



Summary Report

National Points of Contact on Hate Crimes Annual Meeting

Warsaw, Poland

14-15 November 2013

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Background

OSCE participating States first noted the importance of appointing a National Point of Contact on Hate Crimes (NPCs) in 2003.¹ Ministerial Council Decision 9/09 committed States to “nominate, if they have not yet done so, a national point of contact on hate crimes to periodically report to the ODIHR reliable information and statistics on hate crimes”. As reported in the OSCE/ODIHR 2012 Annual hate crime report: *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses*, 55 out of 57 participating States have appointed a NPC.

The main role of the NPC is to report official data and statistics on hate crime to OSCE/ODIHR, which is used as the basis for OSCE/ODIHR annual hate crime reports. Specifically, NPCs are asked to provide information about: official government statistics on hate crimes within their jurisdiction; existing or updated legislation pertaining to hate crimes; and initiatives aimed at improving understanding of and responses to hate crimes. In practice several NPCs play a much wider role, leading developments in responses to hate crime in their own countries, contributing to the development of ODIHR publications, trainings and events, and serving as a general expert resource at the national and international levels.

As part of ongoing efforts to support NPCs in their role, ODIHR arranged the fourth NPC meeting in Warsaw on 14-15 November 2013. Thirty-three representatives from 32 countries attended; the highest number to attend such a meeting to date.

The overall aims of NPC meeting were to:

- exchange experiences, challenges and good practice initiatives among NPCs and ODIHR;
- learn how to use ODIHR’s online hate crime questionnaire and to give feedback on both the substantive and technical aspects of submitting information to ODIHR;
- learn about the key features of ODIHR’s new Hate Crime Reporting Website and to provide feedback.

This report provides a summary of discussions at the NPC meeting, and the recommendations emerging from this event. The opinions and statements made by participants from other bodies do not necessarily reflect the policy and position of OSCE.

¹ See Ministerial Council Decisions No. 4/03 and 10/05 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

Day One

14 November 2013

Optional briefing: ODIHR and NPCs - Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Aleš Hanek and Ms. Joanna Perry, Hate Crime Officers provided a briefing on the key findings of OSCE/ODIHR's 2012 hate crime report and the role of the NPCs. J. Perry provided an overview of how ODIHR's annual hate crime report for 2012 is prepared. She explained how NGO, IGO and NPC information is processed and the timing of each stage, including public consultation. She also presented key findings such as the continuing gaps in data provided by participating States, the increase in NGO submissions and the increase in initiatives by public authorities to strengthen responses to hate crime. A. Hanek followed with a presentation setting the role of the NPC in the context of a comprehensive approach to understanding and responding to hate crime, underpinned by OSCE Ministerial Commitments including the need to have a legal framework, police and prosecutor training, support to victims and effective data collection systems. He opened the question of the role of the NPC as an agent for change: improving responses to hate crime and supporting a cross-government approach.

Opening

Ms. Floriane Hohenberg, Head of Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department (TND) welcomed participants to the NPC meeting and highlighted the upcoming agenda (Annex A).

Interactive panel discussion: The 'big picture'- experiences and perspectives on the challenges involved in addressing hate crime

Ms. Wirginia Prejs (NPC for Poland), Ms. Maia Kvirikashvili (NPC for Georgia), Ms. Carina Djärv (NPC for Sweden), and Ms. Klára Kalibová (In IUSTITIA) presented their experiences and perspectives on hate crime issues including: policing, prosecution, data collection, victim support and civil society engagement. J. Perry moderated the session.

Ms. Wirginia Prejs informed the meeting that the Polish Ministry of Interior conduct activities that aim to increase police officer and prosecutor competence in conducting hate crime investigations through the implementation of LEOP/TAHCLE, trainings for prosecutors, and monitoring systems. Elaborating on the Polish experience, Ms. Prejs highlighted the need to involve police management in trainings in order to achieve lasting results. She explained that Poland has specialist prosecutors who review hate crime cases and identify lessons to be learned and disseminated. Ms. Prejs also described actions of Human Rights Protection Team of Ministry of Interior to encourage hate crime victims to report to law enforcement. Following the posting of clear information on ways to report on a website, the reporting of hate crimes to authorities has increased, Ms. Prejs said. Her team's initiative included an information campaign: *Immigrants against hate crimes - how to effectively assert your rights*.

Ms. Maia Kvirikashvili focused on the prosecution aspects of hate crime and informed the group that while Georgia does not currently have a general definition of a hate crime, it is hoped that a 2012 amendment to the Criminal Code of Georgia, introducing an aggravating circumstances provision for bias motivation will help achieve a common understanding to

some extent. She explained that there is a policy against offenders, which takes into account the position of the victim, using sanctions such as ‘socially useful labor’; a special internal order of the Chief Prosecutor requires prosecutors to send information on every hate crime case to the Human Rights Protection Unit of the Chief Prosecutor’s office of Georgia; prosecutor and police co-operation in investigating hate crimes is facilitated by use of uniform electronic investigating system; there can be a lack of knowledge and awareness about hate crime within the Georgian police; Georgia is ready to develop prosecution guidelines; and, Georgia has a witness and victim coordinator service provided by the prosecutor’s office. This service is staffed with psychologists and other professionals and aims to make victims/witness relationship with law-enforcement more effective. In addition, the Chief Prosecutor’s office has conducted meetings with local civil society organizations working on religion and LGBT issues.

Ms. Carina Djärv outlined Sweden’s experience in developing victimization surveys and presenting their findings alongside police statistics. She informed the group that in Sweden’s experience, presenting results from victimization surveys together with annual statistics on police reports both presents the gap between victimization and reporting, highlighting the fact that one source alone does not present the full picture of hate crime. She pointed out that in setting up victimisation surveys costs can be kept to a minimum by including questions on hate crime in already existing crime surveys. Sweden has included such questions in a general crime survey (respondents of 16-79 years of age), in a survey of school students (age 15), and a survey of politicians. While comparability is limited, the results provide the “big picture” and information which would otherwise be missed.

Ms. Klára Kalibová presented a victim oriented approach to hate crime responses. She described the range of victim needs including: free medical treatment; safety; shelter; to be recognized as a hate crime victim by the authorities and society; clear information throughout the criminal justice process; the right to be angry; and the need for respect and understanding. Ms. Kalibová underlined that specific needs depend on the type of victimization and will hence differ in cases of physical assault, online assault or attacks on property. She pointed out that trained police are needed to respond to hate crime (as for instance provided for in the new Czech Republic’s law on victims) and underlined the particular position of irregular migrants who should primarily be recognized as a victim rather than prosecuted on grounds of their status. Ms. Kalibová also emphasized that within the police, clear leadership is needed to ensure effective supervision, training and support. Besides formal structures, informal influence and guidance of senior colleagues are essential and support a confident and victim oriented approach.

The panel was well received by the participants who discussed the importance of leadership in improving responses to hate crime and shared their own experiences in this regard.

Day Two

15 November 2013

Session one: training and feedback on ODIHR's new online hate crime questionnaire

Peter Romich, OSCE/ODIHR consultant web developer guided NPCs through the new online questionnaire. He explained that as a result of problems with the previous version of the questionnaire, ODIHR is developing a new system, which will allow NPCs to access their own web-based questionnaire, check their available data on the hate crime reporting website, and submit detailed information annually. A. Hanek then moderated feedback from participants on both the substantive and technical aspects of submitting information to ODIHR. Overall, participants were happy with the process and made some concrete suggestions such as ensuring that there are a sufficient number of free text boxes and improving the clarity of the explanatory text. A. Hanek thanked participants for their feedback and explained that detailed points raised by participants (both verbal and written) have been captured by TND note takers and will be carefully considered in the preparation of the final questionnaire.

Session two: Introduction to ODIHR's Hate Crime Reporting Website

Floriane Hohenberg opened the session and explained the background to the development of the Hate Crime Reporting Website. She told participants that OSCE/ODIHR has been producing an annual hate crime report since 2006 in CD and paper form - media that are not best placed to present the rich data that is gathered from participating States, NGOs and IGOs. For this reason, she explained, ODIHR is developing a web platform to present data and fulfil its reporting mandate. F. Hohenberg also explained that there would be an opportunity for participating States to review the accuracy of the data before the website is launched.

P. Romich then presented the key pages of the Hate Crime Reporting Website and gathered feedback from NPCs. Overall the website was well received by participants.

Session three: current issues and activities

NPCs worked together in small groups to identify current hate crime issues from their perspectives, and share activities. Key points were then shared with the larger group, and included:

- ODIHR should support NPCs to influence those parts of the criminal justice system that are non-responsive in relation to data collection;
- It is important that translation is available for documents submitted by NPCs;
- Co-ordination among IGOs is very important to avoid duplication and too many requests for the same data;
- It is important that the same definition of hate crime is used both by IGOs and at the national level across the police and prosecution services;

- ODIHR should endeavour to strengthen exchange among NPCs, for example by an online platform, more frequent meetings, study visits to other countries, and liaising with Permanent Missions;
- Participating States would benefit from joint trainings including prosecutors, police and NGOs;
- The NPCs' job would be made easier if there were a network of dedicated points in all the ministries at the national level who are responsible for supplying hate crime data;
- Education on hate crime—modules on hate crime could be included in students' human rights programmes;
- Hate crime trainings could be delivered by NGOs and police together.

Summary of evaluation

The vast majority of feedback was very positive, with all NPCs stating that the meeting met their expectations, was of an appropriate duration, with appropriate content and format and with adequate opportunities to meet with fellow NPCs and ODIHR staff. Key strengths of the meeting included: that it was very well organised, presenters were very knowledgeable and the sessions on the questionnaire and website were highly informative. Key areas for improvement were to have more small group work, a longer single meeting or multiple meetings in one year, to combine NPC meetings with study visits and to focus on more substantive issues such as training/particular approaches by different participating states.

Annex A: Agenda



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON HATE CRIMES (NPCs)

14 – 15 November 2013

Radisson Hotel, Warsaw

AGENDA

Overall aims of NPC meeting:

- To exchange experiences, challenges and good practice initiatives among NPCs and ODIHR.
- To learn how to use ODIHR's online hate crime questionnaire and to give feedback on both the substantive and technical aspects of submitting information to ODIHR.
- To learn about the key features of ODIHR's new Hate Crime Reporting Website and to provide feedback.

DAY 1**14 November 2013****15:30 – 17:00****Optional briefing: ODIHR and NPCs - Roles and Responsibilities**

Mr. Ales Hanek and Ms. Joanna Perry, Hate Crime Officers

TND hate crime officers will provide an interactive briefing on the key findings of the 2012 hate crime report and the role of the NPCs.

17:30 – 18:30**OPENING**

Welcome by Floriane Hohenberg, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department

Interactive panel discussion: The 'big picture'- experiences and perspectives on the challenges involved in addressing the major aspects of hate crime responses

Ms. Wirginia Prejs (NPC for Poland), Ms. Maia Kvirikashvili (NPC for Georgia), Ms. Carina Djärv (NPC for Sweden), and Ms. Klará Kalibová (In IUSTITIA) will present their experiences and perspectives on hate crime issues including: policing, prosecution, data collection, victim support and civil society engagement.

18:30**RECEPTION****DAY 2****15 November 2013****09:00 – 11:00****Session one: training and feedback on ODIHR's new online hate crime questionnaire**

NPCs will learn how to use ODIHR's new online questionnaire, and will be invited to give feedback on both the substantive and technical aspects of submitting information to ODIHR.

11:00 – 11:30**COFFEE BREAK****11:30 – 12:30****Session two: Introduction to ODIHR's Hate Crime Reporting Website**

ODIHR's Tolerance and non-Discrimination Department will present the Hate Crime Reporting Website and gather feedback from NPCs.

12:30 – 14:00**LUNCH****14:00 – 16:00****Session three: current issues and activities**

NPCs will work in small groups to identify current hate crime issues from their perspectives, and share activities. NPCs and ODIHR will work together to identify areas for further co-operation in 2014.

16:00 – 16:30**CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION**

Annex B: List of participants

Surname	Name	Organization	Country
Akin	Mehtap	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Turkey
Alkenev	Ruslan	General Prosecutor's Office	Kazakhstan
Bartaševičiūtė	Lina	NPC (Ministry of Interior, Public Safety Department)	Lithuania
Biber	Aleš	NPC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Slovenia
Bjelić	Radmila	Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Warsaw	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Blum	David	NPC (Federal Ministry of Interior)	Austria
Cayli	Ramazan	Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE	Turkey
Coventry-Howlett	Darren	Garda Síochána, Racial and Intercultural Office	Ireland
Croce	Marcella	Ministry of Interior	Italy
De Witte	Josef	NPC (Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, Discrimination Department)	Belgium
Djärv	Carina	NPC (National Council for Crime Prevention)	Sweden
García Gómez	Antonio	Observatory for Racism and Xenophobia in Spain	Spain
Gevorgyan	Vaheh	NPC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Armenia
Giannasi	Paul	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	United Kingdom
Gilberg	Karine	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	France
Głowacka-Mazur	Danuta	NPC (Ministry of Interior, Department of Control, Complains and Petitions)	Poland
Grünwald	Tomáš	NPC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Slovakia
Holm	Pia	NPC (Ministry of Interior)	Finland
Ilieva	Evgenija	NPC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Jamborová	Kateřina	NPC (Ministry of Interior)	Czech Republic
Jasch	Hans-Christian	NPC (Federal Ministry of Interior)	Germany
Kalmet	Tanel	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Estonia
Kong	Rebecca	NPC (Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics)	Canada
Kvirikashvili	Maia	Ministry of Justice	Georgia
Prejs	Wirginia	NPC (Ministry of Interior, Department of Control, Complains and Petitions)	Poland
Remery	Michel	Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE)	Switzerland/ Holy See
Šoć	Vladimir	NPC (Ministry for Human and Minority Rights)	Serbia

Sočanac	Branko	NPC (Government Office for National Minorities)	Croatia
Stanciu	Ruxandia	Embassy of the Republic of Romania in Warsaw	Romania
Stevens	Karen	NPC (U.S. Department of Justice)	United States
Tallódi	Zoltán	NPC (Ministry of Public Administration and Justice)	Hungary
Theologitou	Kalliopi	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Greece
Veveris	Vieturs	Ministry of the Interior	Latvia
Vujotić	Vladimir	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Montenegro
Wiecken	Alma	Federal Commission against Racism	Switzerland

ODIHR

Hohenberg	Floriane	Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Junuzović	Azra	Deputy Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Perry	Joanna	Hate Crime Officer, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Hanek	Aleš	Hate Crime Officer, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Romich	Peter	Web Editor, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Mikusek	Magdalena	Programme Assistant, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department