



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# **Statement on Models of Effective Partnerships between Government, National Institutions, Law Enforcement Authorities and Civil Society in Monitoring and Responding to Hate-Motivated Crimes**

As delivered by Professor Frederick M. Lawrence, Delegation Member,  
to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw  
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Any plan to fight bias-motivated crimes requires as a key element a plan for local and national law enforcement agencies to monitor hate crimes effectively. Thorough monitoring of such crimes will help assess the problem's scope, improve enforcement, and help well-informed policymakers address the challenges better. Ultimately, the only truly effective means to address hate crimes turns not only on criminal law enforcement, but also on seriously addressing the underlying problems which give rise to bias-motivated violence. In this regard, government officials' working with non-governmental experts is critical to any strategy for prosecuting and -- even more importantly -- preventing hate crime.

When law enforcement agencies collect data, those data must be available to the public, including scholars and non-governmental organizations, as well as elected leaders, to develop effective strategies. Similarly, governments should draw upon monitoring and data collection efforts by NGOs to inform their efforts. Beyond enforcing the law, these partnerships can enhance the effectiveness of government efforts as well as the security of the victimized community. This cooperation also helps promote the kind of understanding that can change societal attitudes toward minority groups. Yet, for these efforts to succeed, elected leaders and government officials must publicly speak out against bias-motivated criminal acts.

In the United States, as in other participating States, government and civil society regularly partner to fight intolerance, raising public awareness of these problems' nature and scope. Organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League have partnered with government to provide hate crime and diversity training for local police forces throughout the United States, to help officers identify, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, has joined with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Anti-Defamation League in creating a training program that allows U.S. law enforcement officials to examine the role of law enforcement officers in the Holocaust and to draw lessons about moral questions faced by police in contemporary situations. The United States also engages with other countries' law enforcement agencies in education. The FBI operates the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest, whose eight-week personal and professional development program includes a

course on human dignity, which has been taught to more than 1,000 police officers from the OSCE region

The United States is also a member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research, which draws together government and non-governmental organizations from Europe and North and South America, in order to mobilize political and social support for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research, both nationally and internationally.

It is true in any country that in the long run, it is far more effective and far less costly to society to educate our citizens toward hate crime prevention than to investigate, prosecute and deal with these crimes' tragic effects across communities after they occur.

Governments must work with organizations and education professionals to use schools as a staging ground for anti-bias education at the earliest possible stage in a child's education. The US Department of Justice-funded "Partners Against Hate" program, a joint initiative of ADL and other civil rights organizations, is just one example of such partnerships designed to prevent, deter, and reduce youth hate violence. These programs help increase awareness of the hate problem, promote best practices and help break down cultural barriers to addressing bias.

We all seek an end to bias-motivated violence. We hope that all participating States will form partnerships with entities within civil society in working actively to promote tolerance and understanding. It requires active law enforcement efforts and well-trained law enforcement officials, but it will always require more. It will require an effort by both the public and private sectors. It will require an effort of civic organizations, educational organizations, and social organizations. The end of bigotry is too big a task to be accomplished in one meeting or perhaps even one lifetime. But where we can make efforts, we must.