

**Report of Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office
on Tolerance Issues**

**Country Visit: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
London, 19-20 July 2010**

Ambassador Adil Akhmetov, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office
on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on
Combating Anti-Semitism

Mr. Mario Mauro, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on
Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and
Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

Accompanied by,

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I. Background and Purpose of the Visit

On 19 and 20 July 2010, the three Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination visited London to discuss measures taken by the UK Government to combat intolerance and discrimination, in compliance with the relevant OSCE commitments. The Personal Representative held meetings with the representatives of a range of governmental offices and religious communities, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

II. Summary of Main Findings

The main issues that arose during the discussions included the special role of governmental organizations and non-governmental institutions. Further discussions were devoted to considering potential areas of co-operation between the Personal Representatives, ODIHR, the UK Government and civil society organizations; obtaining information on the challenges, good practices and lessons learned in relation to combating intolerance and discrimination; and making recommendations in support of the efforts of the Government and civil society to promote tolerance and non-discrimination.

a. Meeting with Susan Hyland, Head of Human Rights and Democracy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Hyland emphasized the importance of OSCE's positive contribution to combating intolerance and discrimination in all its forms. She pointed out that the OSCE's focus on expertise and technical assistance rather than polarization of the issue is a very constructive approach, which the UK fully supports. In this regard, she reiterated the commitment of the UK to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions across the OSCE region.

b. Faith Group Meetings

Warwick Hawkins, Communities and Local Government lead on faith issues

Rachel Helibron, Three Faith Forum;

Fiyaz Mughal, Faith Matters;

Rabbi Markus Lange, MA, Council for Christians and Jews

Mr. Hawkins provided information on how the nine major faith communities in the UK, namely Bahais, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism, were represented in the Faith Communities Consultative Council nationally and on the wide range of inter faith forums that existed at the local level. He stated that the British Government believed in encouraging interaction between different faith communities and supporting their integration into society as a whole. For this purpose, the Government had allocated £4.5 million pounds for small scale local inter-faith projects over the previous 3 years. Among the other projects funded by the Government, he especially pointed out Inter Faith Week, which was organized by the Inter-Faith Network for the UK every year.

The other good practices mentioned during the meeting by the representatives of Three Faith Forum, Council for Christian and Jews and Faith Matters include the following;

Mr. Helibron presented his organization's interfaith project focusing on youth and education, which encourages young people from different religious backgrounds not only to talk to each other but also to act together. He mentioned that their Undergraduate PaliaMentors (UP) programme was given an award for intercultural innovation at this year's Marketplace of Ideas during the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in [Rio de Janeiro](#). He also explained that most of the funding for the activities of the Three Faith Forum, which amounted to approximately £400,000 pounds came from private Trusts.

Mr. Mughal informed the Personal Representatives about programmes of Faith Matters, emphasizing that their activities were based on the themes of interfaith, conflict resolution, community cohesion and preventing violent extremism. Within these themes, they work with any faith community though their organization has built

up specialism in working with Jewish, Christian, Sikh and Muslim faith groups. The relevant activities that Mr. Mughal mentioned included:

- development of a booklet on the rights of Muslims
- publication of a directory of “Women-Friendly” Muslims in England
- an interfaith project bringing together imams and rabbis to talk about areas of mutual concern
- a further project on the recruitment of Muslim Chaplains with various UK Institutions, including prisons, hospitals and schools.

Mr Mughal explained that these activities were funded by the Prevent Agenda which mainly focuses on the prevention of radicalization among Muslim youth. He stated that the Prevent Agenda had been harshly criticized in the UK on the grounds that it only singled out Muslims and led to their stigmatization. The new Government was currently considering changing this approach by broadening the scope, including which groups were to be targeted groups under this programme.

Mr. Lange stated that the Council for Christians and Jews work with people across the UK on [projects](#), bringing together Christians and Jews nationally and through their [branches](#). One project mentioned was the training of clergy, by the Community Security Trust, on the contemporary forms of anti-Semitism. The Council also serves as a forum for discussion on new strategies to counter anti-Semitism and promote dialogue between Jewish and Christian faith communities. Mr Lange explained that most of their work had been done at the grass-roots level and based on volunteering. The Council also sought to counter the perceived rise of anti-Semitism at times of violent conflict in the Middle East, by encouraging engagement between Palestinians and Jews and presenting a diversity of views on this conflict among both communities.

Michael Whine and Simi Ben Hur, Community Security Trust (CST) and Board of Deputies of British Jews

Having provided some information on the situation of the Jewish community in the UK, Mr. Whine focused on the current trends in UK anti-Semitism. Mr Whine explained that the Jewish community in the UK, mostly concentrated in London, was well organized and integrated. They were represented at national and local institutions dealing with security matters and anti-Semitism. In relation to this the important role of the cross-government Hate Crime Strategy Group on Anti-Semitism and All Party-Parliamentary Committee on anti-Semitism were emphasised during the meeting in this regard.

Mr. Whine said, the level of monitored manifestations of anti-Semitism in the UK remains stable, with the exception of notable increases at the times of conflicts in the Middle East.

Mr. Whine argued that, while criticism of Israel or the actions of its military forces did not automatically constitute anti-Semitism, one should not ignore the existence of anti-Semitic discourse demonizing Israel. According to Mr. Whine, such discourse breed increasing hostility and hatred against Jews.

In his presentation, Mr. Whine also emphasised the continuing terrorist threat against the Jewish community in the UK. For this reason, he explained that the CST allocated 1 million pounds for the strengthening of the security of Jewish schools.

Additionally, Mr. Whine provided information on the CST's work within the wider framework of fighting racism, in co-operation with Hindu, Sikh and Christian communities. However Mr Whine said that they did not have sufficient co-operation with British Muslims, at this stage, as they had not been able to identify key partners among this community.

In relation with racist and xenophobic political platforms, Mr. Whine specifically raised concerns about the activities of the BNP, the EDL and the UK Independence Party, explaining that these groups mainly targeted Muslims and abandoned their anti-Semitic discourse to a great extent.

Ms. Ben Hur highlighted good co-operation with a range of churches in combating anti-Semitism and explained that this co-operation was based on bilateral relations with each organisation, rather than on interfaith dialogue. She made references to several tools and materials developed for law enforcement officers to fight anti-Semitism. Ms Ben Hur e also raised concerns that manifestations of anti-Semitism in schools and on university campuses was becoming more wide-spread.

Rihan Haidem, Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board;
Sarah Barnes, Faith Matters

Mr. Haidem explained that approximately 2 million Muslims lived in the UK. While the majority were from South Asia, the Muslim community in the UK was very diverse, including through ethnicity, culture, language and religion. , . This community had developed a serious feeling of insecurity following the terrorist attacks of 7/7.

Mr. Haidem mentioned some projects relating to the Muslim community, within the framework of government's Prevent Agenda. These included empowering imams not only to condemn violent extremism but also to better understand the needs of the communities that they were serving, with a particular focus on youth and women.

Ms. Barnes spoke about the pressure on the Muslim youth in the UK, in terms of questioning their identity on the basis that it seemed impossible to be both Muslim and British. However, Ms. Barenes referred to the 2009 report of Gallup and the Coexist Foundation on the state of faith relations in North America and Europe in highlighting that British Muslims, overall, were more loyal to the UK than the general public thought.¹

Gillian Walnes, Anne Frank Trust UK; **Dr. Jane Clements, Representative of Church of England; **Katharina Muller, Catholic Bishops Conference****

¹ According to the report, although 82 per cent of the British Muslims state that they are loyal to the UK, only 36 per cent of the general public in this country consider that Muslims are loyal. See "U.S., Canada Show More Interfaith Cohesion Than Europe," Gallup, 7 May 2009, <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/118273/canada-show-interfaith-cohesion-europe.aspx>>

Ms. Walnes provided detailed information on the exhibition of the story of Anne Frank which had been travelling around the UK. In particular, she spoke about the exhibition in Northern Ireland, where volunteers from both Protestant and Catholic communities had worked together for six months. She explained that this initiative made a good contribution to breaking down barriers, which had not been created by differences in theology, but tribal or territorial identity politics.

Discussions continued on the concerns, raised by Mr. Mauro, about the possible impact of the decision of the European Court of Human Rights on banning crucifixes in Italian public schools. Dr. Clements suggested that everyone should be entitled to use her or his religious symbols as long as this did not pose a threat to health and public security or violate the rights of others. Dr Clements also explained that, in the UK, anti-Christian stereotypes were so prevalent and no such phenomenon was established by statistics or figures.

Reverend Nick Holtam; Rabbi Daniella Kolodny; Imam Ajmal Masroor

This meeting involved a guided tour of the St Matins Church followed by a presentation on an inter-faith initiative called “Citizens Organizing Project.” This project involved broad-based community organisation with strong representation from faith communities. The project aimed to bring together community groups to address their common concerns, primarily those related to social justice. Reverend Nick Holtam provided concrete examples of their activities, including their lobbying initiative on the “living wage” and through supporting the Muslim community in East London in the purchase of land so that they might expand the site of their already existing church.

Imam Ajmal Masroor suggested that more efforts towards cross-cultural dialogue should be undertaken by both sides. Such a dialogue would need to meet certain criteria, including the acknowledgement of equality between partners, honesty, and openness. In this regard, he noted that the majority of society still referred to people of Muslim origin in the UK as “immigrants,” even after they had been living in the UK for several generations.

Rabbi Daniella Kolodny, referred to Jewish traditions in relation to social justice and emphasized the importance of religion in bringing people together on matters of ethical concern. Rabi Kolodny also mentioned that, in response to the 7/7 bombings, a rabbi and an imam prayed together for peace in a church during a Sunday ceremony.

Reverend Nick Holtam underlined the importance of bringing together people from different religious backgrounds on matters of social justice; it was not enough to respond to religious intolerance by promoting interfaith dialogue alone.

c. Parliamentary Meetings

Meeting of Ambassador Akhmetov with Lord Ahmed, Vice Chair of the All Party Group on Interfaith Relations

Lord Ahmed raised concerns of the use of the Muslim “card” by some politicians in an attempt to gain more popularity with constituents, in particular, during times of economic and/or social crisis. In this regard, Lord Ahmed highlighted that recent initiatives to ban the construction of minarets and wearing of the burqa, in Switzerland and France respectively, was suggestive of a worrying trend in European countries, including in the UK. Lord Ahmed underlined that ‘Islamophobia’ was a form of racism in the World today, and one that could, for the most part, be manifested without being challenged.

Referring to the responsibility of political representatives to condemn and counter manifestations of all forms of intolerance and discrimination, Lord Ahmed presented the efforts to establish an All Party Group on Islamophobia as an important step forward in this area.

Meeting of Rabbi Baker with John Mann, Chair of the All Party Group on Anti-Semitism

John Mann MP provided Rabbi Baker with a thorough overview of the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism. John Mann explained the UK Anti-Semitism inquiry process, the rationale behind it, and its use as a best practice model in other countries. The key to the inquiry was its cross-party nature and formal approach. . John Mann also said he was clear that Parliament should be free from anti-Semitism; he was pleased to have heard no evidence of anti-Semitism since the inquiry, despite sometime high tensions in relation to the Middle East.

On policy matters John Mann provided an overview of the successes relating to the inquiry including; a review of procedures by the crown prosecution service; projects linking schools of different faiths; a forthcoming publication of police data on anti-Semitic incidents (now published); holocaust education work; and academic research into anti-Semitic discourse. John Mann also outlined the remaining challenges which he broke down into four parts:

1. The internet: the need for global co-operation
2. University campuses: sharing best practice in tackling hate speech
3. Holocaust Obfuscation: the need for effective Holocaust education in Europe and opportunities in global forums
4. Football: the risk of far-right activism and football tournaments

Meeting of Mr. Mauro with Dr. David Landrum, Representative of the All Party Group for Christians in Parliament; Dr. Don Horrocks Head of Public Affairs at the Evangelical Alliance; Dr. Dan Boucher, Director of Parliamentary Affairs at CARE (Christian Action Research and Education)

Dr Landrum introduced the mandate and activities of the All-Party Group for Christians in Parliament (APGCP). The group includes Members and staff of both Houses of Parliament and provides an opportunity for Christians of all denominations to come together at the Palace of Westminster for fellowship, worship, prayer and

discussion on important issues concerning Christians. A particular focus for the APGCP was on the state discrimination of Christians in the UK through legislation and guidelines for interpretation of legislation premised on sectional and humanistic worldviews. Such anti-plural imposition in the name of diversity had the effect of accentuating inequality of citizenship among people of all the religions in the UK. Dr Boucher mentioned that some Christians face problems in certain professions in situations where they were not allowed to exercise the right to conscientious objection.

d. Meeting with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission

Alan Christie, Policy Director; **Diana Copper**, European and International Policy Manager and **Sukhvinder Singh**, Programme Head, Workplace

The representatives of the Commission provided detailed background information on this national equality body and national human rights institution. It was explained that the Equality and Human Rights Commission was launched in October 2007 - taking over the role and functions of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) - and assuming new responsibilities for sexual orientation, age, religion and belief, and human rights.

The Commission is a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB), established under the Equality Act 2006 as a corporate body. Its sponsor department is the Government Equalities Office (GEO). They have a board of commissioners who steer the commission's work and direction. Many of those who worked in the previous equality commissions joined the new Commission, creating a body with an enormous wealth of experience and knowledge about combating discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, age, disability, religion and belief, gender, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

The Commission covers Great Britain i.e. England, Scotland and Wales, but not Northern Ireland.

In addition to ensuring compliance and providing advice and guidance on equality and human rights issues, the Commission also plays a role in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination among political representatives, particularly during election periods. The Commission capitulates the responsibilities of political parties under equality legislation and monitors their public statements.

e. Meeting with Tony Lloyd MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly for the OSCE

Mr. Lloyd underlined the role of parliamentarians in addressing the issues concerning tolerance and non-discrimination and pointed out how, in failing to do so, they may contribute to the rise of regional tensions as illustrated by the case of Kyrgyzstan. He also raised concerns about the rise of fascist political parties in the European Parliament, as this give legitimacy to such organizations and movements. Moreover, he suggested that the CiO should explore the possibility of Personal Representatives report to the PA.

Mr. Baker informed Mr. Lloyd about ODIHR's country specific teaching materials on anti-Semitism and asked the support of the government for the development of similar tools for the UK.

f. Meeting with the Joint Human Rights Committee, Houses of Parliament

Lord Dubs

Lord Dubs explained the role of the Joint Human Rights Committee, pointing out that it investigated human rights issues, interviewed witnesses of human rights violations and issued reports, including recommendations to the government. Lord Dubs said the Committee also reviewed legislation from the viewpoint of compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights and closely followed-up the Government's performance in applying the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. Lord Dubs highlighted, in particular, the Committee's efforts to bring the counter-terrorism legislation of the UK in line with international human rights standards. The larger-scale projects the Committee was dealing with were the following: 1) Policing and Protest, 2) Bill of Rights, 3) Freedom of expression, and 4) Business and Human Rights.

Lord Dubs stated that Muslims, together with Travellers (Roma and Sinti), were one of the most vulnerable groups to intolerance and discrimination.

g. Separate Meetings of Personal Representatives with NGOs

Civil Society meeting of Ambassador Akhmetov

Shenaz Bunglawala, Muslim Council of Britain; Zaheer Ahmad, National Association of Muslim Police; Dr. Robert Lambert, European Muslim Research Center; Salma Mirza, Forum against Racism and Islamophobia

Ms. Bunglawa explained that the Muslim Council of Britain was particularly concerned about the lack of awareness of hate-crimes in the UK. He said an apparent lack of trust in law enforcement officers among the Muslims community was most likely the main reasons for the under-reporting of such violent acts. Ms Bunglawa also mentioned that a lack of coherent government policies to combat anti-Muslim hate crimes constituted another aspect of this problem. Ms Bunglawa underlined that NGOs dealing with intolerance and discrimination against Muslims required support from the Government, because they didn't have sufficient human and financial resources to monitor and report anti-Muslim hate crimes. Ms. Bunglawa suggested that the Government might take a more even-handed policy towards all vulnerable groups. For example, while providing a 2 million pounds budget fund for the study of contemporary anti-Semitism, the Government might also provide some financial assistance for the study of Islamophobia

Mr. Ahmad contended that there was a need for police forces to be given the capacity that would allow them to properly identify and record hate crimes targeting Muslims. His organization therefore, focused on raising awareness of Islamophobia among law enforcement officers. For this purpose, in April 2010, they had held the first ever

Islamophobia conference for Police Services in London which looked at a problems t affecting the Muslim Community. The report of the meeting, attended by 250 delegates, had been published.

Mr. Lambert, based on the findings of their recent report on Islamophobia and hate crimes in the London area, stated that the focus of hate crimes had shifted from racism to Islamophobia in the last decade. However, it still remained that anti-Muslim hate crimes were significantly underreported and under-recorded. According to him, there was a clear need for improving the capacity of Muslim NGOs in this area. The Muslim Safety Forum had been attempting to monitor and report such crimes, but it lacked sufficient resources. Mr Lambert suggested that Muslim and Jewish NGOs should come together to establish partnerships in order to combat hate crimes more effectively.

Ms. Mirza indicated that, as result of lack of funding, her organization had been forced to put a hold on their hate crime monitoring activities. Ms. Mirza also mentioned that, in the past, Muslim NGOs had benefited greatly from attending OSCE/ODIHR events on intolerance and discrimination. However, as a result of decreasing civil society funding provided by the organization, they were no longer able to participate in such events.

Courtesy visit to the Secretary-General of Muslim Council of Britain, Farooq Murad

The meeting covered a range of issues relating to Islamophobia in the UK and wider Europe, expressing common concerns at the growth of anti-Muslim rhetoric and attacks against Muslims. During the meeting, both Mr. Akhmetov and Mr. Murad expressed the need to work more closely together, in particular, ensuring a more coordinated and robust political solution to the growing problem.

Civil Society meeting of Mr.Baker

Mike Whine, CST; Robin Shepherd, Director of International Affairs of the Henry Jackson Society; Jardena Lande, Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism

Mike Whine reported that the CST was in the process of preparing its annual report on public discourse. The report would show that there had been a decline in anti-Semitic events during the first months of 2010, compared to the same period in 2009. This might be attributed to the Gaza conflict. However, Mr Whine identified that the early 2010 figures were still greater than what had been recorded in 2008.

Both speakers maintained that this indicated an ominous trend, with events in the Middle East potentially triggering anti-Semitic outbursts. They contended that these “spikes” in anti-Semitism tended to recede as each crisis situation in the Middle East faded, but that the “baseline” remained higher and was of serious concern.

At the time of the visit to London, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) in London had just released an extensive survey on the attitudes of Jews in Britain. According to the survey almost a quarter of those questioned (23%) answered yes to the question, “In the last 12 months, have you personally witnessed an anti-Semitic incident?” Over half of those who answered in the affirmative said the incident was related to the assailant/abuser’s views on Israel.

Civil Society meeting of Mr. Mauro

As there was only one participant, this meeting was very short and mainly focused on the role of Mr Mauro as PR of OSCE Chairmanship and the way in which NGOs can cooperate in general with the Personal Representative and ODIHR

h. Meeting with Officials from the Department of Education. Ghulam Abbas, Head of Community Cohesion

Mr. Abbas provided information on the Department of Education’s activities, which were based on the policies developed by the previous administration. Mr Abbas said there might be some changes to these activities with a new Government in power. He described the different areas of educational activities that dealt with tolerance and non-discrimination. These included the following:

- Curriculum development: subjects that addressed tolerance related issues included citizenship, diversity, slavery, the Holocaust. A text book had been produced, in consultation with Muslim organizations, on Islamic perspectives on citizenship. In the UK, teachers were free to choose which materials they would use in classroom.
- Regulation: laws and regulations to promote racial equality, prohibition of discrimination, community cohesion and shared values.
- Inspection systems: aiming to ensure that that principles of tolerance and non-discrimination wer put into practice by school authorities.
- Extra-curricula activities: such activities were adopted three years ago in order to bring together students with different backgrounds and to encourage their interaction (a whole week had been dedicated to discuss identity related issues).

Mr. Baker explained that ODIHR is tasked to assist participating States in their efforts to combat anti-Semitism through education. In this context, ODIHR had launched an education project which is currently carried out in 12 OSCE countries. Customized country versions of teaching materials to combat anti-Semitism had been developed or were in progress. Rabbi Baker mentioned that the Anne Frank Education Trust UK was ready to start co-operation with ODIHR on a customized country version of these educational tools for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and an adapted version for Scotland.

i. Meeting on Anti-Discrimination Legislation

Matthew King, Lead on Religion and Belief Discrimination Legislation, Government Equalities; **Mathew West**, Head of Race Equality and Partners team, Department for Communities and Local Government

It was explained that the role of the Government Equalities Office was to provide advice at the policy level, in relation to the implementation of race equality legislation, which covered both racial discrimination and racial harassment. Under this legislation, cases could be pursued through the courts by either individuals or communities. Another legislation mentioned was the Race Equality Duty Act (2000). In accordance with this legislation, Government Equalities Office received reports from public bodies about how they were performing their responsibilities in ensuring racial equality. During this meeting, the issue of underfunding of Muslim NGOs was raised by Mr. Akhmetov.

j. Meeting with Senior Officials from Cross-Governmental Group on Hate Crimes

Paul Gianassi, Project Lead on Race for Justice, A Cross-Governmental Hate Crime Programm; **Craig Barnes**, Senior Policy Developer, Race for Justice; **Mike Ainsworth**, National Policing Improvement Agency; **Paul Daily**, Senior Policy Adviser on Hate Crimes, Home Office; **Mike Whine**, Director of Government and International Affairs, Communities and Securities Thrust and Consultant on Defence and Security to the European Jewish Community, Member of the Hate Crime Advisory Group; **Sally Sealey**, Lead on tackling Hate Crime and All Forms of Hatred and Intolerance, Department for Communities and Local Government; **Trevaor Diesch**, Race Equality and Gypsy and Travellers; **Katherine Stone**, Chief Executive, VOICE UK (Charity supporting with disabilities); **Deborah Gold**, Chief Executive, GALOP (LGBT Charity); **Derek Munn**, Stonewall

Mr. Baker expressed his appreciation that the UK remains one of the few participating States of the OSCE which continued to maintain a comprehensive hate crime data collection system. The UK Crown Prosecution Service had published a number of policy guides on prosecuting hate crimes. The Association of Chief Police Officers had also published guidance for police staff in a manual. In 2009, the Government adopted a comprehensive Cross-Government Action Plan. The UK recognized the following categories in data collection: race, religion and belief, disability, sexual orientation and transgender. Data was also collected on anti-Semitic crimes. ODIHR received regular information on hate crimes from the UK National Point of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes, who was an official of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Additionally, ODIHR regularly benefited from the UK expertise in the area of hate crimes.

Nonetheless the participants acknowledged that under-reporting of hate crimes against certain vulnerable groups, including Muslims, Roma and Travellers, people with disabilities and LGBT, constituted one of the greatest challenges to effective monitoring of hate crimes. In order to address this issue, the British Government had recently initiated new projects to monitor hate crimes against these groups.

It was mentioned that the London Metropolitan Police and Diversity and Citizen Focus Director had initiated a research project on Islamophobic incidents. One of the aims of this project was to measure awareness of hate crimes among the Muslim communities. The Muslim Safety Forum and the National Association of Muslim Police were identified as key stakeholders in this project.

During the discussion, monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crimes was presented as a good example. This practice involved carefully examining information about incidents and comparing information collected by the police and NGOS.

III. Recommendations

The Personal Representatives wish to commend the authorities for their action in following areas:

- their pioneering activities in prevention and responding to hate crimes, including comprehensive legislation, awareness raising and capacity building of the actors of the criminal justice system, co-operation with civil society;
- supporting ODIHR's work in the area of data collection on hate crimes, development of guidelines and capacity building activities across the OSCE region;
- the commitment and the active participation of UK experts in OSCE/ODIHR events related to tolerance and non-discrimination and, in particular, ODIHR training seminars for law enforcement.

The Personal Representatives offer the following recommendations to the government of the UK:

- The Government should increase, when relevant, its efforts in training police, prosecutors and judges how to effectively respond to hate crimes. The Government may consult with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in this regard.
- The Government should report hate crime statistics to ODIHR, which should be broken down into different target groups of hate crimes, including Jews, Muslims, Christians, members of other religions, Sinti and Roma, LGBTs, and people living with disabilities.
- The Government should increase its co-operation with civil society, including NGOs and community organizations, in order to combat hate crimes effectively and should provide more funding for the NGOs dealing with this issue. Relevant legislation, which limits the running time of effective projects, should be reconsidered.
- The Government should increase its co-operation with intergovernmental institutions, such as the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in its efforts to combat anti-Semitism, discrimination against Muslims, racism and xenophobia.
- The Government should conduct educational and awareness-raising campaigns in order to inform and sensitize public about anti-Semitism, intolerance against Muslims, racism and xenophobia.

- In particular, the authorities should provide necessary funding and support for the development of a UK version of the ODIHR teaching materials on combating anti-Semitism.
- The authorities should apply more oversight when ensuring that materials spreading prejudice and stereotypes against specific groups are not used in confessional schools. At the same time, the authorities should support the dissemination of appropriate material that promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding.
- The relevant authorities should consider ways of collecting data with respect to discrimination on religious grounds, with the view of inter-alia to creating a clearer picture of the situation of religious communities in the British society and taking targeted steps to combat patterns of discrimination against them.
- The Government should take effective measures against the spreading of hatred via the Internet, especially the one targeting Jews, Sinti and Roma and Muslims.

IV. List of Annexes

a. Agenda of the visit