKING SESSION 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I

National Minorities:

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.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

KHRP urges the state of Turkey to:

- repudiate the limited definition of national minority put forward in the Treaty of Lausanne, and instead adopt a more inclusive definition that recognises Muslim minority groups such as the Kurds and the Alevi;
- withdraw its reservations to Article 27 of the ICCPR, recognising the Kurds, Alevi and other Muslim minority groups as national minority groups with collective rights and deserving of protection;
- ratify the 12th Optional Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which reinstates a bar against discrimination.
- follow up on the suggestions made by former İHD Chairman Yusuf Alataş on 22 March 2007 and:
 - develop legislation that defines discrimination and the rights of those discriminated against;
 - criminalise acts of discrimination;
 - remove discriminatory phrases and definitions from previously enacted legislation, schoolbooks and the media;
 - develop public education against discrimination, to ensure that Turkish citizens realise what discrimination is and how it affects their country.
- amend section 33 of law no. 2839, which mandates a minimum threshold of 10 per cent of the national vote in order to win a Parliamentary seat;
- provide Kurds and other national minorities with equal access to national healthcare;

- sign and ratify the Framework Convention on the Rights of National Minorities put forward by the Council of Europe;
- implement the measures suggested by OSCE commitments found in the Geneva Document, such as:
 - Creating government research agencies to review legislation and disseminate information related to equal rights and non-discrimination;
 - Mandating governmental assistance for addressing local difficulties relating to discriminatory practices (e.g. a citizens relations service);
 - Encouraging grassroots community relations efforts between minority communities, between majority and minority communities, and between neighbouring communities sharing borders, aimed at helping prevent local tensions from arising and address conflicts peacefully should they arise;
 - Encouraging the establishment of permanent mixed commissions, either inter-State or regional, to facilitate continuing dialogue between the border regions concerned;
 - Creating advisory and decision-making bodies in which minorities are represented, in particular with regard to education, culture and religion;
 - Electing bodies and assemblies of national minority affairs;
 - Creating local and autonomous administration, as well as autonomy on a territorial basis, including the existence of consultative, legislative and executive bodies chosen through free and periodic elections;
 - Allowing self-administration by a national minority of aspects concerning its identity in situations where autonomy on a territorial basis does not apply;
 - Allowing decentralized or local forms of government.

The Turkish government must begin to take seriously its promises as an OSCE participating State and those embodied by its own Constitution to deprive no one of the right of learning and education by investing in and promoting complete formal education throughout the country.

Accordingly KHRP urges the state of Turkey to:

- amend part 9 of Article 42 which provides that “no language other than Turkish shall be taught as a mother tongue to Turkish citizens at any institutions of training or education” so that any language may be taught as a mother tongue in schools;
- provide better support for education overall and throughout the country equally, including compensation for instructors, culturally-sensitive instructional materials and adequate facilities;
- make serious efforts to increase the number of women who attend schools such that equal numbers of men and women benefit from formal education;
- ensure that an adequate number of healthcare workers working in predominantly Kurdish regions speak Kurdish or are otherwise able to engage in healthcare-related discourse with Kurds who speak only Kurdish;
- allow Kurdish, Greek, Armenian and every other language to be spoken freely in public and private, as the government has promised to do as part of honouring its commitments as an OSCE participating State.

Movimiento por la Paz el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL):

KOSOVO:

- As per the limited knowledge of citizens and judges of the existing Anti-Discrimination Law in Kosovo, MPDL recommends wide information and education campaigns.
- Due to the slowness of the court procedures and the massive backlog of cases, MPDL strongly supports the idea of addressing more resources, including monitoring activity, to unblock this situation and to have real and effective mechanisms of access to justice.

CROATIA:

- As there is no specific law on Anti-Discrimination, MPDL invites the Croatian authorities to its prompt adoption.
- Effective implementation of the Constitutional Law on National Minorities in the “Areas of Special State Concern”.

SERBIA:

- As there is no specific law on Anti-Discrimination, MPDL invites the Serbian authorities to its prompt adoption.

BOSNIA – HERZEGOVINA:

- As there is no specific law on Anti-Discrimination, MPDL invites the authorities from Bosnia–Herzegovina to its prompt adoption.
- Recognize the right of other nationalities other than the 3 constituent ones (Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats) to have access to the different levels (state and federal) of governments.
- An effective functioning of the Council on Minorities on the state level, a body already foreseen in the legislation but without a real activity nowadays.

Order of St. Andrew:

We recommend Turkey to erase the pattern of oppression, confiscation of property and resources and predatory tax and business policies that has characterized the treatment of minorities historically. Therefore we recommend to:

- Restore and respect full titular, official, legal, and financial status for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch’s ecumenicity by removing citizenship restrictions for the Patriarch, hierarchs, priests, deacons and key lay staff.
- Create a reality of fairness in its dealings with old and new minorities in line with the Turkish Report on Human Rights cited above.
- Agree to the reopening of the Halki Theological School and accept a faculty and student body from all over the world.
- Restore properties or compensate the Ecumenical Patriarchate and individual members of the Greek Minority for losses of property.
- In recognition of both the past and the future, harmonize Turkish Law and Judicial Practices with the rights of minorities, as defined in the Treaty of Lausanne; in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); in the Council of

Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; and in the OSCE Helsinki Accords, the Vienna Concluding Document, and the Charter of Paris,” not to mention the accession requirements of the European Union.

Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association:

- We recommend Greece to take into account and implement fully the laws and the regulations arising from the bilateral and multilateral agreements or instruments that she signed and ratified.
- We recommend Greece to implement the provisions of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document and to urgently ratify the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities that she signed in 1997.
- In order to improve the quality and conditions of minority education it is desirable that a dialogue is initiated between the Ministries of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece and Turkey.
- A project needs to be developed in order to identify and appoint the unemployed minority teachers who have adequate teaching qualifications.
- The number of teachers who would be sent by Turkey to teach at minority schools in Thrace should be restored to 36, as has been agreed by the Exchange of Letters in 1952. These teachers should be allowed to serve at minority schools in a fair and balanced manner as it was and they should be charged in a balanced way at all schools of the region.
- The general principle of the 9-year compulsory education should be extended to cover the minority schooling system.
- Physical infrastructure, equipment and teaching staff of the minority secondary and high schools in Komotini and Xanthi should be improved.
- 4 new minority high schools, 1 minority vocational training school should be founded. While the ownership and management of these schools would belong to the minority, the State is also expected to protect and support these institutions.
- A dormitory section needs to be established for the students of the minority high school in Xanthi.
- Kindergarten education in the areas inhabited by Turks should be in mother tongue/ or bilingual.

World Federation of Hungarians:

Our demands to the Serbian government:

- Grant regional and personal autonomy, with all rights, to the Hungarians living in Serbia.
- Do not settle Serbs into areas inhabited by Hungarians or other ethnic minorities.
- Investigate the atrocities committed against Hungarians in Yugoslavia and identify and call to account the criminal.
- Release the youth of Temerin from jail and hold a new trial with new judges.
- The Constitution of Serbia should include minority right guarantees, the right of minorities to autonomy.
- Vojvodina Hungarians should be recognised as a constitutive ethnic community.
- The Serb government should secure parliamentary mandates for ethnic minorities according to their numerical proportions.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Council of Europe:

- 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.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recalling the OSCE's commitment to ensure that all national minorities found within OSCE participating States are recognised and given the full range of human rights to which they are entitled both individually as citizens and collectively as a minority group, and further recognising that in certain situations these groups need additional protections to ensure that their rights are not abridged, KHRP urges the OSCE to:

- Create a new commitment defining “national minority” such that, as a participating State, the Turkish government would need to recognise the Kurds, the Alevi and other minority Islamic peoples within their territory as ethnic minorities in order to be compliant. While the Geneva Document allows that “not all ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious differences necessarily lead to the creation of national minorities”, presently there is no OSCE commitment that mandates the recognition of certain groups as ethnic minorities. KHRP recommends that the OSCE command such a recognition on the part of all participating States;
- As suggested in the Copenhagen Document, maintain its good offices with the United Nations and European Union and encourage Turkey to abide by their obligations as a part of these organisations;
- Keep an open dialogue with NGOs, human rights defenders and other IGOs operating in Turkey concerning the state of minority rights in the country.

KHRP urges the OSCE to take the following steps to pressure the Turkish government to live up to the OSCE commitments to language, culture and education rights embodied in the Copenhagen, Vienna and Paris Documents:

- Send an observational mission to schools throughout the country to report on educational standards with special attention to cultural and linguistic education and attendance;
- Encourage the Turkish government to spend more on education and to authorize an educational board/committee to oversee a set list of mandated improvements, which include:
 - increasing the average attendance from 5 to at least 8 years such that most people attain a full elementary school education;
 - ensure that classrooms are composed of equal numbers of girls and boys, and that minority children are given the same opportunities to receive schooling;
 - make all educational materials culturally sensitive;

- encourage the Turkish government to amend Article 42 such that languages other than Kurdish can be taught as a mother tongue in classrooms.

WORKING SESSION 2 & 3 (specifically selected topic): Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding – implementation of commitments

Recommendations to Participating States:

Canada:

- Encourages all participating States to continue to move forward with the implementation of our existing commitments to combat all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of race, religion, and gender.
- [We also] recommend ongoing support for maintenance of the three personal representatives of the Chairman-in-office on Combating anti-Semitism, on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims and on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination.

Turkey:

- Muslim NGOS should be empowered to make their own cases both politically and legally, to campaign for their rights and to assist the victims. When professionally organized and backed by their communities, these civil society representatives can also become interlocutors to establish partnerships at the local and national levels.
- The NGOs representing the interests of the Muslim communities should work together with the NGOs of other vulnerable communities to foster solidarity and synergy in their activities and responses to hate incidents.
- The authorities of participating States should provide for more opportunities for dialogue and cooperation with the Muslim communities at both national and local levels recognizing ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity among them.
- Intolerant public discourse against Muslims and Islam should be countered by political leaders through responsible and constructive discourse.
- Media should be encouraged to provide more access to the Muslim communities to make their views and stories heard.

Council of Europe:

- Member States of the Council of Europe are encouraged to sign and ratify Protocol N° 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights.
- 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 legislation against racism and racial discrimination, if such legislation does not already exist or is incomplete and to ensure that the key components set out in ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No7 are provided in such legislation.

- Member States of the Council of Europe are encouraged to implement ECRI's recommendations contained in its country-specific monitoring reports as well as ECRI's General Policy Recommendations.

AES-UCM Association de l'Esprit Saint pour l'Unification du Christianisme Mondial:

We therefore demand to President Nicolas SARKOZY and his Prime Minister:

- to stop financing with public funds associations such as UNADFI, CCMM, FECRIS which spread intolerance towards religious minorities;
- to cancel the decree which created MIVILUDES;
- to take into account objective studies carried out by sociologists and other specialists on the new religious movements.

Amnesty International:

Calls on Participating States to:

- Ensure that, in post-conflict situations, the right of return of all displaced people is realized through the elimination of discrimination against minorities and by taking steps to ensure that minority returnees have access to their economic and social rights.
- Publicly condemn attacks, threats of attacks and other harassment of LGBT individuals, making clear that such violence is a criminal offence and will be prosecuted as such.
- Ensure that all individuals within their jurisdiction are able to effectively exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly without discrimination and that the police have sufficient resources and training to take effective steps to protect this right.
- Ensure that participating States actively fight discrimination against Roma in Europe and promote the full inclusion of Romani children in education.

C.O.C. - Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum:

We [also] suggest that partner States:

- Decriminalize homosexuality in those countries where it is still being criminalized;
- Safeguard the right to association and peaceful assembly for LGBT individuals and organisations.

FOREF recommendation to the Austrian Government and public administration:

- Stop funding prejudiced public and private organizations which promote and propagate defamatory statements about faith communities and religious organisations. Such activities infringe the principles of tolerance and integration promoted by the OSCE to which Austria has committed itself.
- Revise legislation which initiated the institution of the Federal Sect Office to include ALL religious communities of faith and belief, including the so-called official religions, to overcome the discriminatory character.
- Prohibit the distribution and use of bigoted anti-sect videos in schools and public institutions.
- Stop all collaboration with FECRIS-affiliated organizations that fuel intolerance and suspicion towards minority religions in the public and the media.

Human Rights First:

Recommends that the participating States of the OSCE undertake the following steps in order to meet their commitments to combat violent hate crimes:

- Ensure that those responsible for hate crimes are held accountable under the law and that the record of enforcement of hate crime laws is well documented and publicized.
- Adopt legislative provisions that recognize bias as an aggravating circumstance in the commission of violent crime. Such provisions should include in the definition those crimes motivated in whole or in part by animus on the basis of the victim's race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, mental and physical disabilities, or other similar forms of discrimination.
- Ensure that police and investigators – as the first responders in cases of violent crime – have the resources and training to detect bias motives and that prosecutors are well aware of the legal measures available and required to prosecute hate crimes.
- Establish or strengthen official systems of monitoring and public reporting to provide accurate data for informed policy decisions to combat hate crimes. Governments should undertake to monitor incidents, offenses, as well as prosecutions.
- In reporting on hate crimes, record the attributes and/or bias motives of the victims of hate crimes and disaggregate their public reporting correspondingly.
- Reach out to community groups. Governments need to take steps to increase the confidence of minority communities by demonstrating a willingness to work more closely with their leaders and community-based organizations in the reporting and registration of hate crimes and on measures to provide equal protection for all under the law.

ILGA-Europe:

We, the undersigned representatives of civil society, call upon the OSCE participating states

- to recognise sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression explicitly as grounds of discrimination, intolerance, hate-motivated crimes and human rights violations in the OSCE commitments.
- We [therefore] commend the inclusive and comprehensive approach of ODIHR in its work on hate crimes, data collection, police trainings, awareness raising and promotion of measures to fight discrimination on all grounds. We call upon the OSCE participating states to continue supporting this work and provide adequate resources.
- We recall the participating states of their obligation under various international treaties and national constitutions to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of all persons without discrimination.

[Declaration of Civil Society, signed by 136 NGOs, document no. HDIM.NGO/36/07]

We [also] suggest that the participating states each

- collect data on hate crimes and hate-based incidents, including hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- provide adequate protection for activities and events of LGBT organisations and groups

- refrain from statements which are likely to have the effect of legitimizing or promoting discrimination or intolerance and
- put legislation in place to protect minorities, including LGBT persons, from all kinds of discrimination.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis and the Moscow Helsinki Group:

The Russian authorities should concentrate their efforts in the fight against “extremism” on combating violent hate crimes and make sure that it is not misused to restrict the expression of pluralist views. To this end, they should:

- Stop using the term “extremism” to discredit and stigmatize individuals, groups and media that express and represent views different from and critical of those in power;
- In consultation with civil society, initiate further revisions of anti-extremism legislation to ensure that all provisions on “extremist” crimes are precisely and unequivocally worded so as not to lend themselves to arbitrary or discriminatory enforcement infringing protected rights such as freedom of expression, association or assembly;
- Terminate all ongoing investigations into cases in which individuals, groups and media have been accused of “extremist” crimes for merely exercising internationally protected rights and ensure that any sentences handed down on such grounds are reversed.

To all OSCE participating States:

- The authorities of all OSCE participating States should exercise care and responsibility when using the politically and emotionally charged term “extremism” in public debate so as to avoid reinforcing suspicious and distrustful attitudes toward certain groups in society and ensure that all their efforts to combat hatred and violence are carried out within the framework provided by international human rights law. They should hold each other accountable for human rights violations perpetrated in the purported fight against “extremism.”

International Helsinki Federation and the Equal Rights Trust:

In order to effectively combat all forms of discrimination, ERT and IHF appeal to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to work on adopting comprehensive antidiscrimination legislation. In their efforts the states should be guided by the following five principles:

- The goal of legislation and other measures should be to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality regardless of sex, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, or other status;
- There should be opportunities for those directly affected by discriminatory practices and acts to participate, through information, consultation and engagement in the drafting of the legislation;
- Anti-discrimination standards (legislative provisions) should be clear, consistent and easily intelligible;

- The regulatory framework must be effective, efficient and equitable, aimed at encouraging individual responsibility and self-generated efforts to promote equality;
- Individuals should be free to seek redress for the harm they have suffered as a result of discrimination through procedures which are fair, inexpensive and expeditious, and the remedies should be effective.

With regard to the content of a comprehensive, consistent and enforceable anti-discriminative legislation, the ERT and the IHF urge the above five states to meet the following minimum requirements:

- provision of legal definitions of the concept of discrimination, including direct and indirect discrimination;
- setting out clear and detailed provisions as to what conduct, actions, measures, policies, or criteria would be considered discriminatory;
- provision of a substantive, asymmetric approach to non-discrimination, as opposed to a merely formal understanding of non-discrimination as “same treatment”;
- prohibition of discrimination in all spheres of public life whether by state or non-state actors;
- prohibition of incitement to discrimination, harassment, and segregation;
- establishment of specialised bodies which would be empowered to assist victims and to promote a culture of equal rights;
- provision of effective judicial remedies, including as necessary through criminal, civil or administrative processes, to victims of discrimination, ensuring that sanctions which are set into place are efficient, dissuasive and proportional;
- allowing the procedural possibility for proving discrimination, through appropriate rules and criteria of evidence and burdens of proof, deriving from the understanding that the victims of discrimination are usually at a disadvantage and would not be able to defend their rights in the courts unless special care is taken as to their procedural rights;
- establishing clear obligations of the state related to the duty to promote equality in a proactive way through appropriate policies.

International Network Against Cyber Crime:

We recommend the OSCE participating states to:

- Follow-up the Paris 2004 conference by organizing an expert-meeting on all forms of Hate speech on the Internet and the relation between on-line incitement and hate crime;
- Create financial support for NGOs that counter and monitor cyber hate;
- Promote and support educational projects directed towards countering hate on the Internet.

International Raelian Movement:

We are demanding with insistence that the Belgian and French governments follow the following recommendation:

- **In France:** that we destroy subsidies and other financial support given to anti-sect associations like UNADFI and CCMM.
- **In Belgium:** that we stop this exceptional law which created a “Center for information and advice’ on dangerous cults” and “the coordination cell to fight against so-called “harmful sects” financed by the government.
- **In these 2 countries:** that an official statement be made to clarify the situation and stop the confusion in the courts, among magistrates, the Police Corps, teachers and media, that the reports made by the Parliamentary commission on religious minorities have no validity nor are they a reference and must therefore not be quoted nor taken into consideration since they cause discrimination.
- **To stop using the term « sect » in all the administration’s reports and replace it by the term « religious minority » because the term « sect » generates serious discrimination and intolerance.**

Internet Centre Anti Racism Europe (ICARE):

- We like to ask the Spanish Chairmanship to, as soon as possible, provide an annotated agenda for the Cordoba conference. We also like to ask the chairmanship if it sees possibilities to organize the NGO event in Cordoba itself.
- Lastly, we want to recommend the OSCE participating states, when planning future conferences and other events, to show more consideration for NGOs who wish to participate.

NGO Recommendations from the Civil Society Preparatory Meeting of the OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding in Bucharest, 7-8 June 2007

- We commend initiatives such as the UK All-party Parliamentary Group Inquiry against anti-Semitism and its recommendations and we encourage national parliaments and legislatures in the OSCE region to initiate similar formal high level inquiries into anti-Semitism, when and where appropriate;
- Participating States should pay closer attention to the fact that anti-Semitic violence may be tied to organized extremist movements. Participating States should counter these movements with a range of educational and legal initiatives;
- We recommend developing or expanding existing educational curricula in order to focus on anti-Semitism, Jewish history and current Jewish life at all levels. Holocaust education should be a standard part of the curricula and when necessary should be designed to respond to the increasingly diverse heritage of pupils throughout the OSCE region in accordance with the guidance of the International Task Force on Holocaust education, research and remembrance;
- Recognizing that there is a correlation between violent anti-Semitic acts throughout the OSCE region and the conflicts in the Middle East involving the State of Israel, we call upon participating States to take additional measures to protect potential targets of violent anti-Semitic acts;
- Recalling the OSCE commitment in the Berlin Conference’s declaration, that no political developments, including in the Middle East and Israel justify Anti-Semitism, we call for strong and immediate public condemnation and action against attempts to target Israeli and Jewish institutions and individuals for boycotts, divestment and sanctions;

- We call on NGOs and criminal justice agencies to use the working definition on Anti-Semitism of the ODIHR and the former EUMC (FRA).
- We call on States to increase their efforts to combat hate on the internet as recommended at the 2004 Paris Meeting, which called for increased cooperation between governments and civil society across borders;
- We call on governments and civil society to condemn and to take action against public, academic and political discourse that legitimises Anti-Semitism including Holocaust denial or trivialisation, questioning the loyalty of Jewish citizens and anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

The Universal Peace Federation in the United Kingdom:

- would call on the French Government to withdraw its financial support of FECRIS.
- It would similarly ask the Council of Europe to reconsider its position on those who seem so hell-bent on destroying the principle of freedom of religion.

The Universal Peace Federation, Deutschland:

- The German government through its concerned ministries, such as the Ministry of Family Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, should formulate a new policy towards religious minorities; instead of perceiving them as “destructive cults” and “enemies of the nation”, they should be perceived as what they are: minorities of a certain faith and creed.
- The German government should base its knowledge and judgement about religious minorities on first hand interaction with the groups in question and on expert opinions by scientists on comparative religion, not on opinions put forth by church related “sect experts” or biased anti-cult groups, such as FECRIS and its member associations.
- The German government should implement the demands of the interparliamentary Enquete Commission on “So-called Sects and Psychogroups” of 1998, which specifically asks government agencies to avoid using the label “sects” when dealing with religious minorities.
- The German government should restructure and rename the Department “So-called Sects and Psychogroups”, which is still part of the Ministry of Family Affairs. The department needs to change its basic approach from the current practice of defaming and ostracizing religious minorities into dealing with its subjects in a respectable, good willed and mutually beneficent manner.

Turkish Students’ Association: we recommend,

- that equal opportunities in the education area must be established while Affirmative Action should be introduced immediately until this goal is achieved.
- that the German legislative bodies should refrain from introducing discriminatory laws and regulations and instead remove such laws and regulations where they are in force.
- that effective anti-discrimination legislation covering all possible areas of discrimination, the effectiveness of which shall be monitored and controlled by independent organizations, should be introduced as soon as possible.

- that more investments should be executed for the benefit of programs effectively fighting right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism and islamophobia as well as for the benefit of security and intelligence forces that should protect our rights.
- that enhanced penalties for hate crimes and the special legal classification of such crimes should be introduced.

Western Thrace minority University Graduates Association:

- We recommend that the Greek State authorities should respect the collective usage of the right of self-identification and let us establish our own “Turkish” associations.
- We recommend Greece to ratify the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities signed in 1997.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Canada:

- The OSCE should give priority to identifying and sharing best practices and efficient strategies and maintain an important focus on Hate Crimes data collection and response.

European Union:

The EU would like to submit the following recommendations regarding the OSCE's future work on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination:

- first, the OSCE should organize an exchange of good practices regarding specialised national bodies for combating discrimination, a tool introduced by several participating states to enhance the monitoring of discrimination, improve assistance to victims, and assist in the development of anti-discrimination policies;
- and second, there should be a focus on the role of local authorities in combating discrimination.

Holy See:

Recommends the following actions on the part of the OSCE and the ODIHR:

- To commit more focused energy and effort to fulfilling the agreed upon OSCE commitments, and to resist their expansion. Undue attention to other concerns, even if legitimate, serves only to distract the efforts of the OSCE and ODIHR and forestall effective and timely measures to address the agreed upon commitments, which have yet to be fulfilled.
- To continue to develop the new webpage on TANDIS on the Discrimination against Christians, including by updating and monitoring incidents of intolerance and discrimination against them.
- To make a concerted effort to offer a more balanced approach to the OSCE, ODIHR response to incidents of anti-Semitism, and intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and Christians.

- To organize an upcoming specific meeting on the aspects of intolerance and discrimination against Christians throughout the OSCE region.
- To recognize in concrete terms that intolerance and discrimination against Christians continues to be a matter of grave concern in the OSCE region, and that, together with the other types of intolerance and discrimination specifically outlined in the OSCE commitments, it must be addressed with all of the resources at the disposal of the organization.
- To pay specific attention to intolerance and discrimination against Christians in the media, in the field of education, public discourse and in the fight against hate crimes.

Turkey:

- Participating States should collect and disseminate reliable data on hate crimes against Muslims. ODIHR should assist participating States upon their request.
- The Chairmanship of the OSCE should encourage and facilitate the establishment of a network of Muslim NGOs working in the fields of integration and anti-discrimination in the OSCE region within the context of the Cordoba Conference and the Youth Forum later this year.
- The OSCE should call for a strengthened commitment by political leaders, parliamentarians and those who shape public opinion to strongly reject and condemn manifestations of hate and xenophobia, particularly those of racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic and discriminatory political platforms. The OSCE should also call for a more proactive role by the politicians and parliamentarians to raise awareness about the value of diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of societies.
- The OSCE should encourage the political parties in the OSCE area to adopt codes of ethical conduct or adhere to the existing ones such as the Charter of European Parties for a Non-Racist Society in order to commit their members to refrain from racist, xenophobic and discriminatory discourse, also during election campaigns when their statements are cast in higher relief.
- The ODIHR election observation missions should monitor the public discourse during election campaigns and report on cases of racist, xenophobic and discriminatory discourse.

Council of Europe:

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

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

- urges the OSCE participating States to adopt effective and tailor made commitments, particularly in the next Ministerial Council Decisions, to firmly combat discrimination and intolerance against Christians, especially in the field of education, in the media, in public discourse and in the fight against hate crimes.
- urges ODIHR to continue to monitor and report the recurring episodes of intolerance and discrimination against Christians, not only East by also West of Vienna.

British Humanist Association:

- I call on the OSCE, and on governments, and on everyone working on human rights, equality and social cohesion, to include the non-religious in all their interfaith and multi-faith dialogue and activities, and to use the inclusive language of the European Convention on Human Rights, i.e. “religion or belief” (where “belief” includes Humanism, atheism and all non-religious beliefs or lifestyles), not “religion” or “faith”.

C.O.C. - Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum:

We [therefore] actively recommend that OSCE and ODIHR:

- Contribute to fostering a climate in which LGBT people can be free from discrimination, exclusion, prejudices and prosecution;
- Extend the mandate of the Personal Representative on combating Discrimination to combating homophobia;
- Collect data on hate crimes based on sexual orientation.

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int’l recommends to the OSCE and the Council of Europe

- to organize a conference about the non-state actors that create a climate of religious defamation and intolerance, and in particular the so-called antisect/anticult groups.

ILGA-Europe:

We strongly recommend that the ODIHR and the OSCE

- in the tolerance and non-discrimination session of the HDIM in 2008 put the focus on the ‘other forms of discrimination’
- continue the valuable work on monitoring all human rights and
- include in the mandate of OSCE an explicit commitment to fight human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights and the Equal Rights Trust:

- The ERT and the IHF hereby urge the OSCE to offer expertise and technical assistance to governments and civil society organisations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, to facilitate their efforts in developing comprehensive and effective national anti-discrimination legislation.

NGO Recommendations from the Civil Society Preparatory Meeting of the OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding in Bucharest, 7-8 June 2007

- We call upon the OSCE to continue the institution of the Personal Representatives in the future and to ensure the focus on Anti-Semitism as a distinct form of hate. And we call on the future Chairs in Office to support their work and to maintain this focus. We

call on the OSCE to continue regular high level conferences on Anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance as well as convening high level expert meetings in between.

WORKING SESSION 4: Fundamental freedoms I:

Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief:

Recommendations to Participating States:

United States of America:

[To the Government of Uzbekistan:]

- Two pastors are known to have been prosecuted under these new penalties, with one, Pastor Dmitry Shestakov, sentenced to four years in a labor colony. We urge his unconditional release, as well as the release of two Jehovah's Witnesses sentenced in Samarkand to two-year labor terms for “illegally” teaching religion.

[To the Government of Turkmenistan:]

- We urge the unconditional release of Pastor Vyacheslav Kalataevsky, sentenced in May to three years in jail.

[To the Government of Tajikistan:]

The United States is concerned by government efforts to close unregistered mosques and madrassahs, as well as by difficult registration requirements for new mosques, a ban on the Muslim headscarf in public schools, a prohibition on women praying in mosques, and limitations on hajj participation.

- We urge the Government of Tajikistan to address these problems, as well as reinstate student Davlatmo Ismoilova, who was expelled from her university for wearing a headscarf. We are especially concerned about a draft religion law currently being discussed, which has the potential to be extremely restrictive, as well as restrictions on religious literature.
- We urge Tajikistan to seek technical assistance on the draft law from the OSCE Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

[To the Government of Armenia:]

- We furthermore urge the Government to address the difficulties minority religious groups face in building new facilities.

[To the Government of Turkey:]

- We urge Turkey to work with the Ecumenical Patriarchate to reopen the religious school at Halki, and urge reforms of the Foundations Law that removes the power of expropriation and allows groups to recover lost properties.

[To the Government of Moldova:]

- We believe Moldova should work with the OSCE to bring the new religion law into conformity with its OSCE commitments as well as register the True Orthodox Church and two Muslim groups.

[To the Government of Romania:]

- We urge Romania to amend its new religion law and incredibly burdensome registration system, to bring it into conformity with OSCE standards.

[To the Government of Slovakia:]

- The Slovak Republic should consider creating a simple path for religious registration, as the newly-amended registration requirement of 20,000-members is burdensome and discriminatory.

Amnesty International:

Calls on the authorities of Albania, Armenia, Finland, Greece, and Turkey:

- for immediate legislative amendments to ensure that alternative civilian service is no longer discriminatory and of punitive length, for the right to conscientious objection to be recognized and upheld at all times, and an end to prosecutions of conscientious objectors.

Calls on the Turkish authorities to:

- clarify when the aforementioned draft law will be opened to public consultation.

Associazione “Dossetti: i Valori” Observatory for Religious Freedom and Tolerance:

- Urges the OSCE participating States to fully respect and guarantee the religious freedom through the compliance with all the OSCE commitments in the area of this freedom.

European Association of Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses:

We appeal to these countries [Armenia, Turkmenistan, South Korea], in harmony with international standards, to:

- Pardon the conscientious objectors presently in jail;
- To institute a purely civilian service which is not under military supervision; and
- To have a dialogue with our representatives who are present at this meeting.

European Humanist Federation:

- We encourage the participating States to seek to enable citizens and groups to challenge prejudices, stereotypes, denigration and hate speech expressed against all persons and communities, whatever their religion and deeply held ethical beliefs. In this context, particular attention should be paid to the media, the public discourse of political and social leaders as well as state officials, and public training and educational programmes.
- The European Humanist Federation recommends that OSCE/ODIHR should devote particular attention to the discourse of religious leaders as well.

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe:

- International society should consider this situation and make some attempts by Greek Government in order to cure those injustices. Because, violations explained before cause not only anti-democratization of Greece but also give harm to European democracy and human rights values which are accepted globally.
- European society which always defends democracy and human rights should intervene to those anti-democratic practices. If not, it should be known well that European values will be wounded seriously and inexpably.

Human Rights Without Frontiers:

Recommends to the government of Uzbekistan

- to adapt its religious legislation to the standards of the OSCE in matters of freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom of worship, freedom of education and freedom of expression.

Recommends to the government of France

- to transfer the competences of MIVILUDES to the Ministry of Interior which is the natural state body in charge of religious affairs and whose activities were not questioned by the U.N. Special Rapporteur.

Moscow Patriarchate:

- the Russian Orthodox Church urges the OSCE member-states to take morals into consideration while implementation all human rights obligations.

Order of St. Andrew:

- The OSCE participating states should demand of the Turkish authorities that, prior to a vote on accession to the European Union, religious discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate must cease and the consequences of past discrimination must be remedied.

Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association

- We recommend Greece to respect minority's right to elect its own religious leaders.
- We recommend Greece to fully apply the provisions of the agreements that she signed and ratified for the protection of human and minority rights in Western Thrace.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Holy See:

Recommends the following actions on the part of the OSCE and the ODIHR:

- To commit more focused energy and effort to fulfilling the agreed upon OSCE commitments and engage effective and timely measures to address those which have yet to be fulfilled.

- To elaborate a document on how to respect each other's faiths and beliefs in the course of OSCE and ODIHR-organized discussions.
- To advise Member States and NGOs alike against using OSCE and ODIHR fora as opportunities to malign religious beliefs and traditions, and/or central tenets of any faith tradition, recalling that the OSCE commitments are aimed at a more fulsome realization of the fundamental right to religious liberty, not at attacking religious leaders and/or vilifying religions.

Associazione “Dossetti: i Valori” Observatory for Religious Freedom and Tolerance:

- Urges the ODIHR to pay attention to the effective implementation of the OSCE commitments to fight discriminations against Christians and to ensure the religious freedom in the whole OSCE Region.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW):

Central Asia is an area where OSCE has particular expertise and experience not to mention a strong practical presence on the ground.

- In light of the new EU strategy on Central Asia, EU and OSCE and its member states should strive to strengthen and develop further the co-operation between the two institutions.
- To ensure that any action plans on the implementation of the EU Central Asia strategy should be guided by OSCE working principles and incorporate existing OSCE commitments in the field of all human rights including freedom of thought, conscience and belief.
- To promote complementarity of policies especially in the field of human rights.
- To ask the OSCE Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief to produce policy paper on practical ways in which EU could *promote dialogue with civil society and respect for freedom of religion* in the context of the Central Asia Strategy.

Church of Scientology International:

- **Our first recommendation** is to widen the mandate of the Panel of Experts so that it can determine its own priorities and make public (or private) pronouncements on activities of religious intolerance or discrimination that is brought to its attention.
- Secondly, the OSCE has instituted a system of Special Assistants to the Chairman-in-Office to deal with a range of subjects relating to religious freedom. This is an excellent initiative, but the Assistants are part-time and have a very heavy work load. Funding should be provided to provide full time staff for the Special Assistants.
- **Our second recommendation** is that additional funding be provided in the form of full time staff to the Special Assistants to facilitate their activities to combat religious discrimination.
- Thirdly, no current formal complaint procedure exists for concerned groups and individuals who are victims of religious discrimination in OSCE Member States. A clear and simple complaint procedure should be initiated so that religious groups, targeted individuals and NGOs could raise religious discrimination complaints against states for investigation and remediation.

- **Our third recommendation** is that a complaint procedure should be created so that concerned religious groups, their members or NGOs would be able to lodge a religious discrimination complaint against OSCE states for investigation and remediation by the Special Assistants.
- **Our final recommendation** is that a High Commissioner for Religious Freedom be established with a mandate over all OSCE religious issues. This position would be similar to and complement the OSCE High Commissioner for Minorities.

Human Rights Without Frontiers:

To the Advisory Board of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief of the OSCE/ ODIHR.

- We recommend to the Advisory Board to extend the OSCE/ODIHR mechanisms identifying and monitoring the activities of anti-Semitic anti-Muslim non-state actors to other communities of faith and belief which are also targets of intolerance and non-discrimination.
- We recommend to the Advisory Board to create an enquiry commission so as
 - to identify the non-state actors whose activities create a climate of suspicion and intolerance towards other communities of faith and belief;
 - to monitor such activities;
 - and to propose remedies to curb such a trend.

Institute on Religion and Public Policy:

- [Consequently,] it is vital that the OSCE continue to dedicate the time, energy, and resources necessary to advance democracy and fundamental rights throughout the Balkans in particular and the OSCE region writ large
- Would like to encourage a significant increased investment of resources into the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE. With a larger staff and further capacity to investigate, review, and recommend actions regarding religious freedom throughout the region, the issues covered in this testimony would be more quickly and effectively managed.
- Would like to recommend that the mandate of the Special Representatives of the Chairman in Office be amended slightly. In particular, the mandate of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance against Christians and members of other religions is too broad to be maintained by one office/person.
- In order to guarantee the greater protection and promotion of fundamental rights, the Institute on Religion and Public Policy encourages that a mandate for Intolerance against Christians and members of other religions be carved out of the current position and established as a separate and independent mandate in the person of another Special Representative.
- Recommends that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights provide full-time support staff to each of the Special Representatives for the fulfilment of their mandates.

Soteria International:

- We recommend the representatives of OSCE to organize a fact finding mission in Romania to clarify the situation of the MISA yoga school that for the moment remain under a great deal of uncertainty, affecting the work and life of thousand of people.
- We recommend the creation of an international commission in Romania, in which the representatives of MISA will be invited to participate and under the supervision of ODIHR – OSCE. This commission will organize hearings with all the parts and will recommend the solutions that take into account all the facts and circumstances. In this way the whole case will find a transparent and fair solution for all parts. **This recommendation is an urgent one!**

Freedom of movement:

Recommendations to Participating States:

Human Rights Without Frontiers:

Recommends to the EU and its member states:

- to drastically simplify the procedure of access to Schengen visas for Ukrainian businessmen, scholars and students, and to grant them free of charge;
- to allow applicants for visas to introduce their requests through any embassy or consulate of an EU member state across the country, to be interviewed by any of them and to receive their visa from any of them free of charge.

WORKING SESSION 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I:

Refugees and displaced persons:

Recommendations to Participating States:

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recommendations to the Government of Turkey

In light of the concerns raised by this report and the reports of other NGOs and human rights defenders, KHRP urges the government of Turkey to:

- adequately investigate and punish the perpetrators of the violence towards IDPs, both in the past and on an ongoing basis;
- abolish the village guard system and initiate an anti-landmine campaign, to include the safe removal and disposal of landmines and an educational programme about their dangers for the local community;
- create viable conditions for IDPs to return to their villages and rehabilitate themselves;

- draft a new compensation law in partnership with members of the IDP community that provides a simple, concrete structure for compensating displaced persons for both economic and non-pecuniary loss resulting from displacement, suffering and trauma;
- immediately cease the operations of the damage assessment commissions and allow an independent review of their working methods;
- agree to train the Judiciary and all compensation assessment committee members in accordance with new legislation and the principles of rehabilitating IDPs articulated by the OSCE Commitments as well as Turkey's other international obligations;

Social Programs Foundation:

The Georgian domestic legislation in general and the Georgian Law on Forcibly Displaced Persons – Persecuted (Law on IDPs) in particular does not state the principle of inadmissibility of discrimination in reference to the IDPs and local population.

- We recommend the relevant authorities to reflect Principle 4 of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into the domestic legislation. This principle refers to the inadmissibility of discrimination not only between the IDPs and other citizens, but among IDPs as well.
- Consequently, in order to strengthen the rights of IDPs, we recommend that the UN Guiding Principles no. 14, 15 and 18 are incorporated into Georgian legislation. This is necessary in order to ensure the IDPs right to choose the place of residence, protect them from forcible return and resettlement and ensure their right to an adequate standard of living. Without discrimination, IDPs should be provided with safe housing and necessary essential assistance throughout Georgia.

Movimiento por la Paz el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL):

The recommendations referred to the below mentioned territories could be read as follows:

BOSNIA – HERZEGOVINA:

- To made all efforts to fulfil the commitments set out under the “Sarajevo Declaration” and, in particular for immovable property, to allocate appropriate funds for (i) reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing units in private ownership, and (ii) compensation of damages (please note that this last recommendation is addressed to both entities of Bosnia-Herzegovina).

CROATIA:

- To made all efforts to fulfil the commitments set out under the “Sarajevo Declaration” and, in particular, to (i) recognize the rights to property of the former holders of occupancy/tenancy rights to socially owned flats, and (ii) facilitate the annulment of those contracts concluded under duress and/or in contravention of the provisions of civil and international law, as well as to execute all court decisions validly adopted in Bosnia-Herzegovina referred to this matter.

SERBIA:

- To made all efforts to fulfil the commitments set out under the “Sarajevo Declaration” and, in particular, to facilitate the local integration of refugees and displaced persons

willing to stay in Serbia, through a proper implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

KOSOVO:

(please note that the following recommendations are jointly made to the main local and international stakeholders, that is, PISG, Serbian authorities, UNMIK, OSCE Mission in Kosovo, among others, unless otherwise specifically addressed to any of them):

- To guarantee the freedom of movement to all persons living in Kosovo.
- To clearly define the areas of responsibility of each of the stakeholders.
- To international stakeholders, to closely monitor the activity of local authorities when performing the activities under their responsibility.
- To clearly define the applicable legislation.
- To the Assembly of Kosovo, to approve the Protocol on the Voluntary and sustainable Return of IDPs, and to secure a further proper implementation of the same.
- To allocate sufficient resources in order to unblock the massive backlog of cases in the courts, which is in fact impeding the access to justice of citizens.
- To release the citizens from the obligation to bear the financial costs of translating into English the documents that are addressed to high instance courts.
- To secure a transparent, effective and non discriminatory procedure for the restitution and compensation of property claims and, specifically, (i) to Municipal Courts, to secure proper verification of all sales purchases of property, in order to avoid fraudulent transactions, in accordance with the existing UNMIK Instruction on this matter, which additionally requires a more fluent communication between the Municipal Courts, Department of Verification and Ministry of Justice in Serbia, (ii) to municipalities, to secure the rights of the citizens being expropriated and not to continue with illegal constructions, everything in accordance with the applicable Law on Expropriation of the Former Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosovo, (iii) to the Kosovo Police to adopt the legal measures to secure the property of the displaced persons after having a positive decision of the KPA, and finally (iv) to Kosovo Property Agency, first and above all, to extend the given deadline of December 3, 2007 to submit all claims, and, if such was not the case, to initiate an intensive information campaign, as most of the citizens are not aware of this deadline, second to transfer all the cases referred to compensation for damages in property that fall outside of the scope of KPA's responsibility to the Municipal Courts as soon as possible, third to speed up its own procedure and, fourth, to have a more fluent communications among their offices in all the territories.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Georgia:

- We are appealing to the OSCE, to take these crimes into consideration and once again call upon all the stakeholders of the conflict to take concrete steps towards the full return to the whole territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, of refugees and internally displaced persons of all ethnicities in safety and dignity.

Human Rights Educational Centre, Belarus:

- В рамках программ ОБСЕ борьбы с нетерпимостью , дискриминацией и культивирование взаимного уважения и понимания организовать семинар совместно с правительством Беларуси на тему «Дискриминация белорусского языка и белорусской культуры, создание программ в образовании для воспитания борьбы с нетерпимостью , дискриминацией и культивирование взаимного уважения и понимания.» Семинар должен быть организован как с правительством РБ , так и с НПО, прежде всего с ТБМ им.Францыска Скарыны (Общество белорусского языка).

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recalling the commitment to ending the plight of IDPs it has articulated in the Lisbon, Helsinki and Budapest Documents, KHRP urges the OSCE to:

- maintain contact and initiate dialogue with NGOs and human rights defenders operating in Turkey and monitoring the situation of this country's IDP community;
- provide opportunities for participating States to discuss and examine solutions to the IDP problem, including legislation, compensation schemes and government assistance;
- send a fact-finding mission to observe compensation courts.

Migrant workers, integration of legal migrants:

Recommendations to Participating States:

Turkey:

- Participating States should promote participation of the migrants, including migrant women, in society and institutions. They should also consult – I mean not *pro forma* but genuinely – representatives of migrants, in the formulation and implementation of integration and anti-discrimination policies.
- Voting rights for the municipal elections should be considered as a measure to facilitate integration through meaningful political participation at the local level.
- The OSCE participating States should be invited to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, one of the major international human rights instruments. Unfortunately, there are only 6 OSCE participating States which have already done so. The club of signatories should not remain so exclusive.

Center for Interethnic Cooperation

- Proposes the OSCE to examine the possibility of a large program that would increase the cooperation of migrant communities and the police, correspondingly introducing the rank and file staff and migrants with the traditions and laws of the Russian Federation.

Independent Human Rights Organization of Uzbekistan:

Тем не менее, мы отмечаем следующие опасные моменты и упущения в инициативе Правительства РФ и выносим свои **рекомендации**:

- учитывая нынешнее состояние развития гражданского общества, экономики, сильные ксенофобские и националистические настроения среди некоторых групп населения РФ, мы считаем, что задачу по учету и трудоустройству трудовых мигрантов под силу решать только государству, используя рыночные механизмы как инструмент своей политики. Передача такой функции частным компаниям может иметь серьезные негативные последствия. Частные компании, в отличие от государства, могут натолкнуться на сложные проблемы с обеспечением защиты личности и безопасности трудовых мигрантов в Российской Федерации, решить которые им будет не под силу. **Только государственные федеральные и муниципальные структуры, далекие от рыночной конъюнктуры и экономических интересов, могут выполнить такую задачу. Они должны централизованно заняться учетом и трудоустройством трудовых мигрантов, оперативно защищать их фундаментальные права и человеческое достоинство на равнее со всеми.**
- мы приветствуем идею введения миграционного паспорта или другого аналогичного удостоверения личности трудового мигранта в РФ. Однако мы считаем, что предлагаемый миграционный паспорт должен стать чем-то большим, чем просто документом, в котором перечисляются личные данные мигранта. **В миграционном паспорте должно быть зафиксировано, что данный документ признается как документ, удостоверяющий личность мигранта на территории РФ и его можно было бы предъявлять представителям государственной власти для установления личности. Соответствующие государственные органы РФ должны быть уполномочены потребовать предъявления национального паспорта трудового мигранта только в том случае, когда подлинность миграционного паспорта или указанных в нем данных, вызывает у них обоснованное сомнение.**
- **в миграционном паспорте должно быть четко зафиксировано, что работодатель или соответствующие государственные органы не имеют права отбирать миграционный паспорт у трудового мигранта. Более того, предлагаемый миграционный паспорт должен содержать отдельную страницу с перечнем основополагающих прав и обязанностей трудового мигранта на территории РФ.** Предлагаемые в третьем пункте рекомендации имеют целью обезопасить трудового мигранта от посягательств со стороны недобросовестного работодателя или сотрудника государственных структур.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH):

- Tous les Etats participants pourraient publier des plans d'action et de politiques nationales relatifs à la protection des droits des travailleurs y compris celle des travailleurs migrants, sans aucune discrimination ; le BIDDH devrait collecter ces informations et procéder à une publication et à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action axé sur la meilleure protection des droits des travailleurs migrants ;

- Les Etats participants devraient publier une brochure d'information, traduite dans la langue des pays d'origine et un annuaire des organisations des pays d'accueil et d'origine, afin que les migrants soient informés de leurs droits. Les travailleurs migrants devraient pouvoir adhérer à des syndicats et avoir accès à des bureaux d'information et de conseil ;

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights and the Moscow Helsinki Group:

To the Russian Federation:

The Russian authorities should urgently address the problem of rights violations, intolerance and violence facing labor migrants from other countries of the former Soviet Union. To this end, they should:

- Ensure adequate and fair implementation of the new legislation on granting work permits to citizens of visa-free countries, and closely monitor its impact on the situation of migrant workers in the country with a view to adopting additional measures to facilitate the legalization of irregular labour migrants as necessary;
- Take effective legal and practical measures to protect all migrants, including those with an irregular status, from any forms of exploitation and abuse by employers and law enforcement authorities and ensure that those guilty of violations of migrants' rights are held accountable;
- Publicly acknowledge the value of the work undertaken by labour migrants for Russian economy and society and refrain from political statements and initiatives that may serve to collectively punish or stigmatize migrants workers;
- Implement campaigns to foster tolerance toward migrants and other minority groups and make sure that racist attacks are promptly and thoroughly investigated and prosecuted with due consideration given to the motivations of the perpetrators.

To all OSCE participating States:

- Develop comprehensive strategies for preventing exploitation and human rights violations of migrant workers and other migrants, in close cooperation with NGOs representing their interests.
- Agree to organize a supplementary human dimension meeting to consider problems facing migrants in the OSCE region and to exchange best practices for the integration and protection of migrants, with a view to developing concrete guidelines on the issue. Representatives of NGOs assisting migrants as well as representatives of migrant communities should be given a visible role at such an event.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Turkey:

- OSCE and its institutions should sharpen their focus on the human dimension of migration and integration. Protection and promotion of the rights of migrants should be a priority.

- The OSCE in conjunction with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly should sanction a follow-up to the report of the Migration Policy Group on integration policies commissioned by the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH):

- L'OSCE, les Etats participants et les autres acteurs concernés devraient effectuer un examen bisannuel de la législation et de la situation sociale des étrangers travaillant dans l'espace de l'OSCE ;
- L'OSCE devrait faciliter la mise en place d'un réseau interrégional entre les organisations sous régionales et internationales, impliquées dans la problématique liée à la situation des travailleurs migrants, en échangeant leurs informations et en se réunissant régulièrement ; Grâce à sa représentation géographique large et son réseau d'Etats partenaires méditerranéens et asiatiques, l'OSCE devrait devenir le forum principal où la question des migrations pourrait être traitée.
- L'OSCE et le BIDDH devraient organiser des campagnes de mobilisation pour la ratification et l'évaluation de l'application, au niveau national, des diverses conventions régionales et internationales des droits de l'Homme (notamment la Convention internationale sur les travailleurs migrants et les Conventions de l'Organisation Mondiale de Travail) ;
- Organiser des campagnes d'information et de sensibilisation à l'attention des travailleurs migrants grâce aux campagnes de protection légale et d'information des ONG (spécialisées et avec un mandat général de protection de droits de l'Homme), des Ambassades, des Institutions nationales des droits de l'Homme et des syndicats ;

WORKING SESSION 6 & 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination

Recommendations to Participating States:

Council of Europe:

- Further steps must be taken to put an end to the anti-Roma discrimination. Comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation must be adopted and enforced. Further efforts to raise awareness among officials and the general public are necessary. There should be clear reactions against any tendency of xenophobic discourse and jargon.
- More needs to be done in order to recruit Roma into civil service on both local and national level. It is particularly important that Roma are invited into the police profession and as staff in schools.
- The attempts with reserved seats in political bodies should be developed. I noticed that the practice in Slovenia with one such seat in the local assemblies has created a channel in some municipalities between the Roma communities and the authorities.
- The non-governmental organizations should be further encouraged to organize programs in civic education in Roma communities. Such programs should include human rights and practical aspects of the election system. It is important that they

reach women. Written information for such education and about the elections should be available in Romani language.

- More outreach efforts are needed to secure voter registration. Again, it is important to reach also women. The widespread problem of lacking personal identification documents must be resolved with high priority. This will have to include a solution of the problem for those who are stateless.
- Public life is not only about elections. Participation is about a possibility to influence on a daily basis. More organized consultation is needed, for instance, in the municipalities, between the local authorities and the Roma population on housing and other concrete problems. Advisory bodies could be set up to give such consultations more continuity and promote the legitimacy of the Roma representatives. Authorities should be open to support Roma cultural centers – where this have been tried it has had positive effects also for inter-Roma communications.

Council of Europe – European Roma and Travellers Forum:

- Roma IDPs/refugees within and outside Kosovo live in unstable and often unacceptable conditions in locations other than their place of origin, facing with many difficulties and problems that are endangering their existence and future. In order to improve their situation we need more concrete measures and actions plans to deal with discrimination, poverty, lack of personal documentation, infrastructure and housing conditions regarding Roma families, safe living conditions on Kosovo and many others.
- Skopje Group is urging for effective Roma assistance in the Kosovo status settlement, strategic policy development for Roma rights protection on Kosovo, to set out clear legal framework and financial assistance to enable decent life for Kosovo Roma refugees.
- Skopje Group is urging to be recognized at international level as subject that will assist the international authorities and to the state officials as much as possible to solve the position of Roma refugees and IDP's, and to urge for sustainable and long term solution based on the current reality.
- Without delay, provide real, effective and durable protection to all Roma individuals and communities on Kosovo and IDP's in Serbia.
- To investigate and bring to justice all issues related to human rights issues, property issues, damage issues and etc, regarding Roma individuals and communities.
- To establish procedures to provide comprehensive survey in the matter of the Roma minority protection on Kosovo, such that all subject will be brought to justice, and Roma members and their families have access to due remedy.
- Ensure that, in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244, refugees and displaced Roma enjoy unimpeded, safe and secure return to their homes in Kosovo if they are willing to return to.

We urge the authorities:

- To honour their commitments under international law and refugee standards to provide asylum seekers with access to a fair, independent and transparent asylum procedure, and not to return any person to a country or territory where they may face serious human rights violations or place barriers in the way of international protection for those who need it.

- To ensure that asylum seekers are only detained when absolutely necessary in compliance with international standards and that asylum seekers and irregular migrants are not detained in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions.
- To ensure that respect for human rights is a precondition of any co-operation with countries of transit of origin, and that both short and long term strategies on irregular migration are grounded in respect for the basic rights of migrants.
- Effective government enforcement is insufficient in some areas, and societal and cultural discrimination based on gender, race, religion, social class, and disability exists. Concrete Plan and Strategy for the Roma refugee and IDP's community should be adopted and implemented as well, developing the following issues:
 - Implementation of adopted documents and regulations with international character on a national and local level, because although various conventions, resolutions and agreements are signed, they must be reviewed in practice
 - Effective monitoring of human rights issues should be realized and accomplished by the international community, and Roma NGO's, in order to detect violations and mistreatments towards the Roma community.
 - Political participation and representation of Roma in decision making bodies and to establish other equality bodies for minorities on Kosovo
 - Civil registration and lack of personal documentation among the Roma community must be solved due to the proper statistic database for census or elections on Kosovo, and the fact that personal documentation is condition for performing other civil rights.
 - Special programmes for return and reintegration of Roma, on Kosovo, based upon free will and real opportunity to integrate in the society.
 - To assist to IDP's and returnees to repossess their real estate and personal property on Kosovo as pre-condition for normal living or to secure for them normal living standards and housing if needed in other possible areas.
 - Without access to justice there can be no justice, which is a core component of the rule of law. We need to urge for effective implementation of OSCE commitments concerning both the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the right to equality and non-discrimination;

Amnesty International (jointly with European Roma Rights Centre and Roma Educational Fund:

The organizations call on the participating States to:

- Ratify and implement Protocol 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which contains a general prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of any right in law (Article 1);
- Ratify and implement the Revised European Social Charter;
- Ensure that all children complete compulsory education, as required under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Such a plan should prioritize the integration and attendance of Romani children in mainstream education, through a combination of desegregation, and of special measures to encourage

attendance and reduce drop-out rates, as required under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- Ensure the genuine participation of Romani communities in determining policy which affects their lives, including consultation for inclusion in the education systems;
- Ensure that their national legislation is amended to include a prohibition of segregation in education, where such prohibition does not yet exist;
- Adopt compulsory and comprehensive temporary special measures to facilitate the entry of Romani children into mainstream and integrated education and ensure that national authorities are bound by law to undertake such measures.

The organizations call on the European Union to:

- Ensure that the EU does not support projects which are associated with human rights violations, including forced evictions and that do not lead to segregation in the fields of education, housing, healthcare.
- Ensure that participating States actively fight discrimination against Roma in education and promote the full inclusion of Romani children in education.
- Encourage participating States to undertake awareness-raising campaigns.
- Monitor the correct transposition and implementation of the anti-discrimination directives into the national legislation.
- Pursue an integrated approach through developing an EU Framework Strategy on Roma inclusion, which would provide coherence and complementarity in policies, systematic and sustainable initiatives and a coordination instrument. This framework would ensure an effective mainstreaming (i.e. Roma issues are addressed in EU policies) and specific (i.e. affirmative) actions targeting Roma when required. And for the EU member states it would offer guiding principles and exchange of best practices.

European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC):

- Initiate and undertake research within the national child protection system to fully understand the situation of Roma children in such institutions.
- Reconsider the general position on the collection of ethnic data and start gathering information in the context of how ethnicity influences the placement of Roma children in state care institutions while fully complying with existing data protection laws.

Movimiento por la Paz el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL):

The recommendations to the territories of Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina referred to the RAE population living under their jurisdiction, could be read as follows:

- Effective education campaigns, as many members of the RAE community are not aware of their rights.
- To facilitate the civil registration of the members of the RAE community, as first and necessary step for the access to other additional rights.
- To facilitate the access to these other additional rights, especially, those referred to social services, health, employment and education.

- An effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

To the State of Montenegro:

- to properly attend, without any delay, the serious and inhuman situation of the camps known as “Konik 1” and “Konik 2” (where about 2.000 displaced persons from Kosovo are living in extreme vulnerable conditions, lacking 70% of them personal documentation), facilitating the basic needs that as human beings the habitants of those camps are entitled to.

Roma Civic Alliance:

- Strongly recommends to our political parties and politicians to actively involve in providing equal opportunities to young Roma activists trough an *extensive minority outreach policy*.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

European Roma Grassroots Organisation:

- We would encourage a revision of the Action Plan which to lead to a chapter focused on grassroots and an urgent adoption of a implementing budget and measurable indicators as a solution to transposing words into reality.

European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC):

For Contact Point on Roma and Sinti issues:

- Support further research on Roma children in state care institutions in other OSCE countries to be in the position to fully understand the scope of the issue.
- Cooperate with the ERRC in advising participating States of the OSCE in what measures should be taken to guarantee the rights of the child in particular of Roma children in state care institutions.

WORKING SESSION 8: Rule of law I, including:

Separation of powers

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Soteria International:

- Recommends the establishment of a commission under the OSCE/ODIHR representing directly the diversity of authentic spiritual praxis followed in the OSCE

participating countries. Such a commission would as needed issue recommendations in the following areas:

- Recommendations to parliaments on legislative matters to secure the respect of non-domesticated spiritual praxis.
- Recommendations to the national organs regulating mass media in order to hinder campaigns and aggressions towards any specific spiritual praxis based in spiritual xenophobia.
- Recommendations on how to open the educational system in order to provide the pupils a tolerance towards lives based in different spiritual praxis.

WORKING SESSION 9: Rule of law II, including

Exchange of views on the question of the abolition of capital punishment

European Union:

- The EU urges all OSCE Participating States that have not yet done so to abolish capital punishment and to establish a moratorium on executions in the meantime.
- Recommends all OSCE Participating States to support the draft resolution on a moratorium and the abolition of the death penalty to be presented at the UN General Assembly.
- The EU urges OSCE Participating States, which regrettably still apply capital punishment to abide by international laws and standards, to guarantee due process and most notably to inform other Participating States as well as their own civil society about any death sentence, any final judgement imposing or confirming the death penalty and any execution, including dates and names of those convicted or executed, the grounds for their conviction and any other relevant circumstances in full.
- The EU recommends all OSCE Participating States to ensure the implementation of UN Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/59 on The Question of the Death Penalty and requests all OSCE Participating States who have not yet done so to sign the Declaration Against the Death Penalty, which was read out on 19 December 2006 at the UN General Assembly and has so far been signed by nearly 100 UN Member States, among them 50 OSCE Participating States.

Amnesty International, International Helsinki Federation on Human Rights, Penal Reform International and the World Coalition against the Death Penalty:

- Call on all the OSCE states taking part in this Human Dimension Implementation meeting in Warsaw (Poland) to support this important cross-regional initiative by urging the UNGA to adopt a resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions. By adopting a resolution on a moratorium on executions, the UNGA will take a further, major step towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

Citizens Against Corruption:

- разрешению конфликтов в Кыргызстане, как проведение конституционной реформы в формате взятых обязательств в рамках ОБСЕ через международное наблюдение и экспертизу
- проведению Референдума в рамках взятых международных обязательств, обеспечив понятные и доступные всем гражданам страны конкретные вопросы, а не законопроекты
- обеспечению гуманизации уголовного законодательства и системы исполнения наказаний через примат международного права и обязательств, в сфере защиты прав и свобод человека, и верховенство закона
- обеспечение доступа к справедливому судебному разбирательству 172 гражданам, приговоренных к исключительной мере наказания, как смертная казнь, (обеспечив индивидуальное рассмотрение уголовного дела в открытом судебном процессе с адвокатской защитой и наблюдением СМИ и правозащитников).
- Содействовать прозрачности и подотчетности руководства ГУИН по вопросам формирования и использования бюджетных средств. Содействовать амнистированию кредит орской задолженности ГУИН, для того чтобы обеспечить достойное питание, содержание и доступ к медицинской помощи всем осужденным.
- содействовать доступу к информации: места захоронения и даты казни через Правительство Казахстана, так как в Кыргызстане казни не производились. (Они производились в Алматы, бывшая столица Казахстана)
- содействовать проведению международной экспертизы Закона «По борьбе с терроризмом» и Закона «По отмыванию денег», так как зачастую правоохранительные органы, используя двойную политику, подвергают насилию невинных людей, есть факты несанкционированной смертной казни верующих людей в Ошской области.
- содействовать прекращению незаконных преследований активистов, правозащитников, в частности, из Таласской области,(12ти правозащитникам и активистам).
- Потребовать у властей Кыргызстана немедленно освободить журналистку Арыкову из подвала ГКНБ, которую чекисты обвиняют в шпионаже, хотя она не имела доступа к секретным документам, представляющих государственную тайну
- прекратить незаконные судебные преследования со стороны милиции защитницу прав человека, лидера НПО «Справедливость» из Джалал Абадской области, Валентину Гриценко, правозащитника Максима Кулешова, лидера НПО «МИР. СВЕТ. КУЛЬТУРА», город Токмак

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

Tajikistan:

- the soonest ratification of the second optional protocol to the ICPPR;
- ratification of the optional protocol to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhumane and degrading punishments;

- strict and immediate implementation of the international standards in human rights and adjusting the national legislation to the international norms;
- create an effective mechanism of appeal of the illegal actions of investigation and interrogation bodies and courts;
- publish all information on the questions of death penalty use (number of executed, places of burial, etc)

Uzbekistan:

- publish the number of executed persons in Uzbekistan and of inmates still on death row and open the burial places;
- to ensure that current prisoners on death row are not be executed and their verdicts will be reviewed according to the law on legal abolition of death penalty from 29.07.07;
- to review the cases individually before 01.01.2008 and make the procedure public and open to the civil society;
- give access to the places of detention to the international observers, including ICRC and “Doctors without borders”;
- control and provide medical aid to all ill prisoners to avoid the forcible contamination by mortal diseases, and prisoners with such diseases to release from places of detention;
- provide independent psychiatric expertise for investigators and police officers who have facts of torture or death of suspected in their files;
- investigate immediately all facts of torture and death during investigation, in pre trial cells and in places of detention; to institute criminal proceeding against police officers guilty in these facts under article 235 and 97 CC RU;
- to fulfill all UN recommendations on complains registered and decided in the UN committee for human rights.

Kazakhstan:

- sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, excluding death penalty in any case (with possible reservation only for time of war), also adopting the necessary amendments to the Constitution;
- ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
- further improve the prison conditions, with particular regard to the construction of a special colony for persons attending life term;
- uarantee the effective independence and impartiality of the judiciary;
- properly investigate all alleged cases of suicide and self mutilation among the prisoners;

Kyrgyzstan:

- to review all the cases of persons sentenced to death individually and make the procedure public and open to the civil society;
- to allow public access to all information related to death penalty cases;
- to improve and humanize the prison conditions, currently very poor and often unbearable;

- to provide proper medical aid to all ill prisoners;
- to investigate immediately all facts of torture and death during investigation, in pre trial cells and in places of detention;
- to investigate immediately all allegations of corruption in the judiciary and in the prison administration.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan:

- the OSCE to urge the relevant member countries to transfer the non-executed death row prisoners in the prison facilities and to change the detention regime to the one equal to life imprisonment.

Prevention of torture

Recommendations to Participating States:

European Union:

- The EU expects all OSCE Participating States to ensure that no one is subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or transferred to a country where there are substantial grounds to believe that he or she would be subjected to torture or ill treatment.
- The EU also expects all OSCE Participating States to cooperate fully and in good faith with international organisations and independent international monitors such as the OSCE, ICRC, the Council of Europe and the UN human rights mechanisms such as the Special Rapporteur on Torture, CAT and SPT and to grant them unconditional and unhindered access.
- The EU recommends that OSCE Participating States sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment at the earliest opportunity and make the declarations provided for in Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.
- The EU recommends all OSCE Participating States to ensure the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 61/153 on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Amnesty International:

- AI is calling on OSCE Participating States to ensure that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Council of the European Union act on the recommendations of the investigations carried out by the PACE, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Standards, recommended by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe more than a year ago, should be drafted and should aim at, among others:

- ensuring effective democratic oversight and accountability for all intelligence services – civilian, military, national and foreign;
- creating a framework for the waiver of immunity of state officials reasonably suspected of involvement in grave violations of human rights.

Calls on OSCE Participating States:

- to publicly condemn rendition, which includes unlawful transfers of individuals, secret detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment.
- they must demand that the member states initiate independent, impartial and effective investigations; bring those responsible for unlawful conduct to justice; and ensure adequate reparation for the victims of rendition and secret detention.

In relation to **prohibition of torture:**

- Amnesty International calls on OSCE to remind all participating states that human dimension commitments, including those relating to the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment are not simply matters of internal affairs of the State concerned, but rather are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all OSCE Participating States and (Moscow Document, 1991);
- Amnesty International calls on OSCE Participating States that have not ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture to ratify it immediately and implement it accordingly.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recommendations to the Government of Turkey

On 28 June 2007, BIA News Centre reported that former head of the Human Rights Association (IHD) Akin Birdal listed concrete steps the Turkish government could take to prevent the use of torture in its prisons. We support and also recommend some of his suggestions, urging the state of Turkey to:

- internalise and truly implement the international and regional conventions against torture to which it has signed;
- take the Law on Police Duties and Authorities before the Constitutional Court and cancel it;
- sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, and implement it through such measures as systematic but unannounced prison check-ups by an independent monitoring group;
- create and enforce mechanisms to punish torturers and otherwise stop encouraging this practice.
- KHRP encourages the state of Turkey to make its purported “zero-tolerance” policy on torture a reality and eradicate this blemish on the country’s human rights record. KHRP calls on all NGOs, IGOs, government bodies and human rights defenders to support Turkey in this endeavour. It also further recommends that the Turkish government take all necessary steps to stop the practice of torture within its borders, and accordingly urges the state of Turkey to:

- with the aid of an independent monitoring group such as a human-rights-focussed NGO, collect current, accurate and disaggregated data on the occurrences of torture and other serious abuses by law enforcement officials on a regular basis such that a clear picture of the practice of torture and efficacy of anti-torture laws can be achieved;
- seriously and thoroughly investigate allegations of human rights violations by law enforcement officials, and ensure that their trials are independent, impartial and transparent to both the families of the victims and the public overall;
- repeal the statute of limitations for crimes of torture, as this step will remove the incentive for judges and defense counsel to delay trials endlessly;
- hold strict standards on the collection of evidence, and refuse to accept as admissible evidence allegedly extracted by torture unless a thorough investigation reveals that it has not been;
- provide training to all law enforcement officials, gendarmerie, judges and prosecutors on the new anti-torture laws and international human rights standards.

Institute of Peace and Democracy, Azerbaijan:

Со стороны международного сообщества необходимо:

- требовать от властей Азербайджана привлечения к судебной ответственности сотрудников правоохранительных органов, применявших пытки,
- приоритет в европейском суде в Страсбурге делам по пыткам,
- отказываться от сотрудничества с теми представителями правоохранительных органов Азербайджана, с представителями судебского корпуса, которые участвовали в пытках. Проверять последних на предмет участия в пытках (в настоящее время начальник Азербайджанского отделения Интерпола Мамед Микаилов и судья Конституционного суда Иса Наджафов лично принимали участие в пытках, а судьи Суда по тяжким преступлениям Мансур Ибаев и Тофик Пашаев проигнорировали заявления о пытках и т.д.)
- оказать помощь в создании в Азербайджане независимой судебно-медицинской экспертизы, помощь в учреждении и финансировании такой структуры.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

- The IHF calls on the OSCE participating States to renew their commitment to preventing and eradicating torture and ill-treatment in all its forms and to take vigorous measures to addressing remaining problems in their countries, including through close cooperation with relevant international mechanisms and institutions.

In addition, we recommend:

To the authorities of Armenia:

- Ensure that arrests and interrogations are carried out in accordance with relevant provisions of the law and that any allegations of torture and ill-treatment by law

enforcement officials – including in the case of Levon Gulyan – are promptly, impartially and thoroughly investigated.

- If evidence of police involvement in the death of Gulyan is found, the perpetrators should be duly prosecuted and punished.

To the authorities of the Russian Federation:

- Condemn any forms of “punitive psychiatry” and make sure that the case of Larissa Arap and other cases where individuals allegedly have been placed in forcible psychiatric detention without compelling grounds and subjected to ill-treatment are properly investigated with a view of bringing all those responsible to justice and for preventing similar cases from reoccurring.

To the authorities of Uzbekistan:

- Comply with recommendations made by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture following his visit to Uzbekistan in late 2002, including with respect to ensuring that judges are attentive to the condition of defendants brought from pre-trial custody and order a medical examination whenever there are allegations of torture and ill-treatment, even in the absence of a formal complaint, and that they do not admit as evidence confessions that have been made during pre-trial interrogations without the presence of legal counsel and that are not confirmed during trial.

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims:

In order to effectively fight against impunity and to prevent acts of torture the IRCT calls upon all States of the OSCE region to:

- Fully implement the UN Convention Against Torture, and include the definition of torture as a criminal offence in their domestic law.
- Ensure that prompt, effective and independent investigations into allegations of torture are conducted.
- Ensure that detainees and victims can exercise their right to be examined by an independent medical or forensic expert.
- Encourage the dissemination and the full implementation of the international standards on the investigation and documentation of torture contained in the Istanbul Protocol. This includes providing for adequate training of medical and legal professionals and capacity building of forensic expertise.
- Ensure that medical findings and forensic evaluations gathered in accordance to international standards are admissible as evidence in court proceedings.
- Fully co-operate with the international and regional preventive and monitoring mechanisms, like the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Committee Against Torture as well as with the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and provide them relevant information and grant them unhindered access to places of detention and to all persons deprived of their liberty.
- Sign and ratify the OPCAT. In the same line the IRCT congratulates the 35 OSCE member States that have already signed and ratified the OPCAT.

- Ensure that experienced and independent medical and forensic experts will collaborate with the Subcommittee on Prevention established under the OPCAT and will be part of the National Preventive Mechanisms.
- Ensure that local rehabilitation centres are allocated the necessary funds enabling them to provide medical and psychological treatment to torture victims, to restore the dignity of the latter and help them reintegrate into society.

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union:

Of the recommendations from last year's report, only that calling for immediate ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture was implemented. Therefore all other recommendations remain in force:

- adopt at legislative level a concept for creating a system of prevention and protection from torture and ill-treatment, as well as an action plan, based on the said concept, with clearly defined directions and stages of activity;
- bring the elements specified of the crime of "torture" into line with Article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture;
- institute the gathering of statistical data in courts and law enforcement agencies on crimes which contain elements of "torture" in the understanding of Article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture;
- make it impossible to apply amnesty and parole for people who have committed actions, which have elements of «torture» in the meaning of Article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture;
- promote the creation of effective mechanisms of public control over investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment;
- provide by legislative means for the activities of non-governmental experts and expert bureaux;
- ensure access by victims to medical documents which are of importance in proving torture or ill-treatment;
- assign the same validity as evidence to conclusions provided by independent medical and other experts, who conduct studies at the request of the alleged victim of torture or their legal representative, as that of conclusions made by experts assigned by an investigator or court;
- provide individuals who initiate an investigation or other legal procedure regarding allegations of torture or ill-treatment access to free legal aid should they be unable to pay for the services of a lawyer;
- introduce provisions in Ukrainian legislation on the inadmissibility of any testimony of the accused (suspect) received at the pre-trial stage of the criminal investigation without a lawyer being present;
- provide the appropriate guidelines to prosecutor's offices and judges for using measures to ensure the safety of individuals who have made an allegation of torture, in particular, if such an individual is held in custody, then to move him or her to another remand centre;
- eliminate the practice whereby judges «extend detention» of suspects held in police custody, or, at least, introduce necessary amendments in order to transfer people whose detention is extended by a judge to a pre-trial detention centre, and not leave them held in police custody;

- introduce into legislation the right of access and the appropriate procedure for gaining access to an independent doctor and independent expert of the person detained's own choosing, especially for persons, who are held in custody;
- review provisions of current legislation in order to provide the right to legal representation to people who make allegations of torture, regardless of whether or not criminal proceedings are initiated;
- provide clear guidelines to prosecutor's offices and judges concerning immediate consideration of claims and complaints related to investigations into torture;
- give individuals facing deportation to another country the right to court review of an appeal against the relevant decision of executive bodies, and appropriate court procedure capable of investigating the circumstances which could significantly influence the decision on deporting (extraditing) the individual to the other state.

Voice of Freedom – Network of Human Rights Defenders:

- Рекомендовать Государству, придать больше значение понятию и преследованию за совершение пыток в национальном законодательстве;
- Рекомендовать Государству, безотлагательно расследовать заявления о случаях применения пыток, и преследовать лиц применивших пытки;
- Рекомендовать Государству, открыто обсуждать проблему применения пыток с общественностью, для искоренения или скорейшего решения данной проблемы;
- Рекомендовать Государству, реализовать все рекомендации Комитета по правам человека, и Комитета против пыток;
- Рекомендовать Государству, предпринимать соответствующие меры по рекомендациям Комитета по правам человека, вынесенным после реакции рассмотренным индивидуальным сообщениям против Таджикистана;
- Рекомендовать Государству, сделать заявление по статье 21-22 Конвенции против пыток, и ратифицировать 1-ый факультативный протокол к данной конвенции;

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recalling its stated commitment to uphold the security and well-being of prisoners and eradicate the practice of torture throughout the OSCE region, KHRP urges the OSCE to:

- facilitate dialogue amongst OSCE participating States and provide support for discussions of and investigations into allegations of torture, abuses, degradations and other forms of ill-treatment;
- liaise with NGOs, human rights defenders and official state bodies to remain informed on the topic of torture and any developments that relate to its practice within the OSCE region;
- support Turkey in its endeavours to stop the use of torture

Institute of Peace and Democracy, Azerbaijan:

Бакинский офис ОБСЕ должен активизировать свою работу:

- по сотрудничеству с гражданским обществом, в частности с правозащитными организациями,
- подготавливать специальные отчеты о масштабах применения пыток и других противоправных действий в правоохранительных органах,
- публиковать отчеты о пытках в СМИ республики,
- организация и проведение круглых столов, конференций с участием международных экспертов, представителей ОБСЕ, гражданского общества, жертв пыток и представителей правоохранительных органов, омбудсмена, судей, членов Судебно-Правового Совета.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

To the OSCE and its institutions:

- Give particular attention to the problem of misuse of forcible psychiatric detention to intimidate and punish “inconvenient” individuals, such as political opponents and human rights defenders, which has resurfaced in a number of OSCE countries.

International humanitarian law

Recommendations to Participating States:

European Union:

- The EU expects that all OSCE Participating States ensure respect for international humanitarian law, including in particular the obligation to distinguish between civilians and combatants and the principle of proportionality.

Amnesty International:

In relation to **impunity under international humanitarian law** Amnesty International calls on OSCE Participating States to:

- Take all necessary steps to ensure full cooperation by Participating States with the ICTY and to ensure that thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all war crime cases, regardless of the ethnicity of the victims or of the suspected perpetrators, are conducted before domestic courts with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.
- OSCE Participating States should ensure that arrangements are made to allow for ICTY indictees still at large to be tried before the ICTY even if, following their arrest, proceedings extend beyond the 2010 deadline.

International Society for Human Rights:

We call upon all OSCE countries to:

- strongly demand China's cease organ harvesting and all crimes against humanity;
- demand that all detention facilities be open to independent international inspection by the International Committee for the Red Cross or other human rights or humanitarian organizations;
- enact extra-territorial legislation penalizing participation in organ harvesting;
- barring entry to OSCE countries to any person known to be involved in trafficking or harvesting of organs of prisoners in China;
- not supporting China's transplantation industry through medical exchanges, trainings, selling of anti-rejection drugs.

Russian-Chechen Friendship Society:

- We call on the member states of the OSCE, the EU and the USA to monitor closely the situation in Nizhny Novgorod and numerous cases of harassment of independent human rights defenders and journalists as well as civil society activists as the authorities are evidently trying to send a tough threatening message to the whole civil society in Russia in order to suppress it.
- We also call on the HR Committee at the PACE to initiate investigation in the situation on the filed in Nizhny Novgorod as we do feel concerned about our freedom and integrity.

Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism

Recommendations to Participating States:

European Union:

- While the European Union underlines the importance of a comprehensive and vigorous response to terrorism and remains determined to tackle this scourge, the EU expects that all OSCE Participating States fully respect human rights, refugee law and international humanitarian law in their counter terrorism measures. In particular, it is of utmost importance that freedom of assembly, association and expression are respected in the measures countering terrorism.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recommendations to the Government of Turkey:

KHRP urges the state of Turkey to:

- Overhaul the current Anti-Terror law, amending it such that it is no longer so open to abuse. KHRP recommends that Turkey consult with human rights defenders, NGOs,

IGOs or other independent interested parties throughout this process. KHRP's specific recommendations include:

- Reforming the language of the new Anti-Terror law, making it more specific and targeted at overt acts of terrorism as opposed to general types of behaviour or acts that are generally not criminal;
- End "chain liability" for publishers and other responsible parties not actually the author of offensive materials;
- Remove or amend all sections of the law that allow the closure of publications or any type of criminal liability for statements published or broadcast;
- Remove provisions that criminalise wearing or carrying an emblem pertaining to a terrorist organisation;
- Remove provisions criminalising "Conscientious Objection";
- Amend provisions restricting assembly, association, protests and the funding of "terrorist organisations" such that they do not allow for arbitrary and inconsistent application;
- Remove the provision in Article 9 denying a detainee access to a lawyer within the first 24 hours of detention;
- Amend the new police powers law, perhaps consulting with other states, NGOs, IGOs and human rights defenders so that it contains more specific authorisation of detainment, use of force and interrogation only in narrow circumstances relating directly to terrorist threat;

KHRP urges the government of Turkey to:

- Initiate a training program for all members of the Judiciary and law enforcement, perhaps consulting human rights defenders, NGOs or other state bodies, outlining Turkey's international legal obligation to uphold human rights even as it seeks to prosecute crime and prevent acts of terrorism;
- Work with other states to create a coordinated effort to deal with international terrorism. KHRP encourages Turkey to consider the fight against terrorism not as a solitary actor, but as part of an international community universally committed to preventing acts of terrorism and seeking to secure all the world's citizenry from random acts of violence;
- Dialogue with the OSCE, other IGOS, NGOs and human rights defenders on security issues and consult with them on ways to augment national security without failing to respect OSCE commitments.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

In both the Bucharest and Porto Documents the OSCE has decidedly carved out an active role for itself in the international fight against terrorism and the garnering of greater security for all OSCE participating States. KHRP also envisions an active role for the OSCE in these struggles, and accordingly calls on the OSCE to:

- Maintain dialogue with NGOs, IGOs, human right defenders and all OSCE participating States regarding security issues and developments and the fight against terrorism;
- Encourage Turkey and other OSCE participating States to respect the OSCE commitments upholding fundamental human rights even as they take measures to combat terrorism both domestically and abroad;
- Provide opportunities for participating States to dialogue amongst themselves, building inter-state support networks for helping to combat terrorism both in its domestic and international scopes;
- Provide support for NGOs, human rights defenders and others examining and reporting on security situations in OSCE participating States;
- Assist Turkey and other OSCE participating States in finding solutions to security issues that do not endanger human rights, and encourage them to train prosecutors, judges, military personnel and other members of the security forces on keeping their nations safe without violating these rights;
- Encourage Turkey to dialogue with other nations and to seek a non-violent way to resolve tensions with other nations coming out of its desire to secure the Turkish nation;
- Encourage Turkey to address the root causes of unrest and civil strife within its own nation, focussing on minority rights, the defence of women's rights, freedom of association, freedom of expression, language and culture rights and the use of torture; Organise and send a long-term observation mission to the conflict areas of Turkey and Kurdistan, Iraq to report on the situation in general and developments as they unfold.

KHRP believes that if Turkey allows free-flowing political dialogue to flourish and actually attempts to address the situation for all of Turkey's national minorities but particularly the Kurds, it will become a stronger democratic state and more secure internally. KHRP also believes that the OSCE can play a vital role in the rehabilitation of Turkey's Anti-Terror law and other legislative provisions which, at present, are being used to frustrate, silence, harass and otherwise discourage individuals the ruling regime regards as falling outside its nationalist agenda. Furthermore, KHRP maintains that the OSCE has the unique ability, through its consensus-based structure, to send an observation mission to Turkey that would be effective, non-obtrusive and inoffensive to Turkey's national sovereignty.

- Accordingly KHRP urges the OSCE to send such a mission, and generally provide greater support for the Turkish government and other nations in this region going forward.

WORKING SESSION 10 & 11: Gender aspects of security

Prevention of violence against women

Recommendations to Participating States:

Amnesty International:

Calls on participating States to:

- Ensure that all forms of domestic violence are treated in law and practice as criminal offences, that acts of domestic violence are investigated, prosecuted and punished in

accordance with the gravity of the crime, and that victims receive appropriate reparations.

- Fund and implement compulsory training to programmes for officials – including police, lawyers, judges, forensic and medical personnel, social workers, immigration officials and teachers – in how to identify cases of domestic violence, how to ensure the safety of survivors and how to collect, safeguard, consider and present evidence.
- Fund and establish temporary shelters or other places for women, without compromising their privacy, personal autonomy and freedom of movement.
- Uphold the rights of women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation by identifying women who may have been trafficked; strengthening protections for them in law; upholding the right to protection and assistance; and ensuring reparation and rehabilitation. All relevant Participating States should ratify and fully implement the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Legislative Reforms and Recommendations on Women's Safety

- KHRP [...] urges the Turkish government to thus amend the Penal Code to more fully protect women from the vicious attacks they continue to suffer in the name of 'honour'.
- KHRP further urges the Turkish government to fully investigate purported suicides by young women, as some evidence indicates that the criminalisation of certain 'honour killings' has led families to pressure their daughters to kill themselves for breaking 'honour' codes. The Turkish government must continue to be vigilant in confronting this denigrating, oppressive practice wherever and however it occurs.
- We [therefore] urge the Turkish government to mandate a woman's consent before any 'genital examination' be conducted on her.
- KHRP also urges the Turkish government to amend Article 10 of its Civil Code so that it applies retroactively, enabling all women to recover the true value of jointly-held assets in divorce proceedings.
- In addition, we recommend that the state of Turkey train all members of the Judiciary on its obligation to regard men and women equally under the law with the goal of reversing the Fatma and Mehmet A. decision, among others that weaken or devalue women's rights.
- The Turkish government should also amend the Political Parties and Election Acts to include a minimum 30 per cent quota for women's political participation.

Support for Displaced Women and Victims of Domestic Violence

- KHRP further urges the state of Turkey to build more shelters for women and children who seek to escape from situations of domestic abuse or violence. The government should follow the proportion recommended to the European Parliament and construct one shelter per 10,000 women.
- The Turkish Armed Forces and Police should receive training on domestic violence so that they know what to look for and how to intervene in situations of violence against women and children.

- KHRP also recommends that the Turkish government make serious efforts to educate women as education will help empower them to escape from abusive situations and prevent them from depending totally on male family members or husbands for support.
- KHRP urges the Turkish government to continue to speak out against violence against women, condemn ‘honour killings’, and create supportive environments where women can go to talk about domestic violence or abuse they are suffering.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Canada:

- We would recommend the OSCE to examine ways to improve its human resources management policies in order to make them more compatible with family life and obligations.

The Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims:

We propose to the OSCE the following recommendations

To urge the Georgian Government

- To take all the necessary measures to fully and effectively implement the law on domestic violence;
- to allocate financial resources for the opening of shelters and rehabilitation centers by 2008;
- To support initiatives of the Non-Governmental Sector directed at providing services to victims of gender violence, preventive activities and awareness rising;
- To take all the necessary measures to fulfil its obligations (under international law) to provide access to justice and enable victims of torture to obtain full redress and rehabilitation.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

- KHRP recommends that the OSCE take measures to encourage the state of Turkey to honour these promises for all women found within its borders.

In particular KHRP urges the OSCE to:

- monitor the safety of women throughout Turkey by liaising with human rights defenders, national women’s groups, NGOs and IGOs by remaining informed as to ‘honour killings’, suspicious suicides and their investigations occurring in Turkey;
- recall the agreement made by all participating States in the Sofia Document of 2004 to make use of OSCE fora to review the implementation of these commitments and send an observation mission to different parts of Turkey to review the status of women;
- use its good offices with the United Nations and European Union to exert pressure on the state of Turkey to actualise the reforms it promised in 2006, including positive

discrimination in government appointments, public education programmes, domestic violence hotlines, the construction of new shelters and the persistent prosecution of perpetrators of all forms of violence against women;

- monitor the seriousness with which the Turkish government investigates suicides of young females and ‘honour killings’ by sending trial observation mission to observe the prosecution of these types of cases.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325(2000):

Recommendations to Participating States:

Canada:

- Participating States should support and reinforce the work of the ODIHR in this area [Resolution 1325 activities] and should adopt a cross dimensional approach to our work.
- We [welcome] encourage participating States to develop national strategies for the implementation of UN Security Council Rsolution 1325.
- We recommend to all participating States to provide a pre-deployment training on the protection, rights and particular needs of women, and on the importance of involving women in all peace-keeping and peace-building measures to military and civilian personnel involved in peace-support operations and also to national police forces.
- Participating States should enhance their evidence-based research, analysis, and policy dialogue and development related to the women, peace and security agenda.

Freedom House:

- We urge the participants of the 2007 OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to display support to the Burmese non-violent struggle against a repressive military dictatorship.
- We call upon the OSCE Participating and Partner States to demand objective, thorough, and unhindered media reporting in Burma, and press the Burmese government to grant unrestricted access both domestically and internationally to uncensored media sources.
- We call upon the OSCE Participating States to demand and show political, economic and diplomatic support to the unrestrained exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly and help begin the process immediately that leads to free and fair elections in Burma.

WORKING SESSION 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments:

Trafficking in human beings:

Recommendations to Participating States:

Romani CRISS:

Recommendations to the Romanian Government and to the other concerned OSCE participating States:

- to design and adopt appropriate positive actions aiming to facilitate the access of Roma workers to the bilateral agreements and to other channels which allow for labour migration, regular migrant work, vocational and occupational training of migrant workers, exchange of students, etc; urgent actions in this direction should be reported during the OSCE Human Dimension events in 2008;
- to enforce carefully and with restraint the legal tools which States have when implementing measures(including repatriation) towards persons from particular ethnic groups who are illegally on the territory of another participating State.

Recommendations concerning the bilateral relations between governmental and local authorities of Romania and Italy, in the framework of the OSCE and the EU cooperation:

- to consider supporting, even joining, the NGOs initiative to ally themselves in a civic *Group for Peaceful Ethnic Affirmation/GPAE* of Roma Europe-wide, a reply and alternative to the dangerous initiative recently announced in Italy to form an Armed Group for the Ethnic Cleansing of Roma , in Italian: *Gruppo Armato for Pullizia Etnica/GAPE*.
- to set up an international *Observatory* (provisional naming) with the main task to document the migration-related trends and positive actions of Roma, non-Roma or joint organizations from Italy and Romania; the main tasks of such possible resource are elaborated in the full text of the Statement

Recommendation to other International Organizations and Roma-related initiatives,

- The *Council of Europe's European Roma and Travellers Forum* may organize a debate on Roma-migration related issues as part of its forthcoming Plenary Assembly, in 2007; a preparatory meeting could be convened in Romania, in October-November 2007;
- The EU *European Commission and the Economic and Social Committee* should thoroughly tackle the issues of Roma economic migration in their on-going work and Reports on the access of minorities to the employment opportunities and on the inclusion of Roma in the EU member countries.
- As a follow up of the suggestions of Mr. *Romanio Prodi*, the Prime-Ministry of Italy, in his Roma-related statement on 12 August, following the death by arson of four children of Romanian Roma migrants, we suggest that the Italian and Romanian top political authorities to jointly launch an initiative for including a discussion of the Roma –related affairs during the EU Summit , in December 2007.
- The international initiative for a *Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2005-2015*, and the Budapest-based *Roma Education Fund/REF* should launch a Europe-wide program for

the appropriate schooling and vocational training of the Roma children and youth belonging to families and communities involved in long-term international mobility and economic migration.

- The forthcoming REF seminar on Education of Roma children to be held in Venetia, 15-16 October, could provide a good opportunity to launch such an initiative, taking into account the acuteness of the current debates in Italy and in Romania in connection to the Roma-related migration and search for school and economic opportunities.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

European Union:

- We encourage the Special Representative to continue in giving impetus to the activities of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, in close co-operation and co-ordination with the ODIHR and other OSCE institutions and relevant structures.
- Acknowledging the significant contribution of the OSCE in raising the visibility of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation and welcoming the ODIHR discussion paper on standards and new developments, distributed last August, we encourage OSCE structures and Institutions to continue engaging with participating States in order to promote the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments and to share best practices on preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures related to labour trafficking.
- Given the importance of having sound knowledge of the complexity and scope of the phenomenon, we encourage the Special Representative and the other OSCE structures and Institutions to follow up the recent Conference “Assistance to Trafficked Persons: We Can Do Better”, by promoting evidence-based research on trafficking in human beings and rigorous evaluation of the impact of anti-trafficking interventions.
- Being aware that an effective prosecution of traffickers is crucial both to prevent the crime and to assist and protect the victims, we call on participating States to enhance international judicial co-operation and develop bilateral cooperation in this field. We also call on OSCE structures and Institutions to enhance their efforts to give visibility to shortcomings in judicial co-operation in the OSCE region.
- We once again invite OSCE field missions to intensify their efforts against trafficking in human beings, in close co-ordination with the OSCE Institutions and with relevant local NGOs and taking advantage of any synergy with programmes developed by other international actors on the ground.

Holy See:

Recommends the following actions on the part of the OSCE and the ODIHR:

- To commit more focused energy and effort to addressing the root causes of trafficking in persons, including poverty, underdevelopment, corruption, the breakdown of the family, and addiction.

- To recognize in concrete terms that trafficking in persons is fuelled not simply by economics, but by a certain misconception of the human person which views people as objects to be used and commodities to be bought and sold, rather than persons to be valued and respected by virtue of their very existence.
- To examine seriously and concretely the undeniable linkage between the “sex industry” and trafficking in persons, including all forms of pornography; and to be willing to challenge even the legal provisions that allow for the persistent objectification of men, women and children in this regard. No serious strategy at combating the scourge of human trafficking can neglect this linkage. The OSCE and the ODIHR must be committed to such an honest assessment.

Romani CRISS:

- Considering the rich experience, achievements and commitment to the Roma issues, the OSCE current and forthcoming Chairs-in-Office, Spain and Finland, should organize a special OSCE event in 2008 on Roma and Sinti migration. Such a conference could address:
 - the major discrepancy between the salience of Roma and Sinti issues in the OSCE security and human rights –related affairs and the very limited specific actions addressing such Roma issues by the high political level of the OSCE;
 - the complex problems related to a large mass of Romanian economic migrants (Spain) or with asylum seeker and economic migrants influxes from Eastern European Roma (Finland);
 - the dire situation of the Roma, Ashkhali and Egyptian war refugees and IDPs from Kosovo; and the prospects of the readmission of the long term refugees from Serbia/Kosovo in the context of the forthcoming political developments of the region , 2007-2008;
 - the follow ups of the meetings on the “implementation of national and international policies for the Roma and Sinti” such as the ones in Warsaw, October 2005 and in Bucharest, May 2006, organized in the cooperation of the OSCE with the Council of Europe, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the major relevant NGOs, etc.
- The OSCE ODIHR should commission an in-depth study of the OSCE-wide migration trends of the Roma and Sinti groups, with the aim to grasp the effects on the Roma and Sinti populations of the new political contexts. The enlargement of the European Union and the Stabilization of the Western Balkans are some of the things which deeply affect the countries where the majority of the world’s Roma and Sinti live.
- The OSCE ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues/CPRSI should facilitate debates on Roma and Sinti affairs, in particular on Roma migration –related issues including e-debates; in this regard we propose that the present Statement be posted on the ODIHR CPRSI web-site as an action towards launching the suggested CPRSI e-debates.

WORKING SESSION 13: Rule of law III:

Independence of the judiciary:

Recommendations to Participating States:

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights and Armenian Helsinki Committee:

- Call on the Armenian authorities to adopt further constructive reforms to improve the independence and functioning of the judicial system and ensure respect for fundamental rights in the administration of justice.

In particular, we recommend that the Armenian authorities:

- Ensure adequate implementation of the recent changes to the constitution limiting the influence of the executive on the appointment and dismissal of judges as well as other legislation regulating the separation of powers between the judicial and executive branches of government;
- Review and develop the education and training of judges so as to make sure that they are equipped to efficiently perform their duties within the framework of the current legal system and with due respect for rights protected by the constitution and international human rights law;
- Improve the position of legal counsel during the pre-trial period and ensure that allegations of torture and ill-treatment that arise during court hearings are adequately investigated;
- Raise salaries and improve social guarantees (such as pensions) of judges in order to improve their standing and combat corrupt practices;
- Develop existing schemes for provision of ex-officio legal services worth a view to improving their availability and quality.

Legal Education Society:

Для обеспечения независимой судебной системы необходимо выполнение следующих условий:

- Поддержка и в дальнейшем программ по мониторингам судебных процессов. Так же должна вестись работа по контролю над последующим полным выполнением вынесенных ими рекомендаций органами судебной системы. Сотрудничество и координация организаций как национальных НПО, так и международных, поддерживающих подобные проекты содействовали бы усилению эффективности этой работы.
- Поддержка программ направленных на обеспечение квалифицированного обучения, подготовки и выбора судей, обучение адвокатов, правозащитников инструментам по защите в международных судах, в частности в Европейском Суде по правам человека;
- Законодательство, регулирующее организацию и деятельность судебной власти, должны быть приведены в соответствие с требованиями демократического,

правового государства и требованиями международных норм. Должны быть усилены гарантии, предотвращающие вмешательство органов исполнительной власти в деятельность судебной власти, соблюдение условий неприкосновенности судей, предоставление судьям гарантий против необоснованного смещения с должности, а также приемлемых условий работы;

- Должен быть усовершенствован порядок выбора судей, назначения их на должность, выборы должны проходить на основе прозрачных процедур, этой работой под контролем общественности должна заниматься не организация, действующая при Президенте (Судебно-Правовой Совет), а самоуправляемая организация.
- Должно быть усилено материально-техническое обеспечение судей, других работников судов, их материальная, организационная зависимость от исполнительных структур должна быть устранена.

Norwegian Helsinki Committee:

- Appeals to the international community to demonstrate to local politicians and courts that rule of law principles are being valued and that laws may not be put aside for political reasons. Real independence of the judicial system must be secured.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Republican Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law:

- Мы призываем ОБСЕ проявить больше заинтересованности, проводимым в странах-членах ОБСЕ судебно-правовым реформам, активно вовлекать авторитетных экспертов в проводимые реформы.
- Как было отмечено ранее в Дополнительном совещании по поддержке и продвижению прав человека в июле 2007 года в Вене, необходимо уделить пристальное внимание мониторингу законодательства на предмет наличия специального законодательства о независимых судебных экспертизах.
- Привлечение институтов гражданского общества к проводимым судебным реформам.

Right to a fair trial:

Recommendations to Participating States:

International Youth Human Rights Movement:

- We urge the delegates at the upcoming Madrid Ministerial Council to insist upon that the Russian Federation ratifies protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

- We call upon the OSCE participating states to provide effective means of redress against human rights violations at the national level and pay specific attention to repetitive cases.

Soteria International:

- We recommend Romania to review the grounds for the trial against the members of MISA yoga school and to ensure a fair trial to them. As a consequence of the above mentioned problems we recommend a public debate (maybe using the “lessons” from this particular case) in order to educate the public opinion of the dangers of intolerance regarding the fair act of justice.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

International Association of Independent Democrats against Authoritarian Regimes:

- To request from OSCE participating States courts report on the right to fair and public hearing; judgment shall be pronounced publicly
- To collect data about the number of public and non-public court processes
- To oblige OSCE participating States to create law and draft law database on the Internet (on WEB-sites of the states bodies). This Web-page should have special frame for feedback for comments to draft laws.
- To begin the new project “The Law for All”, i.e. to create legislation to guarantee equal access for everybody; a legislation of direct action where laws as much as possible describe situations and have no variations for a judgment. One crime has only one variant judgment, alone punishment. Such Law should be created in the form of a database by special computer program maintenance and in view of a case law.

International Youth Human Rights Movement:

- We call upon ODIHR to work closely with Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe on monitoring the execution of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, and to issue recommendations to participating states on applying ECtHR decisions on systematic and institutional level to reform or develop existing practice in the countries.
- We request the ODIHR to actively engage in monitoring and collecting information on procedural violations during court processes in participating states paying special attention not only to guarantees of fair trial in criminal persecutions but also in cases of misdemeanor charges. We demand that particular attention is also given to the possibility to physically access the court and be present during the public court hearings.
- We recommend to the ODIHR to work towards comprehensive guidelines for member states on the right to a fair and public trial, including trials on administrative charges.
- We demand from the ODIHR to develop guidelines for legislation, which, while not infringing the independence of the judiciary, would provide for the accountability of

judges for procedural violations that have been committed and ensure proper compensation for victims of such violations.

Soteria International:

- We recommend that OSCE will support an educational program for the countries with a “young” democracy that will explain the right to be different in a modern and free society. That will remove a part of the pressure that the magistrates have to face and will ensure a fair trial for the people that are part of spiritual and religious minorities.

WORKING SESSION 14: Democratic institutions:

Democratic elections:

Recommendations to Participating States:

United States of America:

- We urge all OSCE participating states to welcome ODIHR election observers as the United States has done.

European Union:

- The EU calls on all participating States to invite ODIHR and other participating States at an early stage to observe their elections. It remains the responsibility of ODIHR to determine the type of the mission and, when necessary on the basis of a needs assessment mission, how many long-term and short-term observers would be necessary for a credible Election Observation Mission.

Furthermore, the EU would like to recommend that:

- Participating States reconfirm their primary responsibility to meet their commitments aimed at fostering and strengthening democratic governance, including by conducting genuine democratic elections;
- Participating States reiterate that three basic principles integral to the democratic election process that are not expressly stated in the 1990 Copenhagen Document - transparency, accountability and public confidence - could serve as basis for additional commitments to supplement existing ones; and to discuss possible directions for future work on this issue;
- In this way the OSCE could further address the challenges of new voting technologies in electoral process.
- Participating States fully support the leading role that the ODIHR has played in election observation, whose comprehensive methodology has been embraced by other organizations, including the UN and the EU itself involved in election observation worldwide;

- Participating states reassert their political will to strengthen their response to the ODIHR's election recommendations and to invite ODIHR to support follow-up activities.
- The EU encourages participating States to strengthen national efforts to train election observers and welcomes the ODIHR's training efforts in further enhancing the professionalism of election observers.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee

- Calls on the Uzbek representatives present at this meeting to state exactly how presidential candidates will be given access to printed media and television, and how a space for real debate about Uzbekistan's future will be created in the run-up to the elections.

Republican Network of Independent Monitors:

РСНН рекомендует:

- В целях обеспечения легитимности деятельности будущего Мажилиса Парламента РК всем участникам избирательного процесса принять все необходимые меры по признанию выборов депутатов Мажилиса Парламента РК через Ассамблею народов Казахстана неконституционными и инициировать изменения законодательства направленные на проведение довыборов по партийным спискам 9 мест оставшихся от Ассамблеи народов Казахстана;
- В целях формирования условий для реальной конкурентной борьбы за голоса избирателей, а также ликвидации таких негативных явлений как формальное участие партий в выборах разрешить образование предвыборных блоков на выборах депутатов Мажилиса Парламента РК;
- В целях качественного законодательного обеспечения выборов создать механизм реального обсуждения поправок в избирательное законодательство, как с субъектами политической деятельности, так и с независимым экспертным сообществом;
- В целях проведения полноценной агитационной кампании не совмещать выборы нескольких уровней в один этап;
- В целях недопущения партийной коррупции после выборов при распределении депутатских мест, а также точного учета мнения избирателей при голосовании по партийным спискам, восстановить существовавший ранее порядок распределения депутатских мандатов в зависимости от места занимаемого в партийном списке;
- ЦИК РК разъяснить членам территориальных избирательных комиссий, что наблюдатели имеют право наблюдать не только на избирательных участках, но и в комиссиях высшего уровня;
- ЦИК РК, областным, городским г.г. Астана и Алматы комиссиям, органам прокуратуры провести тщательное расследование фактов нарушения законодательства членами УИК, виновных привлечь к ответственности;
- Установить четкие критерии, при которых выборы считаются недействительными;

- Установить строгую ответственность членов УИК за отказ в выдаче копии протокола наблюдателям;
- Установить точное время, когда должен быть закончен подсчет голосов и установление результатов на избирательном участке (к примеру – 04.00 следующего дня);
- ЦИК РК, областным, городским г. Астана и г. Алматы комиссиям провести комплексную подготовку членов УИК, особенно в части подсчета голосов, установления результатов, составления протоколов и взаимодействия с наблюдателями;
- Снизить максимальное количество избирателей на участке до 2,000;

Roma Public Council Kupate:

- mainstream parties address issues in a way that is more understandable to Roma
- include Roma candidates in the party lists on eligible positions
- introduce preferential vote on the party lists
- governments should invest more money on non-written voter education materials such as radio and TV broadcasts, as many Roma are illiterate
- civic education, civil registration and voter registration campaigns should be widely conducted by relevant authorities at local level and within Roma communities
- NGOs involved within Roma community in explaining the electoral process should be neutral and not campaign for candidates
- more active approach by States is needed towards Roma communities regarding civil and voter registration
- more precision on the legislations that targets mobility of citizens and legitimacy of the voters who want to vote outside place of residence, so that the decision about who is legitimate to vote is not taken on a case by case basis and at the disposal of a local official of local electorate commission
- explanations of the type of elections, and of the electoral process along with information about voting procedure should be main elements of wide campaigns conducted in Roma communities by local authorities in partnership with Roma organizations

Recommendations to the OSCE:

Competitiveness Research Center:

In conclusion, there is a strong and insistent recommendation to the OSCE/ODIHR

- to make sure that the final report on observation of this year's parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan includes all of the facts of violations and irregularities, and gives an appropriate evaluation of the election campaign in terms of their compliance with the standards of democratic elections. In addition, it is highly requested that the OSCE/ODIHR applies more consistent pressure on the Kazakhstani authorities concerning adoption of the OSCE recommendations concerning election legislation, which are still pending since 2004.

“Democracy Monitor” – Public Union:

- I propose the OSCE to urge the relevant member states to send significant signals to Azerbaijani government and use their mandates to pressure the government in establishment fair legal framework and free and fair election environment for the forthcoming presidential elections to be held in October 2008.

Institute of Peace and Democracy:

Необходимо восстановить утраченный авторитет и доверие к миссии наблюдателей ОБСЕ за выборами. С этой целью целесообразно:

- включать в число наблюдателей от ОБСЕ людей знакомых со спецификой постсоветских стран, лучше из стран Восточной Европы,
- сотрудничать с институтами гражданского общества Азербайджана,
- долгосрочная миссия наблюдателей должна оставаться минимум на несколько недель после дня голосования,
- необходимо проводить отдельный мониторинг и специальные отчеты по проблемам полицейского насилия, привлечения активистов оппозиции к уголовной ответственности в период избирательной кампании и после выборов,
- необходимо проводить отдельный мониторинг и готовить специальный отчет по проблемам насилия в отношении СМИ и журналистов в период избирательной кампании и после выборов,
- необходимо отслеживать все имеющиеся место случаи давления, вплоть до уголовного преследования, независимых членов избирательных комиссий, или оппозиционеров .

WORKING SESSION 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work)

Recommendations to participating States:

Canada:

- In line with Paris Declaration principles, [Canada] calls on all participating States to improve donor harmonization.
- We strongly encourage all participating States to establish a Master Agreement with the OSCE and the ODIHR for the provision of their extra-budgetary funding.
- [Regrettably, some field missions still face difficulties and more precisely obstacles in implementing human dimension projects and programming.] We urge all host States concerned to promptly eliminate hindrances and delays and speed up project approval.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH):

- La FIDH rappelle que le BIDDH a été mandaté pour aider les Etats participants de l'OSCE «à assurer le plein respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales, à observer les règles de l'Etat de droit, à promouvoir les principes de la démocratie et ... à édifier, renforcer et protéger les institutions démocratiques». La FIDH appelle tous les Etats participants à respecter ce mandat et à encourager et soutenir le BIDDH encore plus activement, afin que les principes fondamentaux communs de l'Organisation soient pleinement respectés dans son espace.

Other written recommendations:

Public Association “Ardager”:

- Выработать концепцию государственной политики в отношении пожилых людей. Ее стратегической целью должно стать повышение уровня и качества жизни пожилых людей на основе социальной солидарности, формирование нового отношения к месту старости в жизненном цикле.
- Разработать в странах ОБСЕ стратегию осуществления Мадридского плана действий по проблемам старения. 2002 г.
- Особое внимание уделить проблеме солидарности между разными поколениями и в рамках каждого поколения.
- Содействовать осуществлению программ охраны здоровья в процессе активного старения населения, в рамках которых основное внимание уделяется самостоятельности, равенству, участию и безопасности пожилых людей, и проводить исследования, и осуществлять программы удовлетворения потребностей пожилых людей".
- Совершенствовать механизмы взаимодействия государственных структур, гражданского общества и международных организаций в создании общества равных возможностей для людей всех возрастов.

WORKING SESSION 16: Fundamental freedoms II

Freedom of expression, free media and information

Recommendations to Participating States:

European Union:

Participating States should:

- ensure that media laws are in line with international standards and OSCE commitments and are implemented subsequently,
- strengthen their commitment to ensure freedom of opinion and expression, and especially to decriminalize libel and defamation.

- ensure that journalists in the OSCE area can work safely and without being threatened by physical violence, persecution, detention, harassment, intimidation, direct or indirect economic pressure or any other form of interference,
- ensure that these commitments equally apply to journalists who are also Human Rights Defenders,
- ensure that press freedom is guaranteed by an independent judiciary to which journalists can appeal in cases of alleged violations,
- ensure the right of journalists to keep their sources of information confidential by enacting appropriate legislation (“shield laws”).

OSCE Representative of Freedom of the Media:

- Governments obviously must adhere to the recent UN Security Council Resolution No. 1738, “Condemning attacks against journalists”. I find also great value in Resolution 1535 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, “Threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists”.
- The issue of violence against journalists should be put visibly high on the national agenda.
- An unequivocal acknowledgement of the gravity of the situation, and an unmistakable declaration of the aim to put it right, could do wonders.
- The investigations should be given a journalist-friendly handling.
- Setting up a centre that deals exclusively with them seems to be a must. It could operate a special website, listing the cases and demonstrating the progress made.
- Governments must be aware of the linkage between governmental respect for media and the level of societal violence against the media.
- Peaceful speech offences, such as defamation, libel, and insult must be decriminalised; their handling should be transferred into the civil-law domain.
- Special provisions on insult of officials, presidents, state institutions, symbols of the state should be abolished.
- Administrative discrimination against the independent, opposition, and investigative press should be stopped.
- Governments will have done most of what is doable if they accept that the press is a civil society endeavour; and would be ready to walk the journey from state to civil media, from monopoly to pluralism.
- Calls for violence against journalism, even if made as fatwas, under the guise of demanding tolerance towards religions, should be vigorously refuted and criminalised.

Amnesty International:

- Calls on the Russian authorities to clearly and unequivocally speak out in defence of journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders who talk openly about the human rights situation in the Russian Federation.
- Calls on Federal and Chechen authorities to take substantive measures to enable independent monitors and journalists, including foreign journalists, to report from Chechnya without fear of reprisals.
- Calls on the Russian authorities to protect journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers by vigorously investigating allegations of attacks on journalists, human rights

defenders and lawyers, including, but not limited to, the murder of Anna Politkovskaya. Those who are found responsible for such crimes, including those who ordered or masterminded the attacks, should be brought to justice without delay.

Amnesty International calls on the OSCE and its Participating States to:

- Stop the persecution of human rights defenders, and ensure that effective action is taken by the international community in support of those who courageously stand up for human rights.
- Insist on thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all incidents of killings, beatings and other human rights abuses committed against journalists. This is both urgent and necessary to counter the current climate of impunity for assaults on journalists and on all those who peacefully exercise the right to freedom of expression which exists in some Participating States.
- Refrain from passing – or, where already in place, abolish – any legislation, which exceeds the permissible restrictions on the right to freedom of expression under international law, and leaves the way open for the criminalization of a wide range of peacefully-expressed dissenting opinion.

“Democracy Monitor” – Public Union (jointly with Association for Protection of Women’s Rights, Women’s Association for Rational Development, Azerbaijan Human Rights Center, Center for “EL”Development Program, Society for Humanitarian Research and Azerbaijan National Group of International Society Human Rights:

- Call on the international community, particularly OSCE structures to press the Azerbaijani government to ensure the prompt and conclusive investigation of the case of murdered chief–editor Elmar Huseynov and assaults on journalists, to institute measures to tackle institutionalized impunity for harassment of journalists by law enforcement officials, to end the use of criminal defamation suits as a means to silence dissent and to ensure that due process is observed in the enforcement of media industry standards.

Freedom House:

- Рекомендовать Таджикистану и странам-членам ОБСЕ, в законодательстве которых все еще предусмотрено уголовное преследование журналистов, исключить из Уголовного Кодекса этих стран уголовное преследование за диффамацию;
- Рекомендовать Таджикистану, создать в стране атмосферу для процветания плюрализма мнений;
- Рекомендовать Таджикистану, принять всеобъемлющий Закон о Доступе к информации для гарантии и упорядочивания этого права;

Institute of Peace and Democracy, Azerbaijan:

There are some necessary measures that the international community must undertake:

- Tough monitoring of the situation
- Demand the release of all seven convicted journalists by Azerbaijani authorities
- Demand for the investigation of all cases of physical attack on journalists and the punishment of persons found guilty
- Demand for the investigation and punishment of those involved in the murder of Elmar Huseynov, the editor of “Monitor” journal
- Demand for the decriminalization of defamation and the exclusion of articles for insult and slander from the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

In light of the extremely precarious conditions journalists face in Azerbaijan today, the IHF

- Calls for Azerbaijan to lift all restrictions on the operation of all media outlets; allow journalists to carry out their professional duties unhindered; and refrain from legal prosecution and other repercussions against journalists for legitimate criticism.
- The IHF also urges Azerbaijan to forge a new tradition of open public debate ahead of the up-coming presidential elections in 2008, a prerequisite of which is the free operation of the media and dissemination of a wide variety of information and opinions.

More specifically, the IHF urges the authorities of Azerbaijan to:

- Promptly adopt legal amendments to decriminalize defamation. Pending such amendments, the government should declare a formal moratorium on the application of articles 147 and 148 of the criminal code (on calumny and “deliberate humiliation”), and discontinue any defamation lawsuits under these provisions. All journalists imprisoned under defamation provisions should be immediately released, and they, as well as other jailed journalists, should be granted public and fair re-trials;
- Conduct immediate investigations into all allegations of assaults against media workers and bring to justice their perpetrators. Further, all cases of alleged police involvement in violent acts against journalists and reporters should be examined by an independent body;
- Allow and publicly encourage free public debate in the run-up to the 2008 presidential election. This also includes allowing for free and unbiased media reporting and respecting the rights of critics of the government to disseminate information freely, to organize and to demonstrate.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recommendations to the Government of Turkey

In order to be considered a true democracy and in order to live up to its commitments as an OSCE Participating State, Turkey must take concrete steps to engender freedom of expression and facilitate political discourse.

Accordingly, KHRP urges the state of Turkey to:

- fully overhaul its legal system, starting with the amendment of the following laws such that they clearly do not violate freedom of expression:
 - Article 84 – criminalises inciting or assisting suicide
 - Article 125 – criminalises offending honour, dignity and respectability or insulting public officials
 - Article 132 – criminalises violating the secrecy of communication
 - Article 134 – criminalises violating the secrecy of private life
 - Article 215 – criminalises praising crime or criminals
 - Article 215 – criminalises inciting hatred and enmity among people
 - Article 218 – criminalises offences committed against public peace by means of the press
 - Article 285 – criminalises violating the secrecy of an investigation
 - Article 286 – criminalises sound and visual recording in investigation and prosecution procedures
 - Article 288 – criminalises attempting to influence a fair trial
 - Article 299 – criminalises insulting the President
 - Article 301 – criminalises degrading the Turkish identity, republic, state institutions and organs
 - Article 305 – criminalises providing benefits to activities conducted against basic national interests
 - Article 318 – criminalises discouraging the people from military service;
- educate and train all members of the Judiciary on Turkey’s international obligations to foster freedom of expression and allow healthy political discourse to flourish within its borders such that they understand how to interpret Turkish law in line with these principles;
- condemn attacks on members of the media, politicians, students, academics, human rights defenders and anyone else when these crimes are motivated by expressions of thought or opinion;
- repeal the new Internet Censorship law, and otherwise reduce pressure on all forms of media to self-censor;
- denounce any use of violence motivated by nationalism;
- encourage freedom of speech and support the media in its endeavour to capture all voices and viewpoints represented in Turkey;
- support and encourage discourse on minority interests so as to diffuse intense feelings of nationalism that may result in violence.

Youth Initiative for Human Rights:

- Authorities in Serbia must take all necessary measures to find, prosecute and punish the perpetrators and ordering parties of politically motivated attacks, which was not the case to this day. It is the only way to protect the members, activists and leaders of political parties, NGO’s, journalists and citizens from growing violence.

- Special attention must be paid to protection of Roma and leaders of their political parties, because research results showed that number of attacks on Roma has increased from the moment they have won two seats in Serbian Parliament.
- It is necessary that the Government should explicitly profess itself on political violence wave that have overtaken Serbia, and to clearly show that it is aware of this problem and that it will not tolerate it. Political attacks are harming not only individual victims, but also society as a whole, because they represent the obstacle to development of democracy and establishment of the reign of jurisprudence.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

European Union:

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media should

- continue to assist participating states in achieving full implementation of the OSCE commitments, continue efforts to promote adoption of legislation which is in line with OSCE and other international standards notably in the field of defamation,
- continue to elaborate how comprehensive and non-discriminatory access to information in particular to the internet can be ensured,
- continue to strengthen freedom of the media through capacity building in the framework of training activities and media conferences,
- in co-ordination with the ODIHR's Point of Contact on Human Rights Defenders, assist the participating states in delivering on their commitments to protect the journalists who are also Human Rights Defenders.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

The IHF urges the OSCE to:

- Launch pre-election monitoring of media freedoms to establish whether free public debate will be guaranteed as a crucial prerequisite for holding a fair, free and democratic presidential election in 2008.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recalling its desire to defend freedom of expression within the OSCE participating State region as voiced by the Commitments found in the Copenhagen Document, KHRP urgently requests the OSCE to:

- take note of the dire position of publishers and other media members in Turkey as noted in KHRP's 2007 trial observation report and similar reports made by other NGOs;
- closely monitor freedom of expression in Turkey by sending its own trial observation missions to track the status of publishers and other media members in Turkey in 2007 and 2008;

- use its good offices with the Council of Europe and United Nations to exert pressure on Turkey to cease its extreme censorship measures
- take note of the intersections of censorship and nationalism-fuelled violence in Turkey and strongly condemn both;
- direct Turkey towards a liberalisation of its views on freedom of expression so as to guarantee the right to free speech and the independence of the media, as envisioned in the principles of the OSCE;
- maintain close contact and dialogue with human rights defenders, NGOs, IGOs and members of the media to keep abreast of all developments regarding freedom of expression in Turkey;
- criticise Turkish legislation, including Article 301, that impedes upon the right to freedom of expression and the independence of the media;
- encourage Turkey to repeal any provisions that contract the OSCE obligations to guarantee the right of everyone, including publishers, politicians, students, academics and the media, to enjoy the right to freedom of expression without interference by public authority, as agreed upon in the 1990 Copenhagen Document.

Legal Education Society:

There are some necessary measures that can be useful for improve of the situation [in Azerbaijan]:

- Tough monitoring of the situation in the field of right of expression, monitoring of court cases against Mass Media and journalists must have regular character as well, the reports on the results of monitoring must be a subject of broad discussions with drawing in representatives of civil society, state bodies and international organizations;
- Demand for investigation of all cases of physical attack on journalists and the punishment of persons found guilty;
- Demand for the decriminalization of defamation and exclusion of articles for insult and slander from the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan;
- Preparing special reports on court hearings concerning Mass Media with recommendations worked out together with institutes of civil society;
- Support of the programs directed to study of the European Convention on Human Rights and precedents of the European Court on Human Rights by judges, barristers, and representatives of law enforcement bodies and other organizations and preparation and send of strategic cases to the international courts.

Soteria International:

- We recommend OSCE to initiate the establishment of a convention of intellectual and moral justice in media. This convention would be formalised as self regulated based on common journalistic principles developed and defined in this forum.
- We recommend to the OSCE to encourage the creation of an independent international commission that can provide an unbound referential to journalists, thus easing the pressure from specific groups of interest upon the media.

- We recommend to the OSCE participant states to support the development of public informational management into a science with at least the same importance as pedagogy.

WORKING SESSION 17: Fundamental freedoms II

Freedom of assembly and association

Recommendations to the Participating States:

Canada:

- Nous interpellons les États participants concernés à cesser immédiatement les mesures d’interférence, d’intimidation, d’harcèlement et de représailles auprès des personnes et des organisations se préoccupant des droits de la personne sur leur territoire, particulièrement des droits civils et politiques, et à mettre fin à l’utilisation abusive ou non démocratique de lois ou de règlements administratifs ou fiscaux.
- Nous demandons ainsi aux États participants de l’OSCE de respecter leurs engagements internationaux en ce qui a trait à la protection défenseurs des droits de la personne et au respect des libertés d’association, de réunion et d’expression.
- Nous demandons aussi à tous les États participants de parvenir à l’adoption d’une décision au conseil ministériel sur les défenseurs et institutions des droits de la personne, ce qui devrait déjà être un fait accompli pour une organisation telle que la nôtre.
- De plus, le Canada appelle les États participants, pour ceux dont ce n’est pas encore chose faite, à accepter de recevoir la visite d’Hina Jilani, Représentante spéciale de l’ONU sur les défenseurs des droits de la personne.

Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights:

[Recommendations with regards to the new Russian NGO legislation]

- The new laws on NGOs and on Combating Extremist Activity should be amended in accordance with the requirements of the European Court on Human Rights (ECtHR) and attain the maximum level of certainty;
- The competences of the Federal Registration Service must be defined clearly in order to evade situations, when the Federal Registration Service has possibility to request an undefined number of documents;
- The Federal Registration Service shall be denied the possibility to perform tax and other not related to its competence checks;
- It is essential that NGOs and their members should be able to challenge acts or omissions affecting them in an independent court an in course of an effective and prompt judicial procedure. Without this latter possibility there is likely to be a violation of the right to an effective remedy under Article 13 of the European Convention;

- The state shall work out detailed guidelines for implementation of the new NGO law.
- The work of Federal and regional Registration Service institutions shall be coordinated and based on these guidelines in order to avoid possible selective application of the Law;
- Обязать территориальные органы Росрегистрации проводить регулярные консультации по вопросам регистрации и отчетности НКО.
- Выработать единые инструкции по применению нового закона об НПО для ФРС и ее региональных отделений.
- Установить в законе об НПО исчерпывающий перечень документов, которые может истребовать ФРС.
- Дать четкую формулировку понятия «экстремизм» в законе противодействии экстремистской деятельности;
- Создать гарантии эффективного обжалования неправомерных действий ФРС, а также быстрого рассмотрения таких категорий дел независимым и беспристрастным судом;
- Мы надеемся на принятие ОБСЕ руководящих принципов по свободе ассоциации, а также благодарим БДИПЧ за принятые руководящие принципы по свободе собраний. Если бы данные принципы стали носить не рекомендательный, а обязательный характер (обрели бы, например, форму Конвенции), то они оказали бы значительное влияние на жизнь гражданского общества в странах, входящих в ОБСЕ.
- Мы поддерживаем работу панели экспертов, разработавших руководящие принципы по свободе собраний и надеемся, что представители гражданского общества впредь смогут обращаться к экспертам за экспертизой.

DEMOS – Research Center for Civic Society:

- Полагаем необходимым добиваться того, чтобы в республиках Северного Кавказа на практике действовало российское законодательство о порядке проведения митингов и демонстраций, позволяющее выразить свое мнение легальным путем, а также ограничить необоснованное применение силы по отношению к митингующим.
- Также хотим призвать международные организации продолжать вести мониторинг нарушения прав человека в особо проблемных республиках Северного Кавказа, обращая отдельное внимание на возможность реализации гражданами своего законного права на свободу собраний.

EUROMIL – European Organisation of Military Associations:

- calls all participation OSCE countries to fully recognize and implement the freedom of association for active military personnel according to existing international law.

European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA):

- Calls upon the OSCE member states – especially the Russian Federation and Moldova – to respect both the rulings of their own Courts and the landmark decision of the Strasbourg Court, which must be valid throughout all 47 Council of Europe member states, and to guarantee the right to freedom of assembly to all citizens, and to ensure, by protecting them in the event of violent counter demonstrations and hate speech, that everybody can exercise this right.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Recommends that Turkey:

- develop supportive regulatory framework for NGO law reform when necessary;
- provide registration procedures for NGOs that are quick, easy and inexpensive;
- provide a clear and concise legal framework for NGOs;
- cease to arrest, hinder, harass, encumber or otherwise prevent human rights defenders from carrying out successful missions in Turkey;
- release Amnesty International's funds in Turkey and allow Amnesty workers and all other human rights defenders to continue their work unimpeded;
- reduce the 10 per cent minimum threshold from the electoral requirements such that the Kurdish people and other national minorities have a real chance to achieve representation in government;
- recognise the commitments it undertakes as an OSCE participating State, and therefore cease to hinder the efforts of religious and ethnic minorities to meet, assemble or form associations of any kind;
- allow students, politicians, academics and labour unions to meet and associate freely without fear of arrest or other forms of abuse.

International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT):

Urge OSCE Participating States to:

- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of human rights defenders in the OSCE Members States;
- Put an end to the continuous repression of human rights defenders and their organisations;
- Fully recognise the vital role of defenders in the advent of democracy and the rule of law;
- Review their national legislation to conform with international and regional human rights instruments, in particular regarding freedoms of association and assembly;
- Comply with the provisions of the final document of the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted on December 9, 1998 by the United Nations General Assembly;

- Support and implement all recommendations brought to them from the March 2006 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Human Rights Defenders;
- Comply with the provisions of the resolution titled « Strengthening OSCE engagement with human rights defenders and national human rights institutions » adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Kiev on July 10, 2007;
- Support the Focal Point, giving it the capacity and adequate means to carry out its monitoring and capacity building activities, and to develop in view of increased protection of human rights defenders.

International Youth Human Rights Movement:

- Мы предлагаем государствам-участникам ОБСЕ при содействии БДИПЧ и Комитета Министров Совета Европы начать работу по созданию единой конвенции о праве на свободу собраний.
- Мы настаиваем на том, чтобы любое непропорциональное применение силы и спецсредств со стороны сотрудников правоохранительных органов в отношении участников мирных собраний встречало жесткое осуждение и адекватное расследование с последующим наказанием виновных, включая тех, кто отдал приказы о применении силы.
- Мы рекомендуем взаимодействовать с Комитетом Министров Совета Европы и рассмотреть возможность перевода на русский язык и распространения решений Европейского суда по правам человека на русскоязычном пространстве, для того, чтобы способствовать дальнейшей популяризации европейских стандартов.
- Мы призываем участвующие в Совещании НПО начать формирование на пространстве ОБСЕ сети независимых неправительственных организаций, занимающихся защитой права на свободу собраний и продвижению международных стандартов в этой сфере.

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (jointly with the International Federation of Human Rights and the World Organisation Against Torture):

Urge OSCE Participating States to:

- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of human rights defenders in the OSCE Members States;
- Put an end to the continuous repression of human rights defenders and their organisations;
- Fully recognise the vital role of defenders in the advent of democracy and the rule of law;
- Review their national legislation to conform with international and regional human rights instruments, in particular regarding freedoms of association and assembly;
- Comply with the provisions of the final document of the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted on December 9, 1998 by the United Nations General Assembly;

- Support and implement all recommendations brought to them from the March 2006 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Human Rights Defenders;
- Comply with the provisions of the resolution titled « Strengthening OSCE engagement with human rights defenders and national human rights institutions » adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Kiev on July 10, 2007;
- Support the Focal Point, giving it the capacity and adequate means, including financial means, to carry out its monitoring and capacity building activities, and to provide human rights defenders with a concrete and individual protection in case of emergency.

Call on the OSCE participating States

- to provide the Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions with the capacity and adequate means to conduct its monitoring and capacity building activities, and to develop new activities in view of increased protection of human rights defenders, including individual protection in case of emergency.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

European Union:

- OSCE institutions and field missions should increase their monitoring of participating States' compliance with their commitments on freedom of assembly and association; publicise their findings; and provide assistance to participating States to address any shortcomings.

International Youth Human Rights Movement Foundation “For environmental and social justice” Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights Research Center for Civil Society “Demos”:

- We welcome the adoption of the OSCE ODIHR Guidelines on the Right to Freedom of Assembly. Unfortunately these guidelines have the character of “soft law” and its contents are not known to the majority of the governmental bodies in participating countries. We urge the OSCE ODIHR to actively push for the promotion of those guidelines and organize their presentation with the participation of government officials.
- We urge ODIHR to work towards a legally binding document on both freedom of association and assembly.
- We recommend ODIHR to continue the collection of information on violation of freedom of assembly and association and compile it into thematic reports.
- We recommend ODIHR to cooperate with Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe to translate into Russian language and disseminate decisions of the European Court of Human Rights on article 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights in the Russian speaking space in order to promote further popularization of European standards.

- We call upon ODIHR to hold trainings for responsible government bodies on implementation of Guidelines into practice of participating states.
- We urge the OSCE Focal point on human rights defenders to take into consideration the cases of persecution and closing down of human rights NGOs.
- We request the ODIHR to provide an expertise of Russian legislation on NGOs.
- We call upon ODIHR to organize a special session on Freedom of Association and to compile a special report on the observance of freedom of association in the OSCE region.

International Youth Human Rights Movement:

- Мы рекомендуем БДИПЧ организовать презентации данных рекомендаций в ряде стран участников с приглашением должностных лиц стран-участников и широким освещением в прессе.
- Мы рекомендуем БДИПЧ продолжать сбор информации о лучших практиках государств участников, а также способствовать внедрению этих практик в работу государственных органов других стран.

Kurdish Human Rights Project:

Urges the OSCE to:

- speedily report any freedom of association issues raised by the OSCE's election observation mission and follow up on these issues with the appropriate framework;
- maintain contact with NGOs, human rights defenders and other independent human rights organisations operating in Turkey;
- initiate dialogue with the Turkish government, working with state officials to address the issues raised in this report;
- use its good offices with the EU and UN to suggest they join the OSCE in condemning Turkey's violation of freedom of association, and put political pressure on the government to initiate the changes suggested above.

Ombudsperson and independent national human rights institutions:

Recommendations to Participating States:

European Union:

- Participating States should ensure their legislation regulating the activities of NGOs conforms with OSCE and other international commitments. Financial and administrative obstacles, likely to hinder the free operation of human rights defenders, should be removed. Legislation should not be used to restrict or intimidate them.
- Participating States should give full and practical recognition to the positive role played by human rights defenders in finding peaceful solutions to political and social conflicts; and should ensure their protection and support their activities within the framework of the OSCE and the United Nations.
- Participating States should ensure that their criminal justice systems take timely action to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of crimes against human rights defenders.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

- The participating States should integrate the protection of human rights activists into their broader policies toward third countries and, in this respect, ensure that human dimension commitments and other international standards relating to human rights defenders are adequately reflected in their policies. They should address concerns relating to human rights defenders in a consistent manner, which does not depend on the economic and political status of third countries, and make use of objective benchmarks against which progress can be measured. In elaborating and implementing their responses to the situation of human rights activists in different countries, they should consult with international and national NGOs.
- The participating States should ensure that adequate funding is available for independent groups to carry out human rights work across the OSCE region. Relevant funding programs currently implemented at the national and multilateral level should be reviewed with a view of ensuring that the processes of obtaining funding are un-bureaucratic, transparent and flexible and that funding requirements do not instrumentalize NGOs but allow them to address core human rights problems in an impartial fashion, e.g. by monitoring the implementation of basic civil and political rights.
- The participating States should increase political, moral and other forms of support to human rights defenders at risk in third countries, including by raising concerns about cases of persecution of human rights defenders with the governments of the countries concerned and making clear that violations of the rights of human rights defenders will have implications for mutual relations. They should also work together with international and national NGOs to provide concrete assistance to endangered human rights defenders, such as legal assistance, medical assistance and evacuation, safe relocation and temporary residence in emergency cases.

Recommendations to the OSCE:

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights:

- The OSCE should consider expanding its commitments to include the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and in the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders;
- A high-level mechanism should be established by the OSCE with a mandate to promote visibility and recognition of the work of human rights defenders and other civil society activists and to improve their protection. The creation of such a mechanism, which might have the status of a special representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, would be consistent with the historical commitment of the participating States to supporting civil society participation in the human dimension process. The mechanism would complement and reinforce the work of the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders. It should also be able to intervene on individual cases in a speedy manner.
- The OSCE should pay special attention to the challenges faced by woman human rights defenders and consider soliciting a study on their situation throughout the OSCE region.

V. ANNEXES

- ***KEY-NOTE ADDRESS and OPENING SPEECHES***

Opening statement by Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director, OSCE ODIHR

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me welcome you all very warmly here to Warsaw, to this 12th Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Let me welcome our special guests for this morning: Alberto Navarro González, Secretary of State for the European Union, representing our Chairman-in-Office, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Witold Waszczykowski of our host country Poland, as well as my fellow heads of OSCE institutions, the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the new High Commissioner for National Minorities, Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, and the Representative on the Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszi. A special welcome goes of course to our key-note speaker, Aaron Rhodes, the Executive Director of the International Helsinki Federation.

This is the fifth HDIM I am privileged to open, and each time I have witnessed vibrant, active, constructive and inspiring discussions. At this stage, I should only like to briefly set out the context.

The HDIM is the largest regional human rights meeting in our area; one of the main reasons for this lies in the fact that it represents one of the - not so many - occasions where representatives of civil society groups and of Governments are able to exchange views and interact on an equal footing. This is especially significant for an organization where governmental delegates meet on a practically permanent basis. There are only a limited number of institutionalized occasions where we are exposed to the “*reality check*” that this interaction brings.

It is this reality check, where civil society representatives can present their very concrete experiences, good and bad, that allows the HDIM to credibly fulfill its mandate, that is, to review how OSCE commitments are being implemented by participating States, what further effort is required, and how solutions can be found and shared. It is, in other words, an explicit occasion to share good practices and highlight experiences, and also to identify shortcomings and challenges in open dialogue.

We sometimes may risk taking the many success stories and positive developments in the Human Dimension in our region for granted, but at the same time, we must also avoid to gloss over a number of challenges which persist, and, in some cases, have grown over the last years. Last December, I presented to the Ministerial Council a report on the state of implementation of OSCE commitments, entitled ***Common Responsibility***. In it, we identify a number of remaining challenges with regard to the following issues, most of which were identified already at the Lisbon Summit more than 10 years ago:

- combating electoral fraud,
- protecting freedom of assembly and association,
- protecting human rights in the fight against terrorism,
- facing involuntary migration,
- protecting freedom of opinion and the independence of the media, and
- combating aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

We concluded that more focused political will is necessary to effectively implement international commitments in these and other areas.

Commitments, to be implemented, need to be widely known. Therefore, the report also points to the responsibility to protect human rights defenders, the very people who through their courageous activities bring these issues often out into the open and contribute to discussions on these challenges in all our societies. Increasingly, when they highlight lacking political will of States to implement their commitments, to hold democratic elections, to ensure accountable institutions, and to promote and protect the human rights of their citizens, they are faced by threats - threats to their well-being, their liberty, and, in some cases, even their life.

Since the establishment of a contact point for human rights defenders in my Office, we have been following more systematically problems defenders face in exercising their freedoms of peaceful assembly of association and expression. New obstacles to NGO registration have been introduced in a number of countries, often in the context of combating terrorism or a more vaguely defined “extremism”, while administrative measures are used to threaten or terminate the operations of NGOs. Unjustified detention, including in psychiatric institutions, bans on traveling abroad, or extradition have been used to limit the freedom of movement of defenders. Sadly, threats to and attacks on the physical integrity of human rights defenders persist.

It is our organization that has collectively recognized that human rights abuses are threats to stability and security in our region and are therefore of collective concern to the whole OSCE. In trying to document and outline trends in this area, my Office seeks to fulfill its mandate in promoting human security throughout the region.

It is sadly short-sighted of some States who respond to criticism by refusing citizens the rights and protection to which they are entitled.

It is for this “reality check” of which I have just spoken, that we are glad to welcome so many civil society representatives to this meeting, many of them small local grassroots NGOs which can provide concrete examples and first-hand accounts – we have registered 323 participants from NGOs throughout our region.

I would also like to welcome the many representatives from participating States, in particular the experts and practitioners from capitals, who have registered to share their expertise, good practices and lessons learned. This again proves the relevance and attractiveness of this Meeting. For us at the ODIHR these exchanges are the highlight of the year, and I am looking forward to this HDIM being as concrete and successful as in previous years.

Let me repeat that openness and criticism are essential for making this exercise meaningful, but criticism should not become an end in itself – rather it risks, if exaggerated, meeting deaf ears and closed doors. This, of course, is not limited to NGOs.

The slots we have available for side events are a useful tool to present in more detail good practices and experiences gained by States and civil society. Almost all available slots (even those in the rooms in the cellar) are booked out. Altogether, there will be more than 35 side events.

I am proud that we have set up a Conference website, for the first time also available in Russian language, which will be updated daily with news during the entire HDIM, thus complementing our electronic documents distribution system.

As previously, delegations have somewhat modified the sequence of our sessions. We will start this afternoon with a discussion on National Minorities and have tomorrow our first special day, on *combating intolerance, discrimination and mutual respect and understanding*. This responds to the numerous decisions contained in the Maastricht, Sofia, Ljubljana and Brussels Ministerial Council Decisions and the Berlin, Brussels, Cordoba and Bucharest Declarations of the past years, and should provide an opportunity to examine how far they have been implemented. In order to support this special day, we are publishing today a **report on hate crimes in the OSCE region 2006**. I hope that this report will provide a useful basis for discussing some worrying trends and incidents and also effective response strategies. [Copies available outside]

The second special day will be on Thursday and address the implementation of the *OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti*. Four years after its adoption, such an in-depth discussion is certainly overdue. I am glad that we are able to welcome representatives from Roma, Sinti and traveller communities throughout our region, both as civil society groups, but also as members of governmental delegations. Although much has been achieved since the adoption of the Action Plan, numerous challenges still remain, in particular in the area of participation, which will be a main focus at this meeting.

The third special topic is *gender aspects of security*; it will be discussed next Monday, when we will have an opportunity to review a range of issues including the participation of women in public and political life, domestic violence, and the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Of course, gender issues should and will be mainstreamed throughout all the topics under discussion during the next two weeks.

In addition to these three special days, all the regular sessions will be held on reviewing implementation of the whole range of Human Dimension commitments.

This Meeting has been carefully prepared, in particular through additional human dimension meetings we have already held earlier this year together with the Spanish Chairmanship. These have highlighted specific challenges of the situation of human rights defenders - this Meeting will offer an opportunity to look at the concrete follow up.

I take this opportunity to thank the Spanish Chairmanship for the importance they have been giving to this topic, and also to the Parliamentary Assembly for highlighting the issue in a resolution at their Annual Meeting in Kiev. I hope that the HDIM will further contribute to taking this subject forward to the Ministerial Council in Madrid.

During the coming two weeks, the regular work of our Office will of course continue. I myself will miss, for the first time, two days of the HDIM in order to be in Kiev for the parliamentary elections this Sunday, where our Election Observation Mission will be deploying more than 600 observers. In addition, we are preparing for the deployment of an Assessment Mission to the 21 October parliamentary elections in Switzerland. We also hope for timely invitations to the upcoming Sejm elections in Poland, which will be held on that same day, as well as to the December elections to the Duma in the Russian Federation.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An article published recently in an international periodical described our organization as “worse than useless”. Others like to depict us as in a constant state of crisis. I certainly do not share these views. On the contrary, it is meetings such as the HDIM which show just how vibrant the Human Dimension really is. We see that the OSCE is closely connected to the “real world”, through numerous concrete activities of its institutions and field operations; we also see that there can be fruitful and constructive exchange between civil society and governments on the collective OSCE stage, hopefully leading to positive repercussions at the national and local levels.

Over thirty years ago, at the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the CSCE was at the front lines in introducing the practical aspects of realizing democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights into international fora and concrete work. Today, thirty years on, many of the issues identified then continue to affect human security: torture, inequality and discrimination, trafficking in Human Beings, hate crimes, suppression of individual and collective human rights, election fraud. But we have moved on, and forward, not least thanks to the regular reviews by the HDIM and other human dimension meetings. Progress is undeniable, as is the contribution of our organization to it. Unfortunately, denial of progress equally continues to pose a threat. This meeting should therefore be guided by two principles: inclusiveness, and accountability.

Our organization is specifically designed to deal with security threats such as those I have just mentioned. I challenge us all to make sure this HDIM makes its contribution and fulfils its objectives: it is not only an opportunity for an open exchange of views, as important as this is; it should also enable us to take concrete results and recommendations forward to this year’s Ministerial Meeting in Madrid, and back to capitals, in order to help participating States effectively fulfil the promises they have made, to each other and to their citizens.

Thank you.

Opening statement by H.E. Alberto Navarro Gonzales, Secretary of State for the European Union

Señor Secretario de Estado de Asuntos Exteriores de Polonia,

Señor Secretario General de la OSCE,

Señor Director de la OIDDH,

Señores Embajadores,

Señoras y señores,

Como representante del Presidente en ejercicio de la Organización para la Seguridad y Cooperación en Europa constituye un gran honor y una especial satisfacción el poder dirigirme a todos ustedes hoy aquí. En su nombre deseo trasladarles sus mejores deseos para que un año más la decimosegunda Reunión de Aplicación de los Compromisos en Dimensión Humana constituya un éxito.

Quisiera también aprovechar para agradecer a la Oficina de Derechos Humanos e Instituciones Democráticas, representada por su Director, el Embajador Strohal, (a quien la Presidencia desea acompañar en estos momentos particularmente difíciles), la profesionalidad mostrada una vez más en la puesta a punto de este encuentro.

Mención especial merece la amplia representación de la sociedad civil en esta Reunión. La presencia de ONG comprometidas con los derechos humanos constituye sin duda un valor añadido fundamental. Su constante vigilancia y actitud muchas veces crítica constituye un estímulo para que todos, incluyendo la Presidencia en ejercicio, nos esforcemos en mejorar nuestro grado de cumplimiento de los compromisos asumidos en la Dimensión Humana.

En cuanto a los Estados participantes, esta Reunión es un espejo donde una vez al año vemos reflejados nuestros avances y también, sobre todo, nuestras deficiencias en el respeto y ejecución de esos mismos compromisos. Cierto, a veces no queremos reconocernos en la imagen que nos devuelve el espejo y tendemos a refugiarnos de forma casi instintiva en una actitud defensiva o recurrimos con demasiada frecuencia al espíritu de la negación. Creo que es un error. Cuando se trata de los derechos y libertades fundamentales y de la misma dignidad humana hemos de estar siempre alerta y dispuestos a evitar incurrir en la fácil complacencia. Como afirmara el poeta y ensayista Octavio Paz, la ausencia de autocrítica en nuestras sociedades, o, también podríamos decir, en organizaciones como la propia OSCE, conduce irremediabilmente a la parálisis y a la regresión en la defensa de nuestros valores y principios comunes. Ello es algo que no nos podemos permitir.

Actitud vigilante y diálogo crítico son, por lo tanto, las premisas con las que afrontamos esta Reunión. En ella pasaremos revista, un año más, a todo el acervo de la OSCE en la Dimensión Humana; intercambiaremos experiencias y mejores prácticas; y, finalmente, acordaremos sugerencias y recomendaciones para perfeccionar nuestros mecanismos nacionales e intergubernamentales de defensa de los derechos humanos. Durante las próximas dos semanas, que hoy iniciamos tenemos, por tanto, ante nosotros un ambicioso programa de reuniones de trabajo y otros eventos, cuyo espectro de temas abarca las Minorías Nacionales, la Lucha contra la Intolerancia y Discriminación, los Derechos Fundamentales, Asuntos

Humanitarios, Acervo de la OSCE en materia de protección a comunidades Roma y Sinti, Imperio de la Ley, Cuestiones de Género, Instituciones Democráticas, así como Actividades de las instituciones de la OSCE en materia de protección y promoción de los Derechos Humanos.

Como he mencionado anteriormente, el otro gran aspecto sobresaliente de las Reuniones de Varsovia es inseparablemente complementario del anterior: la presencia de la sociedad civil en condiciones de igualdad con los representantes gubernamentales e intergubernamentales. La dignidad de la mujer y del hombre, sus libertades y derechos, no pertenecen a los gobiernos, sino a la mujer y al hombre que los poseen y ejercen de forma inherente. Nuestros gobiernos cuentan por tarea la de defenderlos y garantizar su aplicación, y en tal empeño la sociedad civil, como propietaria de ellos y usufructuaria, desempeña un papel insustituible, primordial.

En este sentido, no puedo por más que reiterar la importancia que concede España, a título nacional y como Presidencia en ejercicio, a la participación de organizaciones no gubernamentales en los eventos de la OSCE dentro del respeto al acervo de la Organización. Tan sólo en el presente año, España organiza y financia tres actividades dirigidas específicamente a la sociedad civil: el Foro de ONG celebrado en Sevilla el pasado 13 de febrero, donde se creó una red de sociedad civil en el ámbito de los derechos humanos durante la presidencia española; la reunión de ONG en Jaén previa a la Conferencia de Córdoba sobre Intolerancia y Discriminación contra los Musulmanes (9- 10 octubre) y el Foro de la Juventud que se celebrará los días 5 y 6 de noviembre en Madrid y donde por vez primera en la historia de la Organización, se reunirán representantes de la joven sociedad civil de la OSCE. España, además, ha constituido y dotado un sustancial fondo para financiar la participación de ONG en eventos de la Dimensión Humana durante 2007. Creo, por tanto, que es difícil encontrar un compromiso más sólido con uno de los aspectos esenciales de nuestra Organización.

Excelencias,

Señoras y caballeros,

Los Derechos Humanos son una prioridad para la política de mi país. Como dijo el Presidente del Gobierno, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, ante la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas en diciembre de 2004, para que haya paz, seguridad y esperanza en muchos lugares del mundo es necesario reforzar los instrumentos internacionales de promoción y protección de los Derechos Humanos, así como su aplicación efectiva. Este es uno de los pilares de nuestra política exterior.

España desea estar a la vanguardia en la defensa de los Derechos Humanos en el mundo. Consecuentemente, nos hemos dotado, y nos estamos dotando, de importantes instrumentos internos en este sentido, desde la 'Ley Orgánica de Medidas Integrales contra la Violencia de Género' o el 'Plan Integral contra la Trata de Seres Humanos con fines de explotación sexual' que está siendo ultimado, hasta la promoción y desarrollo efectivo de los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, incluyendo medidas de acceso a la vivienda, la mejora de la salud pública, la protección de los sectores más desfavorecidos, así como la expansión del derecho a la educación gratuita, y la defensa de la diversidad cultural.

En el plano internacional, España ha defendido y defiende hitos tales como la abolición de la pena de muerte en todas circunstancias o la lucha contra la tortura, a través de la vindicación de la plena vigencia de los Protocolos y Convenios relevantes en estas materias. España ha tratado de demostrar con su experiencia que la fuerza de los Derechos Humanos, incluyendo la protección de sus víctimas, es inseparable de la lucha y victoria sobre el terrorismo. Asimismo, España ha pretendido contribuir a generar un debate constructivo y fecundo en la Comunidad Internacional a través de su iniciativa, copatrocinada con Turquía y luego asumida como propia por la Organización de Naciones Unidas, de una Alianza de Civilizaciones, que logre reforzar nuestra seguridad global a través del respeto mutuo y el entendimiento entre culturas. La Alianza está basada en ejes tales como la educación, la cultura, los medios de comunicación y la juventud, coincidentes por otro lado, con algunos de los vectores fundamentales de la Dimensión Humana de la OSCE.

En el caso concreto de la OSCE, España ha situado como prioridad de su presidencia en la Dimensión Humana las actividades encaminadas a fomentar una mayor participación y diversidad en nuestras sociedades, cada vez más plurales. A tal fin, ha dedicado el tema del Seminario de Dimensión Humana de este año a la “participación efectiva y representación en sociedades democráticas”. Sus conclusiones bien pudieran constituir la base de algún documento para ser aprobado en el Consejo Ministerial de Madrid. Asimismo, siguiendo lo que ya supone una tradición, la Presidencia española ha fomentado especialmente los programas y proyectos de la Oficina de Instituciones Democráticas y Derechos Humanos encaminados a la lucha contra las diversas formas de discriminación y a la educación para la tolerancia. En este sentido, un tema particularmente querido para esta Presidencia es la elaboración, para su presentación ante los estados participantes, de las llamadas “Directrices de Toledo para la enseñanza de la religión en las escuelas públicas”.

Excelencias,

Señoras y señores,

A la luz de todo lo expuesto, creo que esta Conferencia tan variada en temas y participación y que trata de la aplicación de un muy rico cúmulo de valores y principios deseados y de hecho alumbrados por todos los Estados participantes, bien puede constituir uno de los símbolos de la Organización toda, de su pasado, su presente y de su futuro también. Que puedan salir de aquí muchas recomendaciones queridas por todos para verlas plasmadas en el ya cercano Consejo Ministerial de Madrid es, más que un mero propósito de intenciones, un reto al que no debemos renunciar. Así lo haremos en todas y cada una de las diecisiete sesiones de trabajo y en otras actividades complementarias que tenemos por delante.

Muchas gracias por su atención.

**Opening statement by H.E. Witold Waszczykowski, Undersecretary of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland**

**Mister Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to welcome you all in Warsaw at the 2007 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Poland is proud and honored to be the host country of this event, which has been held in Warsaw since 1993.

Over the years the Meeting has come to be recognized as one of the most significant forums devoted to human rights. Today its results are a major component of the efforts to consolidate international security and peaceful coexistence. Expanding agenda and growing number of participants testify that the importance of the HDIM is constantly increasing.

I am happy to see here so many delegates from the OSCE participating states, OSCE institutions and field presences as well as numerous representatives of other international organizations. I fully agree with ODIHR Director Ambassador Christian Strohal that: “The participation of NGO’s at this conference on an equal footing with government representatives is essential for fulfilling the HDIM tasks”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The list of challenges and threats we have to confront today is indeed long. The most prominent of them are: terrorism, trans-border crime activities, trafficking in human beings, racism, xenophobia and intolerance. I am confident that the next two weeks of debate on the by states of their OSCE human dimension commitments will provide valuable guidance for our future actions against aforementioned challenges. This Meeting offers us an excellent opportunity to affirm our dedication to the principles of democracy, observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and other profound issues at the heart of the OSCE mission.

It is also our duty to keep reminding the international community that the actions against terrorism and other threats, must not be achieved at the expense of human rights and individual freedoms. The human dimension acquis of the OSCE must not be questioned, while the commitments we have assumed must be fully implemented.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, trafficking in human beings is the third largest criminal activity in the world today and the fastest-growing one after drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade. Trafficked persons are subject not only to sexual exploitation, but also to work-related exploitation in various sectors, including domestic service, construction and agriculture. For those reasons, most of the victims of this scourge are women and children. Poland was recently shocked by the death of three Chechen young girls, frozen and exhausted while trying with their mother to illegally cross Poland on their way to Western Europe. Let that be an example that our work against those challenges during the seminar is gravely serious. I hope the Warsaw Meeting will significantly contribute to progress in this regard.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ODIHR, which plays significant role in disseminating international standards for free elections, rule of law and human rights, is of special importance to Poland. We firmly believe that the ODIHR's independent position should be preserved and its outstanding work in election observation continued.

Here, I particularly wish to thank Ambassador Strohal and his dedicated staff for their consistent work over many years and the preparation of this event.

I wish you fruitful work during the Meeting. There are two weeks of hard but important work ahead of us. As every year, it should advance confidence through dialog and produce tangible results in the form of concrete projects. This is expected of us.

But before we start our deliberations both in regular sessions and in the side events, I'd like to invite you to a reception given tonight by the Polish Foreign Ministry at Foksal Street, where the atmosphere promises to be more informal.

Thank you for your attention.

**Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE
ODIHR**

Mr. Chairman,

Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to be addressing you with such a distinguished group of speakers.

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is a key moment on the OSCE calendar. And rightly so, the HDIM is the largest meeting of its kind in the OSCE area; it is also the longest and most inclusive.

The HDIM pays tribute to one of the core messages of the OSCE and of the CSCE before it. This message is one that places fundamental freedoms and human rights at the heart of OSCE preoccupations about common security, that engages all fifty-six participating States in a continual dialogue about their nature and implementation, and that harnesses the vitality of civil society in the process.

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting shows the common values at the heart of the OSCE as both a legacy to be carried forward and a living project to be refined constantly, on the basis of equality and in the spirit of co-operative security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

OSCE commitments are relevant because they reflect the interaction of principles and values with the changing face of reality. The confrontation of values and realities entails a process of constant debate around the nature of OSCE commitments and shared values. New issues arise, old commitments take on new contours, and new engagements are taken. The HDIM is vital to this process.

These commitments remain equal for all participating States seeking continually to improve their adoption of common standards through shared policies and practices.

OSCE commitments are politically-binding, and they are unambiguous in their intent to forge common security through co-operation. To the extent that they have been reached through consensus, participating States are all unequivocally bound to work towards their implementation.

Implementation is not a one-off decision. It is a path of patience rather than one of haste, a path of progress and consolidation. What matters in this process must be the constantly renewed spirit of dedication by each and every participating State towards the OSCE compendium of commitments, including in the Human Dimension, and clear evidence of their translation into practice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Which policies in OSCE participating States have been successful in promoting inclusiveness, understanding and tolerance? Do the constitutional and legislative frameworks of participating States ensure separation of powers as a fundamental element of democratic order? What steps have participating States taken to ensure that counter-terrorism provisions adhere to international human rights law? What are the main challenges that States face in meeting their commitments regarding the conduct of democratic elections?

These are just a few of the questions that we will address over the next two weeks. The questions are difficult and require complex answers. Addressing them places a premium on co-ordination within the OSCE and with key partners.

A first challenge is to strengthen coherence *within* the OSCE. Managing such a de-centralized organization as ours, with its comprehensive approach to security and its unique role in the Human Dimension, is a tall order. In order to improve our effectiveness in a restrained budgetary environment, effective co-ordination is vital. Especially as more and more OSCE activities are cross-dimensional. We can do more to share expertise, to join thinking and actions between units and Institutions -- in order to pool resources in a more targeted manner.

On this point, I am pleased to underline the experience of the joint work of the Secretariat and ODIHR on Organized Crime. In the first half of 2007, different elements of the OSCE, including the Secretariat, the ODIHR and the field missions came together to coordinate activities and consider the best possible way to put into practice the Ministerial Decision 5/06 on Organized Crime. The output of this process was the first joint report of the Secretary General and the Director/ODIHR, presented to the Permanent Council on July 19th.

Addressing difficult questions also calls for greater co-ordination with external partners.

As Secretary General, it is my task to ensure effective and continuous working contacts with other international organizations. Since 2005, we have a framework for deepening co-operation with the Council of Europe; we can do more to take this further.

OSCE relations with the United Nations and its agencies, in line with our special role as a regional arrangement of the UN under Chapter VIII, are vital. The OSCE has a lot of experience and expertise to share with the UN and others in areas of capacity-building, particularly in the Human Dimension. We have almost unparalleled standards, instruments and institutions on national minorities, freedom of the media, democratization and the rule of law. Our experience stands to be shared.

Greater co-ordination with the NGO community is vitally important.

Civil society has always been a privileged partner of the OSCE. NGOs are the founding pillars of a healthy civil society and a healthy international society. I understand some three hundred NGOs are represented at this Meeting, highlighting the importance of NGOs in assisting the implementation of commitments by participating States. I look forward to listening to your views and thoughtful assessments and suggestions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are grateful for the priority given by the Spanish Chairmanship to the challenges of responding to intolerance, and discrimination. The OSCE *Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual respect and Understanding*, held in Bucharest in June was an important undertaking, as will be the OSCE *Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* in Cordoba on 9-10 October.

OSCE States share the challenge of integrating diversity into healthy societies and polities. This issue bridges the misleading notions of ‘east of Vienna’ and ‘west of Vienna,’ of North and South.

Stereotyping, discrimination of all sorts, marginalization, and a lack of integration can rip the fibres of delicately inter-woven communities. This can lead to the anger and resentment that breeds hate and even violence. This can lead also to the greatest losses of all – the loss of our histories of tolerance, the loss of the richness of our diversity, and the loss of the potential these qualities holds out for future generations.

On this point, I wish to note that the OSCE is actively following the development of the *Alliance of Civilizations Initiative*, especially after the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of Jorge Sampaio, the former President of Portugal, as High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

The thesis of the 2006 OSCE Contribution to the Initiative remains valid: As an organization of common commitments and values among equals that spans three continents encompassing major world religions and cultures, the OSCE is itself already an alliance of civilizations in action.

I am pleased to see the organization during the HDIM of a Special Day on gender aspects of security. This reflects clear recognition that gender equality is vital for the OSCE’s goal of comprehensive security.

The report I presented to the Permanent Council in July outlined some of the gaps we still face in the implementation of the *OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*. In particular, the need to integrate further the gender perspective in the OSCE politico-military dimension was highlighted.

I look forward to debate on the progress reached in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 during the HDIM Special Day. Clearly there must be greater commitment, co-operation and coordination between participating States, senior management and those in leadership positions in order to step-up efforts in this area.

It is important that our discussions consider the implementation of the *OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings*. We are grateful to the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Eva Biaudet, for her work in catalyzing further innovative co-operation in this key area. More needs to be done to break the cycle of trafficking, to identify, protect and assist the individual victims of this crime and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In over thirty two years, the OSCE has proved itself as a laboratory of ideas and instruments for tackling threats and challenges to security. The organic evolution of the Human Dimension, the constant debate between States and society that it reflects, is one of the greatest attributes of the Organization and clear evidence of its usefulness.

The OSCE is not a military alliance or an economic union. It is a community of values as much as a community of interests. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that the commitments designed to uphold those values remain salient and are applied. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is a vital part of this process.

Please allow me to congratulate Ambassador Strohal and his team for their leadership and vision in organizing this Meeting. I am also pleased to be seated along side with the new High Commissioner of National Minorities, who has already contributed so much to the OSCE. Knut, I wish you every success with your mission.

Thank you for your attention.

Thank you Christian.

Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Mr Chairman, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to address you today. It is highly appropriate that my first speech as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) is made during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting here in Warsaw. I wish to thank Ambassador Christian Strohal and his team for organizing this annual meeting which has become the most

important European forum for the regular review of human dimension commitments. As I take up my mandate as High Commissioner I look forward to working with you in order to improve the implementation of human dimension commitments.

As former Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, this Organization is not a *terra incognita* for me. However, a lot has happened since 1999. My mandate brings important new challenges with it, challenges facing the whole OSCE and its participating States.

The OSCE's *raison d'être* is, first and foremost, its efforts to **prevent conflicts** between and within its 56 participating States. If we do not succeed in conflict prevention, the damage that conflicts cause to people, the economies and the environment can last for decades and create a huge need for post-conflict rehabilitation.

Thus, the OSCE's mission to prevent conflicts is as important today as it was at the time of the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. The creation of the institution of the HCNM in 1992 demonstrated the OSCE's ability to address also the situation after the Cold War when most conflicts are fought over ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural issues. Many of these conflicts concern minority groups that may have been marginalised politically, excluded economically, oppressed culturally and isolated socially. Existing tensions are exacerbated when persons belonging to minorities are discriminated against or put under pressure to give up certain aspects of their identity, such as their culture, religion or language. As the first High Commissioner Mr. Max van der Stoep so rightly said, "where there is injustice, there is insecurity and this in time gives rise to instability and ultimately threats to peace". Thus we should continuously remind ourselves of the need to address tension before it becomes a conflict. Inter-ethnic conflicts are not natural disasters. They are not inevitable.

In the past 15 years of implementing the HCNM mandate, the work of my two distinguished predecessors has clearly demonstrated this. They were successful when they were able to detect the problem at an early stage and then address the situation together with all parties concerned. In the words of the HCNM mandate this means: "providing **early warning** and, as appropriate, **early action** in regard to tensions involving national minority issues which have not yet developed beyond an early warning stage, but, in the judgement of the High Commissioner, have the potential to develop into a conflict within the OSCE area".

The mandate of the HCNM seems clear enough. The task of fulfilling the mandate is a challenge. Still today there are many difficult issues confronting the States of the OSCE region and it often proves difficult to draw attention of the international community to tensions between different national, ethnic, religious or linguistic groups until violence actually erupts. While respecting and using the confidentiality requirements and all other elements of my mandate, I will make continuous and determined efforts to start, maintain and enhance whatever processes that are deemed necessary to de-escalate tensions. In the medium and long term perspectives, this should always be followed up by efforts to resolve the underlying issues and the more deep-rooted causes of conflict. To this end I will continue, like my predecessors, to make concrete and practical recommendations to States and national minorities alike. These may include changes in legislation, institutions or policies towards minorities. I will aim at continuing to back up such recommendations and guidelines by targeted programmes and projects to help ensuring the implementation of policies to reduce tensions.

This is a task of enormous proportions and one in which the HCNM can only assist the parties by applying his approach of "quiet diplomacy". After all, it is the parties themselves who will need to adopt and implement solutions which more often than now will have to reflect a compromise reached or brokered between them. We can help the parties concerned by providing assistance in the form of diplomatic engagement, expertise and standard-setting, but it is ultimately up to the States themselves and the minorities involved to develop positive attitudes, a necessary precondition to avoiding conflict. In this context I would like to stress three aspects:

First, I still see the **participating States** of the OSCE as the most important guarantors for ensuring the respect for and full implementation of minority rights. Without well-functioning, democratic and accountable States, based on the rule of law, the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language are likely to be violated. Furthermore, without the protection of their rights by the State, the minorities become vulnerable and will increase the potential for conflicts. It is for this reason that I dare to say that good governance and well-functioning institutions are the first and best instruments to prevent conflicts. The more democratic a system of governance is, the greater the opportunity for a peaceful and stable situation.

Second, States as well as the international community should consider and treat **national minorities** as full partners who need to be included in the process of devising and implementing all policies which affect them, whether these policies are economic, social or cultural in character. My door will always be open to them. My services will always be available. At the same time, I need to repeat that I am the High Commissioner *on* rather than *for* National Minorities. I am not an Ombudsman for National Minorities. Minorities may sometimes need to be cautioned on the need to move away from "maximalist" positions.

Third, the **international community** has a particular responsibility in the prevention of conflicts and in assisting States in implementing the commitments they have undertaken concerning the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. I therefore intend to pursue close co-operation with the participating States as well as with international organizations. Only a combined approach by all the relevant institutions can lead to effective results. As the OSCE focal point on national minorities I would like to co-operate closely within the Organization, in particular with the ODIHR. Like my predecessors, I will continue to expand the co-operation which is already in place particularly with the European Union, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations as well as its respective specialized institutions. I will continue to develop close contacts with the various bodies of the CoE. In this context, allow me to inform you about a modest but significant success story. This summer the first-ever joint OSCE-CoE publication was issued: "National Minority Standards. A Compilation of OSCE and Council of Europe Texts".

Mr Chairman,

Let me finally underline that the international minority standards are not only binding for the OSCE and its participating States, but also for the national minorities and should be respected by all other actors. In my opinion, the international community in general, and the OSCE in particular, have been quite successful in developing **adequate international standards** on human and minority rights, establishing fora for dialogue, methods of international co-operation and follow-up instruments. I would like to stress that these are the minimum standards to which all participating States have freely committed themselves. Sometimes

however more detailed rules, recommendations or guidelines are indispensable in helping public authorities and minorities in addressing, designing and pursuing well-targeted policies implementing national minority commitments. This is why my predecessors endorsed five sets of recommendations in the field of education, languages, participation, broadcast media and policing in multi-ethnic societies. Furthermore together with a group of experts I continue the examination of possible recommendations on the transfrontier co-operation of states for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

As was underlined by the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons in 2005, "OSCE values and commitments are the bedrock on which the Organization stands." What is required, therefore, is the consistent and effective implementation of these standards throughout the OSCE area. All participating States have declared that the commitments undertaken within the human dimension of the OSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all of them and no longer belong exclusively to the sphere of internal affairs of the State concerned. It is anything but easy to always be consistent in such a commitment, but today's increasingly interconnected world makes this not only an opportunity for modern governance, but also a requirement for guaranteeing security.

In addressing these issues, a "one-size-fits-all" solution is out of the question. What is certain, however, is that a long-term commitment throughout the OSCE area is needed in order to gradually dispense with simplistic approaches. A rhetoric of "us" and "them" is detrimental with respect to the accommodation of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious differences. Separation is not the solution; only reasonable integration can help solve the problems.

Thank you.

Mr. Miklos Haraszti, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen:

In a recent report to the 56 Ambassadors present in the Permanent Council in Vienna, I provided a list of the gravest dangers looming for media freedom in the OSCE area.

As *danger number one*, I named violence against journalists, and I added: "There is only one thing more intimidating for free speech than harassment, physical attacks, and murder of media workers; and that is when governments *tolerate* harassment, attacks, and murders."

Obviously, all loss of life and violence suffered by journalists at work is tragic and a setback for the profession. But worse is the aggression and murder as *punishment for exercising journalism*.

Violence against journalists: why the gravest danger?

In the OSCE area, we have an endless list of challenges to freedom of media, west as well as east of Vienna. In this keynote speech, I chose to highlight the root causes of peacetime, targeted killing of journalists, and especially of killing of journalists in revenge for critical coverage. It is more dangerous than the next great sin against freedom of the press – unfortunately also quite common – which is a systemic lack of pluralism, undue governmental

influence, and monopolisation of mass media. The violence issue encapsulates in an educative way many other challenges.

- When there is brutality as punishment for the journalists' work, then it is also a message; to the colleagues, editors, owners, and to all their families.
- Violence becomes censorship far beyond the context of the actual controversy; it will impede the press in performing its most important task in defence of democracy, because it is journalists covering human rights abuses and corruption scandals that are most punished with violence.
- The effect of the violence extends to the whole society by collapsing editors' willpower. Editors are the ones in any democracy that practically define which issues are to be reported and discussed.
- Finally, violence against journalists joins even the forces that commercialise the media. It adds the element of physical fear to the effects that today are pushing the media away from meaningful information, towards empty entertainment.

What can governments do about it?

As an intergovernmental watchdog, my duty is to ask governments if they have done everything in their power against this plague.

Governments can do a lot because, knowingly or not, they always play a role in the commencement of violence, even if they were not among those who ordered the killings.

I will name several major governmental sins; root causes in the genesis and evolution of violence against journalists.

Impunity for assaults against journalists

When violence against journalism can count on a practical impunity, it is no exaggeration to claim that this indifference by the authorities encourages and perpetuates the crime.

Failure to find the perpetrators may happen even to the best of detectives. But with apathy, law enforcement seems to share the motives of the perpetrators.

Idleness in stopping violence kills hope. Otherwise, there would be enormous reserves for putting things right. In every generation there are risk-taking, brave groups of journalists, especially young ones, who are enticed by the adventure of professionalism.

But that adventure can happen only if the risks remain professional, legal or political. Hope for change is still-born if quality and energy are self-defeating notions, because the system allows violence to seal quality's fate.

Criminalisation of journalism

Impunity does not start with the actual failure to successfully investigate and prosecute murders of journalists. It starts with criminalisation of journalist offences, which is, in fact, the criminalisation of the offence of journalism.

Violence against journalists and official deprivation of their freedom are intricately linked. Before becoming plaintiffs in violence cases, journalists are defendants in criminal cases - for speech offenses!

State hostility and violence against journalists: street arrests, detention, criminal prosecution, and all for their reporting – are gateways to unofficial violence: threats, assault and murder.

This is more than clear from the most notable cases of journalists murdered in the last several years – those of Elmar Huseynov (2005), Anna Politkovskaya (2006) and Hrant Dink (2007). All were preceded by numerous criminal proceedings against these journalists at some point in their careers.

Criminalisation of journalism works as declaration of open season on journalists.

Sometimes incarceration of journalists is presented as a “buffer” which may protect journalists against arbitrary popular violence. The opposite is true. The criminalized journalists are practically exposed as VRAGI NARODA, the enemy of the people. Governments cannot escape their responsibility for the attacks against them.

Discrimination against the independent press

As a rule, it is the opposition, independent and investigative journalists who are victims of detention, imprisonment, fines and administrative harassment on the one hand, and, are, on the other hand, liable to threats, assaults, kidnappings and murder.

We have to see that in most nations where violence against journalists is prevalent there still exists a strong state-owned media sector. That would be no problem if it was only a transitory phenomenon on the way from command economy to an open one.

But the very states that tolerate violence against journalists (and practically instigate it by criminalizing journalism), are often also using the power of the state to discriminate against the fragile independent press, in favor of the state media sector.

Discrimination against non-state journalism is detectable in the registration and licensing regime, in taxation, in printing and distribution possibilities, and in advertising revenue earned from government.

No wonder that as a rule, violence against journalists also hits the independents in the first place, just as does the failure to successfully prosecute the murders.

Most victims have worked for the independent papers. I tend to see the whole conundrum of violence against journalist in the new democracies as a by-product of the protracted transition of media ownership from state property to civil property.

Democratising media means handing the press from government custody over to the people; the acknowledgment that media is a civil endeavor, and that the only job it leaves to government is self-restraint.

I am afraid impunity of violence against journalist is linked with the difficulties in quite a few governments to embrace this cause.

Intolerance vis-à-vis coverage of demonstrations

The right to demonstrate is not only consisting of free assembly, it is a speech right, too.

Violence against journalists is more likely to be met with impunity where unsanctioned demonstrations are met with violence, even if peaceful; where the media that wants to report on this are treated as part of the unsanctioned demonstration; and where the officers responsible for the abuses are not prosecuted.

Tolerance towards well-known journalist-beating police can too easily be the very psychology that underlies the law-enforcement's lenience towards unknown journalist beating perpetrators.

Recommendations

Governments obviously must adhere to the recent UN Security Council Resolution No. 1738, "Condemning attacks against journalists".

I find also great value in Resolution 1535 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, "Threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists".

The issue of violence against journalists should be put visibly high on the national agenda.

An unequivocal acknowledgement of the gravity of the situation, and an unmistakable declaration of the aim to put it right, could do wonders.

The investigations should be given a journalist-friendly handling.

Setting up a centre that deals exclusively with them seems to be a must. It could operate a special website, listing the cases and demonstrating the progress made.

Governments must be aware of the linkage between governmental respect for media and the level of societal violence against the media.

Peaceful speech offences, such as defamation, libel, and insult must be decriminalised; their handling should be transferred into the civil-law domain.

Special provisions on insult of officials, presidents, state institutions, symbols of the state should be abolished.

Administrative discrimination against the independent, opposition, and investigative press should be stopped.

Governments will have done most of what is doable if they accept that the press is a civil society endeavour; and would be ready to walk the journey from state to civil media, from monopoly to pluralism.

Calls for violence against journalism, even if made as fatwas, under the guise of demanding tolerance towards religions, should be vigorously refuted and criminalised.

Mr. Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director of the International Helsinki Federation

Excellencies, and colleagues, Chairman,

I am grateful for the opportunity to address you at the beginning of the 2007 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE.

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is generally considered to be the main annual human rights event in the Euro-Atlantic region.

I would like to start, ladies and gentlemen, by placing this meeting in a historical context. Over thirty years ago our leaders began a process by which Helsinki signatory states could hold one another accountable for adhering to common security and human rights commitments, and where citizens could report on their analyses.

The real origins of the Helsinki Process are in fact much deeper in our history, and are found at the beginnings of the human rights tradition. But no other group of nations on Earth has ever gone farther than the Helsinki signatory states to pledge fidelity to fundamental human rights principles, and in doing so to contribute to mankind's march toward emancipation, toward freedom, toward democracy, toward civil society—indeed, toward bringing political practices in line with the moral obligations of our civilization, and in fact, with the demands of human nature.

The Helsinki Process is not a bureaucratic exercise. As a former intellectual and student of cultural anthropology, I see this meeting as an international political ritual where our commitments to fundamental principles are measured against reality. The HDIM is a confrontation between the words and rhetoric generated in diplomatic debates, and the immediate, concrete impact of what happens in the real world. The sinners are called upon to repent. We are all sinners; yet we are all part of an interdependent community of peoples and nations, dedicated to one another. But the days are over when transgressions of common human rights standards can credibly be regarded as “internal matters”. Today, human rights problems anywhere are matters of legitimate international concern. They are threats to human security, the security of a humanity, ultimately, without borders.

The Helsinki Accords and Follow-Up Documents represent the highest level ever reached of committing governments to the universality of human rights and the political means to implement it. I have been working on problems of political reform and human rights in this region since 1991. Let me tell you why the word “Helsinki” has become emblematic of the

hopes and dreams of the people to whom you, as high government officials, are responsible. And why we must not squander this precious legacy of commitments it is our duty to honor.

First of all, “Helsinki” means peace. It means finding peaceful solutions to internal and cross-border disputes, a commitment to dialogue and to negotiations instead of using military force and violence. “Helsinki” means the Rule of Law. To citizens the Rule of Law primarily means that governments should be constrained by parliaments and courts to act within the law. For citizens this means freedom from fear, and confidence in state institutions.

For your fellow citizens, “Helsinki” means--in plain language--treating them with common human decency. Perhaps you do not often find those words in the cloud of technical and legalistic language that dominates this field, but isn't this what it is all about? When we speak about respecting basic human rights and freedoms, we are speaking about acting in accordance with moral principles, especially those that command us to treat others with respect and dignity, in fact, treating others as we would wish to be treated, which is the core principle that unites the main ethical and humanistic traditions found in our societies—the traditions, indeed, that are the ultimate basis for the OSCE commitments.

Respected colleagues, we are at a crucial point in the history of this organization devoted to implementing the Helsinki principles that have been a historic step toward peace and respect for human dignity. What will we do? How seriously will we take our responsibilities? How will succeeding generations judge us? Does it matter if we turn our backs on human rights?

We in the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights are concerned because so many people in OSCE participating States have no opportunity to make free political choices in democratic elections. Instead we see bogus or Potemkin-village style elections that resemble those organized in the Soviet Union. Some leaders seem afraid of democracy. They assert that so-called stability is more important than democracy, but it is clear to any objective observer that violations of democratic principles are not only rejections of international standards and law; they are simply impractical if we are concerned about stability and security. In this day and age, people denied democracy will be restless and might seek power violently if democracy is thwarted because of short-sighted political expediency. There is nothing stable about vertical power arrangements, authoritarianism, and dictatorship. Pluralism will always exist. To recognize it is the stable and secure approach.

Restrictions on the flow of information and opinion do not contribute to stability and security, either. What they do is create societies full of rumours, fantasies and fear. They dramatically reduce the possibility of citizens working with governments to solve social problems and to develop politically, intellectually, and spiritually. Corruption and waste thrive in the darkness, and so do violations of social and economic rights. How can we imagine addressing all the problems of the poor, the elderly, and the infirm, if there is no transparency?

The liberalization of policies regarding minority religions that began in the 1990s seems to have largely stopped and new laws pose serious restrictions on freedom of conscience and religion. Now, and especially when it comes to Muslim activities, such restrictions are often justified by “national security.” But religious minority groups appear to be generally perceived as threats on grounds that are difficult to comprehend, while the loyalty of some mainstream religious communities is bought through protecting their traditionally privileged status, their market share of believers.

Participating States are waffeling on questions like torture, arbitrary detention, the right to counsel, and extradition. These policies deprive our societies of what can be one of the most powerful shields against terrorism: commitment to human rights.

We are concerned because civil society and in particular, the human rights communities that are the voice of the vulnerable are being persecuted in numerous participating States and in danger of being squeezed out of the OSCE.

It is not a good thing when members of governing or ruling elites are isolated and have little information and understanding about what is happening in their own societies, and live within the confines of a hermetic ideological reality system.

The greatest potential of the HDIM lies in the opportunity to listen to civil society, and listen with an open mind. That means not to *a priori* classify appeals about human rights problems as political attacks, hiding behind the so-called war on terrorism or trumped-up national antagonisms to discredit anyone with a critical point.

Reports from civil society or from other governments about human rights problems should not be dismissed, they should be followed up. They should be investigated if only because they may signal suffering that can snowball into a security problem—for you. Any participating State acknowledging a human rights problem can get plenty of help solving it, and can get plenty of understanding and cooperation. Let us work together.

The OSCE institutions should not be deprived of their potential to assist participating States hold free and fair elections, to work toward the goal of independent courts, and strengthen democratic developments. Too many questions that have real impact on people's lives aren't being addressed because of pointless politicization.

I am appealing to you, on behalf of all the human rights communities in the region, not to turn away from the ideas and goals that built this organization, made it exceptional, and that connect it to the human rights tradition.

Thank you for your attention.

- ***LINK TO THE TIMETABLE***

https://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/09/26373_en.pdf

- ***MODALITIES FOR OSCE MEETING ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES***

Please refer to the OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 476, 23 May 2002 (Relevant Provisions)

- ***LINK TO THE ANNOTATED AGENDA***

English: http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/08/25845_en.pdf

Russian: http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/08/25845_ru.pdf

- ***LINK TO THE OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS***

English only: http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/09/26374_en.pdf

- ***LINKs TO JOURNALS***

Overview of Day 1: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25855

Overview of Day 2: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25856

Overview of Day 3: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25857

Overview of Day 4: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25858

Overview of Day 5: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25859

Overview of Day 6: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25860

Overview of Day 7: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25861

Overview of Day 8: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25862

Overview of Day 9: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25863

Overview of Day 10: http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2007.html?page=25864

• **INDEX OF DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTS**

OSCE Participating States

Albania	363. Statement by Ambassador Florent Celiku on trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages]
Germany	20. Statement of the autochthonous national minorities in Germany, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages; German, 2 pages] 69. Statement on tolerance and non-discrimination, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [German, 1 page]
United States of America	94. Opening statement as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Julie Finley, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 4 pages] 95. Statement on tolerance and non-discrimination as prepared for delivery by Director for European Security and Political Affairs Gary Robbins, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages] 96. Statement on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages] 211. Statement on combating intolerance as prepared for delivery by Gregg Rickman, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 3 pages] 153. Statement on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages] 266. Statement on Migrant Workers, Refugees and Displaced persons, Treatment of Citizens of Other Participating States as prepared for delivery by Erika Schlager, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 3 pages] 267. Statement on Roma and Sinti as prepared for delivery by Nathan Mick, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 2 pages] 268. Statement on Roma and Sinti - political participation by Roma as prepared for delivery by Nathan Mick, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 2 pages] 269. Statement on the separation of powers and democratic law-making as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 3 pages] 275. Statement on protection of human rights and fighting terrorism as prepared for delivery by EUR/RPM Director Gary Robinson, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages] 311. Statement on gender aspects of security as prepared for delivery by Gael Strack, Executive Director National and International Family Justice Center, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 4 pages] 312. Statement on gender aspects of security II as prepared for delivery by Gael Strack, Executive Director, National and International Family Justice Center, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 2 pages] 391. Statement on trafficking in human beings as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Williamson, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and

	<p>other commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>392. Statement on the independence of the judiciary and right to a fair trial as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Williamson, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>477. Statement on democratic elections as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 7 pages]</p> <p>478. Statement on freedom of the media and expression as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>482. Statement on Freedom of Association and Freedom of Assembly as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>508. Right of reply: statement on "Russia Rebuttal" as prepared for delivery by Ambassador Richard Williamson, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 6 pages]</p> <p>509. Closing remarks of Jonathan D. Farrar, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [English, 4 pages]</p>
Austria	<p>106. Statement on the legislative frame within which all religious communities can practice their belief in Austria, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>500. Written contribution "The Austrian Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security", Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Azerbaijan	<p>101. Statement on tolerance, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>339. Statement on gender aspects of security I, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>307. Written statement on the role of Ombudsman in Azerbaijan, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>352. Information on Activities of the Ombudsman of Azerbaijan with regards to trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>361. Statement on combating human trafficking, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 6 pages]</p> <p>383. Statement on the rule of law, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 5 pages]</p> <p>487. Statement on freedom of expression, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>466. Statement on the role of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan in human rights protection, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 3 pages]</p>
Belarus	<p>9. Opening Statement,, Opening Plenary Session. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>18. Information on the national minorities in Belarus, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [Russian, 14 pages]</p> <p>33. Statement by Mr. Yury Uralsky, Head of Unit on nationalities and Legal Work, Office of High Representative on Religions and Nationalities, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>99. Statement by Mr. Yury Uralsky on the fight against xenophobia and discrimination in Belarus, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding -</p>

	<p>implementation of commitments (continued). [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>100. Written contribution on "Legislation of the Republic of Belarus in the sphere of combating discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [Russian, 7 pages]</p> <p>139. Statement by Mr. Yury Uralsky, head of Unit on nationalities and Legal Work, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>140. Information on securing rights of citizens to the freedom of conscience and religion in the Republic of Belarus, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>191. Statement on the situation of Roma national minority in the Republic of Belarus, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>300. Statement on the equality between women and men in Republic of Belarus, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [Russian, 6 pages]</p> <p>388. Statement on trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>475. Statement on activities of the OSCE ODIHR, Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [Russian, 4 pages]</p>
Bulgaria	<p>305. Right of Reply, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 1 page]</p>
Canada	<p>512. Statement on combating intolerance and discrimination, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>513. Statement on the violence against women, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>514. Statement on the UNSC Resolution 1325, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>515. Statement on democratic institutions, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>516. Statement on the ODIHR's human dimension activities, Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>517. Statement on freedom of assembly and association., Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [French, 3 pages]</p>
Cyprus	<p>450. Written contribution "Understanding the Propaganda Bluff that Greek Cypriots Subject Turkish Cypriots to >Sanctions, Embargos and Isolation<", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>451. "Policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus regarding the inclusion of Turkish Cypriots and other non-native language speaking students in the Cypriot Educational System", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>452. Statement in the exercise of the Right of Reply, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>453. Statement in exercise of the Right of Reply, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Croatia	<p>217. Right to Reply, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 3 pages]</p>

	<p>287. Statement on violence against women and equality of opportunity between women and men, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>358. Statement on combating trafficking in human beings - national capacity, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Spain	<p>151. Opening Statement by Secretary of State for EU Affairs, Mr. Alberto Navarro, Opening Plenary Session. [Spanish, 6 pages]</p> <p>81. Remarks by Ambassador Omur Orhun, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>92. Speaking notes by Ambassador Omur Orhun, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims, Side Event: Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims - Youth and Education. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>472. Statement by Ambassador of Spain to Poland, Mr. Rafael Mendivil, Side Event: Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims - Youth and Education. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>306. Statement on behalf of the OSCE Chairmanship confirming the open participation in the Human Dimension Meetings, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Spanish, 1 page]</p> <p>152. Information on the NGO Meeting (Jaen, October 8th) prior to the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims (Cordoba, October 9th-10th), Other Documents. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>518. Intervention by Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Special Representative of the Chair in Office of the OSCE on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and members of Other Religions, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p>
France	<p>203. Statement in the exercise of the Right of Reply, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [French, 1 page]</p>
Georgia	<p>58. Statement, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>157. Statement on Migrant Workers, integration of legal migrants; Refugees and displaced persons; Treatment of citizens of other participating States, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>222. Special Report of the Public Defender of Georgia "For the Prevention of Torture (for the Period of 2004-2007), Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 40 pages]</p> <p>432. Report of the Public Defender on the Situation of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia. The second half 2006, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 141 pages]</p> <p>433. Report on the Violations of Human Rights in the Conflict Zones, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 199 pages]</p> <p>434. "Human Rights in Georgia" Report of the Public Defender. First half of 2006, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 326 pages]</p> <p>435. Article 184 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]</p>
United Kingdom	<p>93. Written contribution "The OSCE Berlin Declaration", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English,</p>

	<p>5 pages]</p> <p>314. United Kingdom response to Statement of Amnesty International, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>417. UNSCR 1325 - UK Presentation on National Action Plan, Side Event: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security- Implementation in Practice. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>423. UK Statement on UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>387. Statement on the "Abolition of the Slave Trade and Trafficking in Human Beings", Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>416. Statement in response to the Delegations of the Russian Federation and Belarus, Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [English, 1 page]</p>
Greece	<p>179. Statement in exercise of the Right of Reply, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>180. Statement in exercise of the Right of Reply, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>204. Statement in exercise of the Right of reply, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>238. Statement on Intercultural Education Measures in the Greek Educational System, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>210. Statement on Roma and Sinti, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Hungary	<p>198. Report "Decade of Roma Inclusion - Hungarian presidency program (July 1st, 2007 - June 30th, 2008), Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Italy	<p>90. Introductory Statement by Ms. Tana De Zulueta "The role of Parliamentarians in the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other forms of intolerance", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>493. Speech by Prefect Dr. Perla STancari, Central Director for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities, Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 2 pages; Italian, 3 pages]</p>
Kazakhstan	<p>3. Opening Statement by Ambassador Sagynbek Tursunov, Opening Plenary Session. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>62. Statement by the Head of the Delegation, Ambassador Sagynbek Tursunov, Commission on Human Rights under the President, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>131. Statement by Mr. A. Muhashov, Deputy Chairman of Committee on Religion Affairs, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>245. Statement by the Vice-Minister of Justice on the rule of law, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>246. Statement by Vice-Minister of Justice on the Rule of Law II, Working</p>

	<p>Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>341. Statement on the right to a fair trial and independence of the judiciary, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>380. Statement by Mr. Marat Sarsembayev, member of the Central Election Commission, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>488. Closing Statement, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [Russian, 4 pages]</p>
Liechtenstein	<p>82. Written contribution on "Integration of the foreign population in Liechtenstein", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 6 pages]</p>
Lithuania	<p>340. Statement of Ms. Julija Staskovskaja, Ministry of the Interior, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Montenegro	<p>158. Information on the situation which relates to the issues of refugees and displaced persons in Montenegro, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Norway	<p>2. Opening Statement by the Ambassador Guttorm Vik, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>165. Statement by Ambassador Guttorm Vik on migrant workers, integration of legal migrants, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>214. Statement by Mr. Lars Sigurd Valvatne, Senior Advisor, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>308. Statement by Senior Adviser Birgit Kleven, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>413. Statement on freedom of media, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Poland	<p>11. Opening Address by Witold Waszczykowski, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>264. Statement on prevention of torture in Poland by MA Eva Dawidziuk, The Executive Criminal Law Department, Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 5 pages]</p>
Uzbekistan	<p>164. Statement on freedom of religion and belief in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>289. Statement on abolition of capital punishment in Uzbekistan, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>294. Statement on equality of opportunity for women and men in Uzbekistan, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [Russian, 4 pages]</p>
Portugal	<p>8. EU Opening Statement, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>25. European Union Statement on Tolerance and non-discrimination, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>70. European Union statement, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>71. Written recommendations, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>136. European Union statement on the freedom of religion and belief, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>182. European Union statement on migration, Working Session 5: Humanitarian</p>

	<p>issues and other commitments I. [French, 4 pages]</p> <p>209. European Union statement on Roma and Sinti, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>262. European Union statement on the rule of law, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>272. European Union statement on capital punishment, torture and human rights and fighting terrorism, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>273. Written recommendations, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>274. Statement of Portugal on the participation of the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society in the OSCE 2007 HDIM, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>292. European Union statement on Gender aspects of security, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>313. European Union statement on Gender Aspects of Security II, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>349. European Union statement on the fight against trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>350. Written recommendations by the European Union, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>367. European Union statement on Independence of the Judiciary and Right to a Fair Trial, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>390. European Union statement on democratic institutions, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 6 pages]</p> <p>393. European Union statement on the OSCE's human dimension activities, Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>424. European Union statement on freedom of expression, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>425. Recommendations from the European Union, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>473. European Union statement on the rights to freedom of assembly and association, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>474. Recommendations from the European Union, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>495. European Union Closing Statement, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [English, 5 pages]</p>
Romania	<p>102. Statement in addition to the EU intervention - few remarks on national basis, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>494. Right of reply to statement by the representative of the NGO Soteria International, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>200. Presentation on "Human Rights, Redress and Remedies in case of Roma. A perspective of the national Council for Combating Discrimination from Romania", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 17 pages]</p> <p>247. Statement presented by the president of the National Agency for Roma, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 3 pages]</p>
Russian Federation	<p>6. Opening Statement by Mr. Andrey Nikiforov, Opening Plenary Session. [Russian, 3 pages]</p>

	<p>60. Statement on prevention of aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and ethnic cleansing, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>146. Statement on the fight with the intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>163. Statement on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>220. Statement on the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>237. Statement on the rule of law, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [Russian, 5 pages]</p> <p>360. Statement on equality of opportunity between women and men, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>304. Statement on the UN Resolution 1325, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [Russian, 2 pages]</p> <p>359. Statement on Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [Russian, 7 pages]</p> <p>385. Statement on democratic institutions, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 10 pages]</p> <p>422. Statement on the improvement of the ODIHR's activities in the sphere of election observation, Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>421. Statement on freedom of expression, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>455. Statement on freedom of assembly and association, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>496. Closing Statement, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [Russian, 3 pages]</p>
Holy See	<p>67. Statement by Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero on combating intolerance and discrimination, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages; English, 2 pages]</p> <p>215. Written recommendations, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>130. Statement by Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>216. Written recommendations, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>338. Statement by Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero on Trafficking in Human Beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>362. Written recommendations on Trafficking in Human Beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 1 page]</p>
Serbia	<p>144. Opening Statement by Ambassador Dejan Sahovic, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>177. Written contribution on Hungarian National Minority in the Republic of Serbia, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 12 pages]</p> <p>145. Statement by State Secretary of the Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija, H.E. Dusan Prorokovic, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding -</p>

	<p>implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>296.Statement by Mr. Bojan Andjelkovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>178.Statement by H.E. Mr. Dragisa Dabetic, Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>297.Statement by Mr. Bojan Andjelkovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>364.Statement by Ms. Natalija Micunovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of labour and Social Policy, Sector for Gender Equality, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>365.Statement by Ms. Zorana Sarac, Senior Police Inspector, Ministry of Interior, on trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 17 pages]</p>
Slovakia	<p>208.Statement on national minorities, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Slovenia	<p>199.Statement on Roma and Sinti, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Switzerland	<p>88. Opening statement by Ambassador Rudolf Schaller, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 2 pages; German, 2 pages]</p> <p>232.Introductory presentation by Mr. Andreas Gross, Political scientist/MP/PACE, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 19 pages]</p> <p>283.Statement on the fight against terrorism, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [French, 3 pages]</p> <p>284.Statement on the death penalty, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [German, 2 pages]</p> <p>317.Statement on gender aspects of security, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [German, 3 pages]</p> <p>318.Statement on the UN Resolution 1325, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [German, 2 pages]</p> <p>319.Statement on trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [German, 2 pages]</p> <p>384.Statement on democratic institutions, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [German, 2 pages]</p> <p>483.Closing Statement, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [French, 2 pages]</p>
Turkey	<p>254.Statement on "New Minorities", Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>337.Statement on combating intolerance and discrimination, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>255.Remarks by Ambassador Yusuf Buluc, Side Event on "Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims and Education", Side Event: Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims - Youth and Education. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>290.Statement on "Public Discourse and the Role of Politicians", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>490.Right of Reply, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English,</p>

	<p>2 pages]</p> <p>256.Statement on Migrant Workers and Integration of Legal Migrants, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>484.Written contribution on "Internally displaced persons in Turkey", Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>291.Opening remarks by Ambassador Yusuf Buluc, Side Event: Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>485.Right of Reply - Turkey's "Zero Tolerance Policy" in Combating Torture and Ill-Treatment, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>486.Statement on gender aspects of security, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>497.Statement on the "Ongoing Efforts of Turkey in Fighting Against Trafficking in Human Beings", Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>489.Right of Reply, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>456.Freedom of expression, free media and information - national statement, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Ukraine	<p>24. Statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>83. Written contribution on "Mutual respect and understanding in Ukraine", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>181.Statement on freedom of belief, conscience and religion in Ukraine, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p>

OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Egypt	<p>427.Statement on political and democratic reform process in Egypt, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 1 page]</p>
--------------	--

OSCE Institutions

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	<p>1. Address by Knut Vollebaek, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>22. Introductory statement by Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 8 pages]</p>
OSCE ODIHR	<p>5. Opening Remarks by Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 7 pages]</p> <p>134.Working draft of the status report for the period 2004-2006 "Assisting Participating States in the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area", Side Event: Implementation of policies on Roma, sinti and travellers. [English, 50 pages]</p> <p>183.National Democratic Institute Assessment Report on "The Hungarian Minority Self-Government System as a Means of Increasing Romani Political Participation", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 31 pages]</p> <p>195.Briefing Paper "Joint European Commission and OSCE ODIHR Programme: Roma, use your ballot wisely!. Country profiles: Roma Participation in Elections in South Eastern Europe 2003-2005, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 35 pages]</p>

	<p>196. Expert Paper - Mapping the Electoral Participation of Roma in South Eastern Europe, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 22 pages]</p> <p>197. Roma Electoral Participation in Europe: Mention of Roma in ODIHR Election Observation Mission, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 21 pages]</p> <p>252. Statement by Mr. Nicolas Kaczorowski, Deputy head of the Election Department on "Minority Participation in Electoral Processes: Summary of Findings", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 6 pages]</p> <p>492. Introductory statement by Mr. Gerald Mitchell, Head of the Election Department, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>499. Talking points for opening by Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>498. Closing Remarks by Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [English, 7 pages]</p> <p>117. Provisional List of Participants, Background Documents. [English, 88 pages]</p> <p>129. Compilation of Written Recommendations covering Working Sessions 1-3, Background Documents. [English, 14 pages]</p> <p>202. Compilation of Written Recommendations covering Working Sessions 4 - 5, Background Documents. [English, 10 pages]</p> <p>293. Compilation of Written Recommendations covering Working Sessions 6-7, Background Documents. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>310. Compilation of Written Recommendations covering Working Sessions 8-9, Background Documents. [English, 11 pages]</p> <p>373. Compilation of Written Recommendations covering Working Sessions 10-11 and 12-13, Background Documents. [English, 9 pages]</p> <p>480. Final List of Participants, Background Documents. [English, 84 pages]</p> <p>481. Compilation of written recommendations covering Working Sessions 14, 15, 16 and 17, Background Documents. [English, 14 pages]</p>
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	<p>55. Statement by Professor Gert Weisskirchen, Member of the German Parliament, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on Combating Antisemitism, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 9 pages]</p>
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media	<p>476. Address by Mr. Miklos Haraszti, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 5 pages]</p>

OSCE Secretariat

OSCE Secretariat	<p>507. Opening Statement by OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 6 pages]</p> <p>186. Statement by Mr. Kevin Carty, Senior Police Adviser to the OSCE Secretary General on "Policing and Multi Ethnic Societies: Building Trust and Partnership", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>279. Introductory statement by Ms. Monica Gutierrez Arques, Adviser on Gender Issues, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages]</p>
OSCE Special Representative on	<p>347. Introductory statement by Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Working</p>

OSCE Missions and other Field Activities

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

59. Presentation by the OSCE's Specialized Human Rights Technical Assistance in Kosovo, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 3 pages]

International Organizations

Council of Europe

12. Council of Europe Activities in the Field of Protection of National Minorities, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 21 pages]
26. Written contribution on "Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments", Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 17 pages]
27. Statement on prevention of aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and ethnic cleansing, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]
28. Information on the CoE Activities in the Field of Protection of National Minorities, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]
29. Written recommendations, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]
40. Activity Report Human Rights in a Multicultural Society, Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 11 pages]
41. Written contribution on "Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 5 pages]
42. Written contribution "Non-discrimination as guaranteed by the European Social Charter", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 6 pages]
49. Report by the Committee of Experts for the Development of Human Rights on "Human Rights in a Multicultural Society - Hate Speech", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 38 pages]
122. Report by the Committee of Experts for the Development of Human Rights "Human rights in a multicultural society - The wearing of religious symbols in public areas", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 33 pages]
168. European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 14 pages; French, 15 pages; Russian, 15 pages]
169. European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers - Explanatory Note, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 14 pages; French, 17 pages]
170. List of signatories of the European Convention on the legal Status of Migrant Workers, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 2 pages]
171. List of declarations made with respect to treaty No. 093 - European

- Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 3 pages]
172. Written contribution on "Migrant Workers Rights as Guaranteed by the European Social Charter", Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 11 pages]
173. Written contribution "Migration - Recent Activities of the CoE", Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 5 pages]
174. Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)10 of the Committee of ministers to member states on co-development and migrants working for development in their countries of origin, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 7 pages; French, 7 pages]
193. Contribution on the CoE's activities on Roma and Sinti, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 8 pages]
219. Introductory statement by Thomas Hammarberg Commissioner for Human Rights, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 3 pages]
212. Preliminary draft study on forms of participation of Roma and Travellers in decision-making processes (extracts of chapters concerning participation in political parties and parliaments), Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 16 pages]
218. Roma and Travellers Glossary, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 16 pages; French, 16 pages]
221. Written contribution on the "Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Prison Field", Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 5 pages]
226. Written contribution "Death is not justice - the Council of Europe and the death penalty", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 2 pages]
227. Written contribution "Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 7 pages]
228. Written contribution on the "Abolition of the death penalty", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 2 pages]
342. Statement on "Protection of human rights and the fight against terrorism" and "Abolition of capital punishment", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages]
280. Fact sheet "The Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence", Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]
281. Information on "Gender mainstreaming - action undertaken by the CoE", Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]
282. Information on "Combating violence against women", Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]
322. Factsheet on "Equality between women and men", Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]
323. Information on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]
324. Information on the CoE Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]
334. Written contribution on "The Council of Europe and the Independence of the Judiciary", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 8 pages]
467. Statement on access to justice, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [French, 2 pages]

	<p>371. Written contribution on "Democracy at the national, regional and local levels", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 10 pages]</p> <p>372. Written contribution on democracy at the national, regional and local levels - summary description of the Department of Democratic Participation, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>468. Statement on freedom of expression, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>479. Written contribution "Overview of the work of the Council of Europe in the media field", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>444. Written contribution on Freedom of Association as guaranteed by the European Social Charter, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>469. Statement on freedom of assembly and association, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [French, 2 pages]</p> <p>506. Statement by Mr. Roberto Lamponi, Director of Co-operation, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Council of Europe; European Roma and Travellers Forum	<p>205. Statement on Roma and Sinti by Ms. Miranda Vuolasranta, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>242. "Letter of concern to the Italian Delegation" from the Roma National Congress, Federation of the Romani Civil and Human Rights Movement, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>240. Written contribution "Open question about the destiny of Kosovo Roma", Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>243. Written contribution "Roma politicians Influence on Political Processes. A history of persecution in the modern period - the Balkans as a bone of contention and the Roma in the middle" by Asmet Elezovski, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>241. Presentation on the European Roma Rights Charter - a guiding ground for ERTF Roma related policies, Side Event: European Roma Rights Charter - A guide for ERTF Roma related policies. [English, 14 pages]</p> <p>244. Written contribution - "First Draft - Some Strategic Elements of Roma Education", Side Event: European Roma Rights Charter - A guide for ERTF Roma related policies. [English, 8 pages]</p>
International Labour Organization	<p>343. Statement by Mr. Roger Plant, Head, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour on "Trafficking for labour exploitation: ILO approaches", Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 4 pages]</p>
UNHCR	<p>154. Written contribution on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>320. Guidelines on International Protection: The application of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 17 pages]</p>

Non-Governmental Organizations

"Democracy Monitor" -	389. Statement on the "growing concerns with the elections in Azerbaijan",
------------------------------	--

Public Union	<p>Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>386. Statement on the "deteriorating situation with the Freedom of Expression in Azerbaijan", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Administrative Centre of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia	<p>75. Statement by the Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>76. Written statement on Russian Federation, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 5 pages]</p>
AES-ECM Association de l'Esprit Saint pour l'Unification du Christianisme Mondial	<p>57. Statement on "religion discrimination in France", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]</p>
Aktobe Oblast Collegium of Advocates	<p>374. Statement on "Monitoring of the court law with the jury participation", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 1 page]</p>
Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance	<p>185. Report "Campaign of Roma organizations created preconditions for directing Structural fund resources for Roma integration in Bulgaria", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 14 pages]</p>
Amnesty International	<p>259. Statement on Protection of minorities, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>258. Statement and written recommendations on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and freedom of movement, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>260. Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: joint statement with the European Roma Rights Centre and Roma Educational Fund, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>225. Statement on the death penalty on behalf of Amnesty International, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Penal Reform International and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages; Russian, 4 pages]</p> <p>261. Statement on prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>394. Statement on gender aspects of security, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>395. Public statement: "Russia: One year after death of Anna Politkovskaya - more action needed from the Russian authorities", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>396. Statement on freedom of expression, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Association of Advocates of the Republic of Tajikistan	<p>355. Statement on the fair trial, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 2 pages]</p>
Association of Full Gospel Christian Churches	<p>124. Report "Monitoring of the Violations of Christians' Rights in Belarus, December 2005-December 2006", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 12 pages]</p> <p>125. Report "Monitoring of the Violations of Christians' Rights in Belarus, February - June 2007", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 36 pages]</p> <p>126. Report "Monitoring of the Violations of Christians' Rights in Belarus in</p>

	<p>2006", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 14 pages]</p> <p>127. Report "Monitoring of the Violations of Christians' Rights in Belarus, January - June 2007", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [Russian, 27 pages]</p>
Associazione "Dossetti: i Valori" Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom	<p>73. Statement of Mr. Mattia F. Ferrero, Coordinator, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>74. Written recommendations, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>132. Statement of Mattia F. Ferrero, Coordinator, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>133. Written recommendations, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]</p>
Belarusian Helsinki Committee	<p>459. Statement on freedom of association in Belarus, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>460. Written contribution "Belarus: Human Rights Defenders at Risk", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 1 page]</p>
British Humanist Association	<p>105. Statement on "Social Cohesion and Inclusion of the Non-Religious", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>141. Statement on the "Inclusion of Non-Religious", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p>
C.O.C. - Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum	<p>56. Intervention on the "Equal recognition and treatment of LGBT people within OSCE programs", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>162. Written recommendations, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]</p>
Canadian Raelian Movement	<p>64. Statement on discrimination, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>65. Written contribution on "Discrimination in Quebec", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Center for Interethnic Cooperation	<p>295. Report by Victoria Shukhat at a Meeting on the Question of Considering the Performance of the Obligations Devoted to Human Capacity of the Session of the OSCE, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 4 pages]</p>
Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights	<p>441. Written contribution "New Russian NGO legislation: main problems and recommendations on amendments" drafted by Evgenya Zusman, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>463. Statement on freedom of assembly and association in the Russian Federation, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 2 pages]</p>
Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)	<p>159. Statement on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages]</p>
Church of Scientology International	<p>110. Statement on religious freedoms, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Citizens Against Corruption	<p>330. Information on the death penalty in Kyrgyzstan, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 30 pages]</p>

Civic Initiatives Support Centre, Uzbekistan	329.Statement on the UN Resolution 1325, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [Russian, 3 pages]
Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society	429.Statement on the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 3 pages]
Cojep International	80. Statement on islamophobia., Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [French, 1 page]
Collaboration for Democracy Centre, Armenia	86. Written contribution "The Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Armenia: A Comparative Analysis of the Provisions on Religious Freedoms", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 8 pages]
Competitiveness Research Center	397.Statement by Adil Nurmakov, Ph.D. on Elections in Kazakhstan, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 1 page]
Constantinopolitan Society	21. Address of Mrs. Marina Kaloumenou-Kyriacopoulou, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 4 pages]
Covenant House	332.Statement on the multi-lateral collaboration around the issue of trafficking, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 3 pages]
Democracy Reporting International	233.Statement by Mr. Michael Meyer-Resende, Co-ordinator, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 2 pages]
DEMOS - Research Center for Civic Society	436.Written contribution on "Warzone Mentality: Russian Police After Serving in Chechnya", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 2 pages] 457.Written contribution on "Freedom of assembly in the North Caucasus", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 3 pages]
Deutsch-Tuerkisches Sprach und Kulturinstitut fuer integrative Bildung e.V.	38. Statement on "Tolerance / Clash of Civilizations", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages] 111.Statement on the "New German Immigration Law", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]
Donetsk FRI Office, Donetsk Law Institute	440.Written contribution "Freedom of peaceful assembly in Ukraine - problems and perspectives", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 2 pages]
Dontetzk Foundataion of Regional Initiatives, Ukraine	61. Statement on international, regional and local programmes promoting tolerance, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [Russian, 3 pages]
Embargoed!	37. Presentation "Love Cyprus, Hate Racism", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 7 pages]
EUROMIL - European Organisation of Military Association	402.Statement on freedom of association for active military personnel, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]
European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses	113.Written statement on Uzbekistan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages] 114.Written statement on Armenia, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages] 115.Appeal to Armenia, Turkmenistan and South Korea, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]

	<p>116. Written statement on Azerbaijan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>118. Statement on Religious Freedom Concerns in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>119. Written statement on Kazakhstan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>120. Written statement on Tajikistan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>121. Written statement on Turkmenistan, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages]</p>
European Humanist Federation	<p>30. Statement on prevention of aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and ethnic cleansing, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>66. Statement by Mr. David Pollock, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>149. Statement on the "Hate language", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>328. Introductory remarks by Mr. David Pollock, Side Event: Separation of Church and State, or Religion and Governance, of Dogma and Law. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>112. Statement on the Separation of Religion and Governance, of Dogma and Law, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 4 pages]</p>
European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA)	<p>449. Statement on freedom of assembly and association, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]</p>
European Raelian Movement	<p>63. Statement on "discrimination in France", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p>
European Roma Grass Roots Organisation	<p>184. Statement on the Roma participation, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 1 page]</p>
European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)	<p>187. Statement on human rights of Roma in Europe, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Fair Trials International	<p>366. Statement on the right for a fair trial for foreigners, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]</p>
Federal Advisory Council on Foreigners, Germany	<p>147. Statement by Memet Kilic, Chairman, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 1 page]</p> <p>156. Statement regarding developments in Germany concerning migrants' rights, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Federation Europeenne des Centres de Recherche et d'Information sur le Sectarisme (FECRIS)	<p>50. Background information about FECRIS, Side Event: Cultic Tendencies: A challenge to democracy and Human Rights. [English, 2 pages; German, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]</p> <p>51. Written contribution by Daniele Muller-Tulli "Sects, cults and human rights", Side Event: Cultic Tendencies: A challenge to democracy and Human Rights. [English, 4 pages; German, 4 pages]</p> <p>52. Written contribution by Mr. Friedrich Griess "Cults across Europe - from</p>

	<p>the Third Reich to present day", Side Event: Cultic Tendencies: A challenge to democracy and Human Rights. [German, 2 pages; French, 2 pages]</p> <p>53. Written contribution by Mr. Jean Pierre Jouglu on "Cultic drifts - a challenge to democracy and human rights", Side Event: Cultic Tendencies: A challenge to democracy and Human Rights. [English, 9 pages; French, 9 pages; German, 9 pages]</p> <p>54. Ungeachtet des Glaubens - Berichte über das Aufwachsen in isolierten Glaubensgemeinschaften, Side Event: Cultic Tendencies: A challenge to democracy and Human Rights. [German, 17 pages]</p> <p>104. Statement, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [French, 2 pages]</p>
Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe	135. Statement on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and freedom of movement, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]
FOREF Europe - Forum Religious Freedom	46. Written contribution "State sponsored discrimination of religious minorities - Analysis & recommendations", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 4 pages]
Forum 18 News Service	138. Statement on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]
Forum for Free Elections	377. Statement on elections in Tajikistan, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 2 pages]
Freedom House	<p>299. Statement "in Solidarity with Burmese Human Rights Defenders", Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>382. Statement on "Nations in Transit 2007: Pause and Pushback for Democratization", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 5 pages]</p> <p>430. Statement on the "Situation of freedom of expression in Tajikistan", Side Event: Muzzling the Media: Press Freedom in the CIS. [Russian, 2 pages]</p>
Greek Helsinki Monitor	<p>194. Press Release "Greece: Roma effectively denied their rights", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>321. Press release "Greece: Nigerian Women Make a Living on the Street", Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>437. Written contribution "Greece: Update on 2006-2008 anti-Roma and anti-GHM statements by current Deputy Prosecutor of Supreme Court", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 13 pages]</p> <p>438. Written contribution "Greece: Update on 19 April 2005 slandering statements against GHM by Minister and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 8 pages]</p> <p>439. Written contribution "Greece: Update on 13 October 2005 harassment and illegal detention of GHM legal counsel Theo Alexandridis at the Police Department of Aspropyrgos (near Athens)", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 20 pages]</p>
Griffith University; Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance	301. Introductory presentation by Dr. Susanne Schmeidl on "Gender and Security - Moving beyond clichés toward a useful tool for early warning and the prevention of violent conflict", Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 6 pages]
Group 484	175. A Study on Access to Pertaining Rights and (Re)Integration of Displaced Persons in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in 2006 - A Summary Paper, Side Event: Presentation of a study on Access to

	<p>pertaining Rights and (Re)Integration of Displaced Population in Croatia, B&H and Serbia in 2006. [English, 9 pages]</p>
Hand Off Cain	<p>224. Written contribution on "The Campaign of Hands Off Cain for a United Nations Moratorium on Executions", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 5 pages]</p>
Human Rights Center "Viasna"	<p>411. Written contribution on the human rights situation in Grodno, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>461. Written contribution on the situation of "Viasna" Human Rights Center, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 2 pages]</p>
Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan	<p>471. Written contribution "Human Rights Platform of Uzbekistan: Representatives of civil society call on the European Union to extend sanctions against the government of Uzbekistan", Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 6 pages; Russian, 6 pages]</p> <p>351. Statement on the death penalty, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>405. Statement entitled "Leave the stolen capitals to the thefts for democracy", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 1 page]</p> <p>401. Statement on elections in Azerbaijan, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [Russian, 1 page]</p> <p>412. Written contribution "Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan concerned on Case of Stanislav Dmitrievsky", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 1 page]</p>
Human Rights Centre "Memorial"	<p>253. Statement on refugees, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 2 pages]</p>
Human Rights Educational Centre, Belarus	<p>213. Statement on the "Discrimination of Belarusian Nation and Human Rights Violations War", Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Human Rights First	<p>107. Statement by Paul LeGendre, Interim Director, Fighting Discrimination Program, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 4 pages]</p>
Human Rights Without Frontieres	<p>39. Intervention: "Public financing of projects and organizations spreading religious intolerance must stop!", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>142. Written contribution on "EU-Ukraine: Visa facilitation for Ukrainians? A long-standing hoax", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>143. Statement on freedom of religion and belief, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 3 pages]</p>
ILGA - Europe	<p>35. Intervention on the importance of combating intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in the OSCE region., Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>36. Declaration of Civil Society Organisations on the Recognition of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression in the OSCE, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>161. Written recommendations, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]</p>

Independent Human Rights Organization of Uzbekistan	331. Statement on the situation of labour migrants in the Russian Federation and Republic of Kazakhstan, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [Russian, 3 pages]
Institute of Peace and Democracy, Azerbaijan	223. Statement on the right to the protection from tortures and inhuman treatment, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 13 pages] 288. The Report on the "Facts of Police Violence and Brutality against Women and Girls", Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 6 pages] 369. Statement on "Democratic elections in Azerbaijan", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 3 pages] 398. Statement on the "Freedom of word and mass media in Azerbaijan", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 6 pages; Russian, 6 pages]
Institute on Religion and Public Policy	137. Written contribution on religious discrimination in the OSCE countries, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 20 pages]
International Association of Independent Democrats Against Authoritarian Regimes	357. Statement on the separation of powers, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 4 pages] 408. Written contribution "There is not an Independence of the judiciary at the dictatorship-states. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 3 pages] 407. Written recommendations, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 1 page] 491. Written contribution "There are not any Freedom for citizens of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 2 pages] 505. Statement at the closing plenary, Closing Reinforced Plenary Session. [Russian, 1 page]
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), France	43. Intervention of Ms. Souhayr Benhassen, President, Opening Plenary Session. [French, 2 pages] 379. Statement by Ms. Souhayr Benhassen, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [French, 3 pages] 504. Statement on human dimension activities of the OSCE, Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [French, 2 pages] 445. Written contribution, with the World Organisation Against Torture, within the framework of their joint programme "The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 6 pages] 503. Statement on freedom of assembly and association delivered jointly with The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 3 pages]
International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights	4. Keynote Speech by Dr. Aaron Rhodes, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 3 pages] 48. Written contribution on "Civil liberties under threat in the fight against >extremism< in Russia" (jointly with the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis and the Moscow Helsinki Group), Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 4 pages] 91. Written contribution on "Central Asian OSCE participating States fail in protection against discrimination", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 3 pages] 166. Statement on "Central Asian labor migrants in Russia" (jointly with the Moscow Helsinki Group), Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and

	<p>other commitments I. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>229. Statement on prevention of torture, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>265. Statement on the death penalty in Central Asia, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>335. Statement on reforming the judicial system in Armenia, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>399. Statement "Journalists rights must be protected in the run-up to the 2008 elections in Azerbaijan", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>442. Statement and written recommendations "Human rights defenders must be ensured better protection", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]</p>
International Network Against Cyber Hate	47. Statement by Mr. Ronald Eissens, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 1 page]
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims	263. Statement on prevention of torture, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages]
International Society for Human Rights	270. Statement on persecution on the basis of belief by Cindy Drukier, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]
	271. Statement on the lack of rule of law in China by Cindy Drukier, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 1 page]
International Youth Human Rights Movement	354. Statement on the right to a fair trial, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages]
	454. Written contribution "Overview of the situation with the freedom of assembly in Russia (Spring 2006 - Spring 2007), Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 9 pages; Russian, 11 pages]
	462. Recommendations on freedom of assembly and association, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 1 page]
	465. Statement on freedom of assembly, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 2 pages]
Internet Centre Anti Racism Europe (ICARE)	87. Intervention by Ms. Suzette Bronkhorst, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 1 page]
Kazakh Community Association	7. Petition delivered by Ms. Balli Marzec, Opening Plenary Session. [English, 1 page]
Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law	286. Statement on fair trial in Kazakhstan, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [Russian, 2 pages]
Kirilangic Cultural Association	84. Written contribution on "Turkish Cypriots' Problem of Identity", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 15 pages]
Kurdish Human Rights Project	15. Statement on Minority Rights, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 19 pages]
	16. Statement on Language and Education Rights, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 12 pages]
	167. Written contribution on the Internally Displaced Persons, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 13 pages]
	230. Written contribution on Torture, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 7 pages]
	231. Written contribution on anti-terrorism, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II.

	<p>[English, 20 pages]</p> <p>302. Statement and written recommendations on Women and Security, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 21 pages]</p> <p>400. Written contribution on freedom of expression, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 20 pages]</p> <p>428. Statement by Kerim Yildiz, Executive Director, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>443. Statement and written recommendations on the freedom of association, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 18 pages]</p> <p>13. Introduction to Kurdish Human Rights Project, Other Documents. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>14. Executive Summary, Other Documents. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Legal Education Society	<p>298. Statement on prevention of torture, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>333. Statement on the independent judiciary system in Azerbaijan, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 7 pages]</p> <p>344. Statement on the independence of the judiciary in Azerbaijan, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 3 pages]</p> <p>458. Statement on the "Court cases against media in Azerbaijan", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 6 pages]</p>
Legal Information Centre for Human Rights, Estonia	<p>309. Statement on "Access to justice in Estonia. The events of April 26-29, 2007 in Tallin", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages; Russian, 2 pages]</p>
Macedonian Human Rights Movement	<p>207. Statement on freedom of religion and thought in Greece, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>206. Statement on refugees and displaced persons in Greece, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>257. Statement on protection of human rights of Macedonians in Greece, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 1 page]</p>
Moscow Patriarchate	<p>148. Statement on the freedom of conscience, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]</p>
Movimiento por la Paz el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL)	<p>89. Statement on tolerance and non-discrimination (Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages; Spanish, 2 pages]</p> <p>109. Written recommendations, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 1 page]</p> <p>201. Written recommendations (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo), Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>248. Statement on the situation of refugees, returnees and IDPs in Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [Spanish, 3 pages]</p> <p>250. Statement on the situation of Roma and Sinti in Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [Spanish, 2 pages]</p> <p>251. Written recommendations, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 1 page]</p>
National Democratic Institut for International Affairs	<p>346. Report on "Roma participation in the 2005 Bulgarian Parliamentary Elections", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 27 pages]</p>

Nationella Centralförbundet Antidiskrimineringscenter ROMA	189. Report "The Roma in Sweden - from South to North", Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 2 pages]
Netherlands Helsinki Committee	236. Statement on behalf of the Dutch Helsinki Committee on protection of human rights and fighting terrorism, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 2 pages] 348. Statement by Drs. Ed van Thijn on human rights of irregular migrants, Side Event: Irregular migrants are also people and all people are covered by human rights. [English, 3 pages; Russian, 3 pages]
Northeastern University	72. Introductory statement by Ms. Gordana Rabrenovic on "Addressing Hate and Violence", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 13 pages]
Norwegian Helsinki Committee	353. Statement on the independence of the judiciary and right to a fair trial, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages] 381. Statement on democratic elections, citizenship and political rights, Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 2 pages] 414. Statement on freedom of expression, free media and information, Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]
Order of St. Andrew	23. Statement on the "Human Rights for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Minority in Turkey", Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 6 pages] 128. Statement on Religious Freedom: the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 7 pages]
OSCE-NGO network, Sweden	188. "A social Analysis of the persecutions of Yoga Teachers in Romania" by Dr. Seppo Isotalo, Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 4 pages]
People's Party "Alga!"	419. Statement by Mr. Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov on "There are courts, but there is no justice in Kazakhstan!", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages; Russian, 3 pages] 420. Statement by Mr. Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov on "Vector of democratic development in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2007", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 2 pages; Russian, 3 pages] 418. Statement by Mr. Assylbeck Kozhakhmetov on Kazakhstan's possible chairmanship in of the OSCE., Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [English, 2 pages; Russian, 2 pages]
PGS Association	448. "Block-diagram Modelling of Democracy-related Conditionings & Research Topics (CRT)", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 1 page]
Platform for International Co-operation on Undocumented Migrants	511. Statement by Don Flynn on trafficking in human beings, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 3 pages]
Public Association "Ardager"	406. Statement on the "creation of the society of equal possibilities for the people of all ages", Working Session 15: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). [Russian, 3 pages]
Public Association RUSHD of Khation, Tajikistan	368. Statement on the "Accountability of Tajik government to its citizens", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 17 pages] 378. Statement on "Questions of accountability and representation in Tajikistan", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 2 pages]
Public Monitoring Group	403. Report on "the Activities of the Public Monitoring Group at the Detention Facilities of the Penal Services of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of

	Armenia 2005", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 52 pages] 404. Report on the "Activities of the Group of Public Observers at the Detention Facilities of the RA Police System, April-October 2006", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 75 pages]
Republican Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law	345. Statement on the independence of the judiciary, Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [Russian, 2 pages]
Republican Network of Independent Monitors	370. Report on "The observation of the extraordinary parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [Russian, 16 pages]
Roma Civic Alliance	192. Statement by Mr. Georgel Radulescu, Executive Director, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 3 pages]
Roma Public Council Kupate	375. Written contribution by Mr. Asen Radev: "Roma Voters Deserve and Informed Choice", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 2 pages]
Romani CRISS	501. Statement on "Strategic Initiative on Roma and Policing in Romania", Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 2 pages] 502. Written recommendations, Working Session 7: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination (continued). [English, 1 page] 315. Statement on "Regular Travelers and Migrant Workers, NOT Nomads or Victims of Trafficking in human Beings: Sharing Responsibilities in Tackling the Roma Migration and their Economic Inclusion in the OSCE and the EU Space", Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 9 pages] 316. Executive summary of written recommendations, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 1 page]
RUHAMA Foundation	190. Contribution of the Civil Society to the Roma Political Life, Working Session 6: OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti: participation in political life, overcoming discrimination. [English, 2 pages]
Russian Research Center for Human Rights	431. Introductory statement by Ms. Liubov Vinogradova, Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [Russian, 5 pages]
Russian-Chechen Friendship Society	276. Statement with regard to the statement of Ambassador Borodavkin at the OSCE Permanent Council Meeting on 20 September 2007, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 1 page] 277. Statement on the situation of RCFS and human rights situation in Nizhny Novgorod, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 2 pages]
Seventh-Day-Adventist Church	108. Statement on Religious Minorities and Religious Freedom, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 1 page]
Social Programs Foundation	155. Statement on internally displaced persons, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 1 page]
Solidar	510. Statement - Former "Solidar" Migration Officer, Working Session 12: Humanitarian issues and other commitments. [English, 1 page]
Soteria International	123. Written contribution on "Religious Discrimination of MISA - a Political >Exchange Currency<, The case of Romanian yoga school MISA", Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 7 pages] 249. Statement on "The lack of division of power in unicultural societies", Working Session 8: Rule of law I. [English, 2 pages; English, 2 pages] 409. Statement on "the right for a fair trial with examples from the violation of the right for a trial in Romania", Working Session 13: Rule of law III.

	<p>[English, 3 pages]</p> <p>410. Annex - "Right to a fair trial: Case study on MISA yoga school - Romania", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 10 pages]</p> <p>426. Statement on "the current conflict between freedom of media and other Human Rights, such as presumption of innocence in criminal proceedings and the right to freedom from discrimination", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 2 pages]</p>
SOVA Center for Information and Analysis	<p>77. Written contribution "Anti-Extremist Legislation and its Enforcement", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 18 pages; Russian, 19 pages]</p> <p>78. Report on "Radical Nationalism in Russia and Efforts to Counteract it in 2006", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 33 pages]</p> <p>79. Report on "Radical Nationalism in Russia and Efforts to Counteract it in first half 2007", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [Russian, 29 pages]</p> <p>103. Statement on combating racism and discrimination, Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [Russian, 1 page]</p>
Spanish LGBT Federation	<p>98. Statement on the "LGBT People's Rights", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [Spanish, 2 pages]</p>
The Centre for Interethnic Cooperation	<p>176. Statement on migrants problems in Russia, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [Russian, 2 pages]</p>
The Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims	<p>285. Statement on prevention of violence against women, Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages]</p>
Tuerkische Gemeinschaft Schweiz (TGS)	<p>10. Statement on the role of politics in the integration of migrants, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [German, 3 pages]</p>
Turkish Community of Kosovo	<p>19. Speech by Mahir Yagcilar, Representative of the Turkish Community of Kosovo, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 3 pages]</p>
Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women	<p>464. Written contribution by Gulden Plumer Kucuk on "Women in North Cyprus", Working Session 10: Gender aspects of security I. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>303. Statement on the UNSCR 1325, Working Session 11: Gender aspects of security II. [English, 1 page]</p>
Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation	<p>34. Address of Mr. Ali Dayioglu, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages]</p> <p>160. Statement by Mr. Mustafa Abitoglu on displaced persons in Cyprus, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 4 pages]</p> <p>356. Statement by Mr. Tufan Erhurman on the "Unconstitutional and Unfair Trial in Cyprus", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 2 pages]</p> <p>376. Statement by Mr. Tufan Erhurman on "Unconstitutional, Anti-Democratic and Illegitimate >Republic of Cyprus<", Working Session 14: Democratic institutions. [English, 2 pages]</p>

Turkish Cypriot Journalists' Union	415. Statement by Mr. Osman Kurt on "Media and press freedom in North Cyprus", Working Session 16: Fundamental freedoms II. [English, 3 pages]
Turkish Students' Association	85. Written contribution "Assessments and Suggestions Concerning the Turkish Minority in Germany", Working Session 3: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments (continued). [English, 4 pages]
Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union	325. Statement on freedom of thought, conscience and religion in Ukraine, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 5 pages] 326. Statement on rights of refugees in Ukraine: case of Mr. L. Susarov, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [Russian, 2 pages] 327. Statement on freedom from torture and ill-treatment, Working Session 5: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I. [English, 11 pages] 336. Written contribution "Specific aspects of the right to fair trial in Ukraine", Working Session 13: Rule of law III. [English, 14 pages] 446. Written contribution on "Legal problems of the registration and activity of the Human Rights NGO in Ukraine", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 3 pages] 447. Written contribution "A short analysis of the work of the Human Rights Ombudsperson in Ukraine", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 6 pages]
Universal Peace Federation	44. Statement on "Preserving Freedom of Faith", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages]
Universal Peace Federation, Deutschland	45. Written contribution "The Case of the Federal Republic of Germany: The government's continuing failure in taking a balanced view towards religious minorities", Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 2 pages; German, 2 pages]
Voice of Freedom - Network of Human Rights Defenders	234. Written contribution on the situation on torture in Tajikistan, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 2 pages] 235. Statement on Torture in Kyrgyzstan, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 2 pages] 239. Written contribution on "Torture in Kazakhstan", Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [Russian, 3 pages]
Warsaw University	278. Introductory statement by Mr. Zbigniew Lasocik, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Human Rights Center, Working Session 9: Rule of Law II. [English, 3 pages]
Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association	31. Statement on the rights of Muslim Turkish minority in Greece, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 2 pages] 32. Written contribution on Minority Education in Greece: The Case of Western Thrace, Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 6 pages] 97. Intervention on violations of freedom of the Association of Western Thrace Turks, Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 3 pages] 150. Statement on violations of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and believe in Western Thrace, Working Session 4: Fundamental freedoms I. [English, 3 pages]
World Federation of Hungarians	17. Statement on "Today's problems of Hungarian minorities in Serbia", Working Session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I. [English, 3 pages]

World Uyghur Congress

68. Statement by Dolkun Isa on "Uyghur situation in Central Asia countries (In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan), Working Session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding - implementation of commitments. [English, 4 pages]

Youth Initiative for Human Rights

470. Written contribution "Hate crime based on violation of Freedom of expression and Political activities in Serbia", Working Session 17: Fundamental freedoms III. [English, 2 pages]