

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Working Session 12

Fundamental Freedoms Including Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief

Warsaw, 27 September 2016

Freedom of thought cannot be synonyme of disowning its own belief. There are countless examples where the right to free speech has been used to sow division , hate , or confusion.

The 17th of September 2016 ,in Ghent / Belgium , the city municipality gives permission to a marginal extreme organization called “ Voorpost” to hold a manifestation in a district that’s mainly habited by Turkish and Muslim citizens, while there are lots of big districts in the city.

Some political groups argue for segregation , deportations and even the over throw of the political system. All these examples make society and politics more difficult. I suppose if we start highlighting all the awful things European politicians say undercover of freedom of speech , there wouldn’t be much time for anything else. Hate speech and demonisation argues are misusing freedom of speech.

And to give an example of France , France is using ‘Laïcité’ as a stigmatisation tool by reinforcing clear distinction between Muslim communities living in France and the others. The example of banning burkinis at public beaches which is absolutely a reducing of the freedom of religion and Fundamental rights of Muslim women is one of the last example in that field.

We call upon the participating States to:

- Reexamine their laws, governmental practices and societal trends to combat the discrimination against Muslim communities and minorities.

We call upon the OSCE to:

- Give more financial support to NGOs dealing with Islamophobia issues through supporting ODIHR' efforts for capacity building and training.

EMISCO

11 rue Horace F-67200 Strasbourg
Tél : +32 475 80 50 50
www.emisco.eu - contact@emisco.eu