



Lithuanian Presidency
of the Council of the
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Working group I: Making hate crime visible: strategies to build trust and encourage reporting

ABOUT

Victims and witnesses often do not report hate crimes because they lack confidence in the ability of law enforcement agencies and of the criminal justice system to deal effectively with their cases. They also tend not to turn to civil society organisations or victim support services to report hate crimes. As a result, hate crimes often remain invisible, with victims unable to seek redress against perpetrators.

While law enforcement agencies are, on the whole, responsible for enabling the proper recording of hate crimes, it is up to the criminal justice system to highlight bias motivations when rendering judgments. Civil society organisations and victim support services can serve as intermediaries in the process, for example, through enabling systems of third party reporting.

This working group will seek to explore how we can make hate crime visible. It will look at how to enhance trust in law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system among victims and witnesses of hate crime. It will also try to suggest ways to encourage reporting of hate crime, such as getting assistance from civil society organisations and victim support services.

CHAIRED BY:



Christos Giakoumopoulos is Director of Human Rights in the Council of Europe's Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, a position he has held from 2011. Previously he was Director of Monitoring in the same Directorate General since 2006. Before joining the Directorate General of Human Rights, he was General Counsel and General Director for Legal and Administrative Affairs of the Council of Europe Development Bank (Paris). Since joining the Council of Europe in 1987, he has also held posts in the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, the Venice Commission and Director in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, A. Gil Robles.

PRESENTATIONS:

Ambassador Ingrid Schulerud, Norway EEA Grants

Dovilė Šakalienė, Acting Director, Human Rights Monitoring Institute, Lithuania

FACILITATORS:

Joanna Goodey, Head of Department, Freedoms and Justice Department, FRA

Henri Nickels, Programme Manager, Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, FRA

Waltraud Heller, Head of Sector Communication and Outreach, Communication Department, FRA

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why do victims and witnesses of hate crimes lack confidence in law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system?
2. How can confidence in law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system be increased among victims and witnesses of hate crime?
3. Which types of reporting mechanisms (e.g. online forms, third party reporting) are most effective and why? What lessons can be learned from experiences in EU Member States?
4. How can cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system, civil society organisations and victims support services be enhanced?
5. How can monitoring of hate crime by civil society organisations be put to better use by law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system to make hate crime visible?

RELEVANT FRA EVIDENCE:

- European Union lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survey: Results at a glance (2013)
- Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism (2013)
- Making hate crime visible in the European Union: Acknowledging victims' rights (2012)
- EU-MIDIS Data in Focus Report 6: Minorities as victims of crimes (2012)