

**Statement of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
In the General Debate of the 30th CCPCJ**

Chair, distinguished delegates,

I speak on behalf of the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). I will address the issue of hate crimes.

At the 28th CCPCJ's Thematic Discussion on hate crimes, we said that "it is critically important that hate crime be prioritized on an international level." ODIHR called for – in addition to acknowledging the specificities of different strands of hate crimes – the development of a "strong international framework addressing hate crime as a cross-cutting issue".

Today, ODIHR congratulates Member States on doing exactly that.

Hate crimes are a threat not only to equality and human dignity of individuals, but also to societal cohesion and security. The commitment to address hate crimes, embedded in paragraph 91 of the Kyoto Declaration, represents, for the first time, a global consensus on the seriousness of this threat.

The OSCE adopted its first set of commitments on hate crimes in 2003. OSCE commitments define hate crimes and prescribe a number of steps States should take to counter them:

- enact specific, tailored laws;
- collect and publish reliable data and statistics;
- encourage victims' reporting;
- promptly investigate hate crimes and ensure that the motives of those convicted are acknowledged; or
- train police, prosecutors and judges.

ODIHR has been mandated to monitor hate crime situation across the OSCE region, report on it, and develop and implement capacity-building programmes to assist states in meeting these commitments.

Since 2003, we have witnessed fundamental progress in responding to hate crimes across the OSCE region. We have every reason to believe that OSCE's

robust mandate and ODIHR's work – which seeks to ensure that gender considerations and the needs to victims are fully integrated -- have been an important contributing factor in this regard.

Chair,

The commitments on hate crime in Kyoto Declaration will gain its full meaning through the work of national authorities and civil society, Member States and UNODC.

ODIHR offers its experience and expertise on addressing hate crimes to the Member States, through UNODC – as both an inspiration and a resource.

Based on our shared commitments, ODIHR looks forward to working together against the scourge of hate crimes.

[Before concluding, allow me to invite the distinguished delegates to a side event *Addressing Hate Crimes after Kyoto*, which we organize, with UNODC, on Thursday at 13:10 CEST. The side event will discuss what is needed to meet the hate crime commitments.]

Thank you.