

26 September 2018



HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING (HDIM)

Warsaw, Poland

September 20, 2018

Working session 17: Combating racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination

Thank you Moderator, distinguished attendees, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Christine Douglass-Williams.

I would like to recommend to the OSCE that efforts toward combatting racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination be applied across the board to everyone equally.

We as Western nations tout diversity, immigration and tolerance but we apply those terms with rigidity to the longstanding citizens of the West and we do not fairly apply them to new immigrants. As a result, we risk:

1. Ending up two tier social and legal systems and
2. Failing in efforts to adequately assimilate new immigrants.

A significant count of immigrants arrive from non-democratic societies, where there are legal codes which enshrine: the supremacy of male over female, punitive action and even death for gays, apostates and a lower status to minorities and unbelievers. When doctrines such as these enter into Western borders, it is imperative that we preserve our democratic system of equity and freedoms.

Let us not forget the 22 innocent victims who were murdered by Salman Abedi in Manchester because they had a different faith belief than the bomber.

I would also like to recommend that the OSCE be world leaders in further **encouraging** open debate about issues of racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination to encourage more open dialogue and true pluralism which are the best defences in combatting intolerance.

Thank you.