



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

AGENDA

Annual Police Experts Meeting on Hate Crimes
and Effective Law Enforcement Co-operation
29-30 October 2009
Vienna

Thursday 29 October

12:30 – 14:30 **Lunch** – *Provided by the Strategic Police Matters Unit (2nd floor –Hofburg)*

15.00 – 15.30 **Opening Session**

Chair: Manuel Marion – Deputy Head of the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit

Welcoming remarks by

- OSCE Chairmanship (tbd)
- OSCE Secretary General – Marc Perrin De Brichambaut
- Director of ODIHR – Janez Lenarcic

15:30 -17:30 Session 1: Preventing Hate Crimes

Hate crimes not only affect the individual victim, but also affect the community to which the victim belongs. The consequences of hate crimes have the potential to reach a far larger number of people than many other crimes, and can affect community stability. Effective prevention strategies are therefore essential.

Law enforcement agencies need to be aware of the incidence of hate crimes and especially of patterns which indicate 'hot spots'. Therefore, effective identification and recording of such crimes is a necessary prerequisite to enable proper resources allocation. These efforts should be supplemented by strong institutional mechanisms for working with community organizations that can be closer to the issue and can communicate the experiences of victims of hate crimes effectively. Additionally, civil society organizations can act as an 'early warning' mechanism regarding the growth of organized violent hate groups. While a minority of hate crimes are committed by organized groups, they represent a particularly dangerous phenomenon. Preventing the activities of such groups requires that law enforcement take active steps to identify the existence and activities of groups which pose a high risk of perpetrating violent hate crimes. Law enforcement may also have to employ the use of special investigative techniques, informants and undercover operations in preventing hate crimes.

Therefore, this session aims to discuss the role of police who are in daily contact with community members and engage in preventive operations using special investigative techniques. It is expected that participants will share examples of good practices in police operations and police/public partnerships in preventing hate crimes. The session will also address the role of civil in society in preventing hate crimes.

Keynote speakers:

Jinnah Beels – Belgium

Irfan Saeed – USA

Oliver Krambrich - Germany

Moderator: Tim Del Vecchio – Police Affairs Officer - SPMU

Rapporteur: Armenuhi Hovakimian – Junior Professional Officer - SPMU

Friday 30 October

09.30 - 11.00 Session 2: The role of Police in Responding Hate Crimes

Unlike most crimes, hate crimes require investigation of the question of motive. Additionally, since motives can be mixed and must be inferred from external facts (such as statements at the time of the crime or afterwards), it requires some particular investigative techniques. Further, the precise requirements of national legislation on hate crimes differ widely between participating States. The complexity of hate crimes investigations therefore demands high levels of training and awareness so that police are trained to recognize hate crime and to initiate appropriate investigations. It is equally important that officers understand the need to treat victims of hate crime with sensitivity, and understanding of any cultural, religious or other barriers to reporting crimes. Police agencies and training institutions should re-examine their training curriculum and set up protocols for educating and informing new and existing officers to both prevent and investigate hate crimes.

Police must convey to the public that they are aware of hate crimes and are working with the community to prevent and respond them. Working together for safer communities will do much to ensure that racist and violent crimes are prevented. When a hate crime does occur, the community should have confidence that the police can recognize a hate crime and have the capacity to investigate it competently.

This session will thoroughly examine the role of police in responding hate crimes and challenges faced. Experts will focus on policing tools such as intelligence-led approach, supporting communities and effective investigation.

Keynote Speakers:

Paul Giannasi – UK

Lt. Col. Benoît Ferrand – France

Moderator: TBD

Rapporteur: Tim Del Vecchio – SPMU

11.00 -11.30 Coffee break

11.30 -13.00 Session 3: Inter-agency Co-ordination and Police Management Strategies in Improving Responses to Hate Crimes

Working in partnership with other relevant agencies and upholding the highest professional standards are prerequisites to effectively combating hate crimes.

Police leadership plays a pivotal role in ensuring efficient response to hate crimes and effective cooperation with civil society. A leadership vacuum means that valuable opportunities are lost, existing partners become disenchanted and prospective partners are discouraged.

Police management can develop institutional strategies in responding hate crimes. These must ensure that performance in recognizing, and investigating hate crimes is measured and evaluated. Additionally, management can employ various approaches to enhance the effectiveness of police response to hate crimes, such as continuous development of standard operation procedures or tactical guides, creation of specialist hate crime investigation units, and training of officers, recruitment, and leadership are among those.

It is expected that practitioners will share a number of management strategies applied in relation to effective police service in responding hate crimes.

Keynote Speakers:

Tim Parsons – U.K.

Antonio Arrabal – Spain

Toni Demitz Helin - Sweden

Moderator: TBD

Rapporteur: Azra Junuzovic - ODIHR

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch provided at the Hofburg

14.30 – 15.30 **Session 3: (Continued)**

15.30 - 16.30 Session 4: International Co-operation in Responding to Hate Crimes

Globalization has provided a fertile environment for a growing internationalization of criminal activities. National security concerns can no longer be ensured within the traditional borders of our countries; instead it requires more than ever a close international co-operation between law enforcement authorities.

This session will discuss the existence of possible models of co-operation models in which co-operation can be achieved or enhanced across borders. Experts will also discuss the role of the OSCE in enhancing the law enforcement co-operation in dealing with hate crimes (in particular through the internet).

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Tim Del Vecchio

Rapporteur: Thorsten Stodiek

16.30 - 17.00 **Closing Session**

Closing Remarks by

- OSCE Chairmanship
- Manuel Marion – Deputy Head of the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit.