



INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

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General thoughts on improved cooperation:

- Engaging the broad basis of yet inactive Christians: political activity as an act of charity!
- Seeking closer cooperation with existing mechanisms of the established systems: Strategic litigation, interaction with ombudspople, national human rights institutions, international gov. institutions, etc.
- Creation of funding opportunities.
- Creation of platforms on which common agenda setting is possible.
- Reclaiming the human rights agenda from the left.

What is the Observatory (OIDAC)?

The Observatory monitors and catalogues instances in which Christians and Christianity are marginalized or discriminated against throughout Europe, currently we feature over 700 individual cases.

The Observatory gathers instances of discrimination against Christians from media sources and individuals who report to us. It briefs international governmental organizations, such as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). All findings are available to



politicians, NGOs, journalists and interested individuals through our website www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu

What are our main concerns?

Besides social intolerance (such as marginalisation, exclusion, hate crimes and hate incidents including vandalism), we particularly notice these main areas of legal tensions for Christians in Europe:

- FREEDOM of CONSCIENCE (civil servants; medical staff; pharmacists; private goods and services)
- FREEDOM of EXPRESSION (hate speech legislation; anti-discrimination legislation)
- PARENTS' RIGHTS (homeschooling; sexual education; religious education)
- Institutional Dimension of FREEDOM of RELIGION (hiring, renting out of facilities; freedom of assembly)

Furthermore, we are especially worried about „Discriminatory Equality Policies.“

What do we recommend?

Together with the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE (unanimously adopted in July 2011) we recommend:

- that a "public debate on intolerance and discrimination against Christians be initiated and that the right of Christians to participate fully in public life be ensured" (12);
- that "in view of discrimination and intolerance against Christians, that legislation in the participating States, including labour law, equality law, laws on freedom of expression and assembly, and laws related to religious communities and right of conscientious objection be assessed" (13);
- and that the media be encouraged "not to spread prejudices against Christians and to combat negative stereotyping" (15).
- Please cooperate with the **European Network of the Observatory!**



- Please view our „Report on Intolerance against Christian in Europe in 2011“ and other publications as well as all cases through an elaborate search tool on www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu

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