Training prosecutors

Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT)

ODIHR provides training that builds the capacity of participating States’ criminal justice systems. PAHCT is designed to improve the skills of prosecutors in understanding, investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. In doing so, it helps prevent hate crime and build constructive ties with marginalized groups.

The programme is tailored to the needs and experiences of each country in which it is used. PAHCT is short, compact and flexible. It is designed to be integrated into existing training efforts.

Participating States should consider further measures to ensure that magistrates and prosecutors are well equipped to prevent and respond effectively to hate crimes. Measures could include:

- Ensuring co-operation, where appropriate, at the national and international levels, including with relevant international bodies and between police forces, to combat violent organized hate crime, in line with Decision 9/09 of the OSCE Ministerial Council;
- Conducting awareness-raising and education efforts, particularly with law-enforcement authorities, directed towards communities and civil society groups that assist victims of hate crimes, in line with Decision 9/09 of the OSCE Ministerial Council;
- Encouraging systems of reporting by third parties for victims who are unable or unwilling to report hate crimes directly to police and criminal-justice agencies;
- Introducing or further developing professional training and capacity-building activities for law-enforcement, prosecution and judicial officials dealing with hate crimes, including training and resources to enable law-enforcement officers to identify, investigate and register bias motives, and ensuring that prosecutors have been trained on how to present evidence of bias motivation;
- Building better relationships between criminal-justice agencies and victim groups, with a view to encouraging victims to report hate crimes and witnesses to contribute to solving and prosecuting hate crimes;
- Diversifying membership of law-enforcement and prosecution agencies, so as to increase representation of minority groups; and
- Drawing on resources developed by ODIHR in the area of education, training and awareness-raising to ensure a comprehensive approach to tackling hate crime.
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(ODIHR/OSCE)

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