

OBSERVATORY ON
INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE

SHADOW
REPORT
БЕБОБИ
SHADOW

ON INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE
2005 - 2010

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I) INTRODUCTION

1. HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

The exemplary cases in this report are chosen in view of giving a full picture of the variety of incidents taking place in our day. Some cases are listed in more than one category, depending on their explanatory quality. All cases are portrayed fully on the Observatory's website www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu. There is no national or European reporting mechanism that would allow us to give clear statistics of frequency or developments over the past years. What we are able to do is to give impressions of the phenomenon, revealing to the reader its diverse aspects and far-reaching scope.

We are grateful to those who gave us their permission to use their information on our website. Many cases are brought to our attention by news networks. In these cases, we rely upon the news network for correct information and disclaim responsibility for the content. As for cases we investigate ourselves, tight criteria uphold a high standard of quality.

2. WHO WE ARE

The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians is an NGO registered in Austria. The Observatory hosts a website which monitors and catalogues instances in which Christians and Christianity are marginalized or discriminated against throughout Europe. The Observatory focuses on Europe (European Union, EU accession countries, and wider Europe).

The Observatory gathers instances of discrimination against Christians from media sources and individuals who report to us. We brief international governmental organizations, such as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (of which I am a member of the Advisory Panel) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Our findings are available to politicians, NGOs, journalists and interested individuals through our website. The Observatory is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU-Fundamental Rights Agency.

Our work is also aimed at encouraging victims of intolerance and discrimination against Christians to tell their stories, and at raising awareness among all people of good will that the phenomenon ought to be taken seriously and is in need of common responses.

3. FOUR OBJECTIONS

At the *OSCE Roundtable on Intolerance against Christians* on March 4th 2009, a member of the secularist society purported that the phenomenon was a merely intra-Christian problem, i.e. Christians of one denomination discriminating against Christians of another. He faced strong opposition, and rightly so. To a large extent, Christian denominations have learned to co-exist. They even work together, and differences are being discussed in mutual respect. And even if there are disputes amongst Christians, what we face all together are radical secularism and political correctness gone overboard, both of which limit fundamental freedoms.

Another common objection states, that what Christians encounter today is not intolerance or discrimination, but a process of losing historical privileges. Historical privileges, far from discriminating against other religious communities, are not necessarily bad, considering that they are, after all, *historical* and that no community exists void of a past with its own historically evolved identity and traditions. Full neutrality is impossible since even an empty white wall is a statement, especially if it is a consequence of the removal of the crucifix. One religious community holding privileges for historical reasons does not mean that others are being discriminated against – as long as their enshrined rights are protected.

To some extent the withdrawal of privileges from Christianity constitutes an unnatural break with history and identity and is an expression of hostility. This hostility does not stop at the removal of privileges. It causes marginalization and social exclusion, and it leads to the denial of rights of Christians. *Equal* rights for Christians are at stake.

Others have argued that Christianity could not be discriminated against in Europe because it still holds a majority. Some people conclude from the premise that minorities deserve protection, that it is not possible to discriminate against a majority. Wrong! South African blacks were not a minority when they suffered from apartheid. Rocco Buttiglione was rejected as EU commissioner due to his adherence to Christianity, the majority faith. Imagine one person at a microphone insulting a silent crowd. Imagine a small group of CEOs not hiring members of a majority religion

because they do not like that religion. This *is* possible! It is true that intolerance and discrimination *more often* affects minorities. But this is not necessary for the definition of the terms. More essential than numbers is power: who sets the tone, who is listened to, and who creates the agenda. Every day Europe's majority faith is being treated disrespectfully and sometimes its free exercise faces unjust limitations. And yet another thought: as Christianity in Europe goes through a transition today, one might speak of a majority only with regard to baptism certificates. But those are not the people who experience intolerance and discrimination.

Again, on other grounds, we have been told not to be so sensitive about these "minor issues" in Europe when Christians in other regions are confronted with blatant persecution even to the point of martyrdom. Reports suggest that 100 million Christians worldwide are being persecuted and that 75% of all religious persecution is directed against Christians.¹ Certainly the plight of Christians in these regions is dreadful and I support every effort to relieve their suffering. But it was John Paul II who asked back in 1983 not to overlook, *besides common forms of persecution ... more sophisticated punishments, such as social discrimination or subtle restrictions of freedom, possibly leading to a kind of civil death.*

Assuredly, for Christians to "turn the other cheek" is an expression of personal spirituality. Yet with regard to public policy the Christian motto is to take action to *help one's neighbor*, not to turn the cheek or the head when *another* is being unjustly treated or persecuted. A Christian must not look away from an injustice done to another Christian so that he may gain practice in turning the other cheek. A Christian will always work towards a more free and just society, including for Christians.

4. TERMINOLOGY

The phenomenon has received *wide recognition* under *different* names. „Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians“ is the phrase we use to describe the denial of equal rights of Christians and the social marginalisation of Christians. The term „intolerance“ refers to the social dimension, the term „discrimination“, to the legal. Such intolerant and discriminatory behaviour results from opposition to individual traits of the Christian faith or *moral* positions that are intrinsically part of the Christian faith, or from a negative categorical bias against Christians or Christianity as a whole. It leads to attacks on the *social level* (such as negative stereotyping or social exclusion), on the *legal level* (for example through a discriminatory law or a bias court verdict) and on the *political level* (exclusion from the public sphere; a resolution of a parliament; etc.).

¹ Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, Report on "Religious Freedom. Pillar of the Human Rights Policy in the External Relations of the European Union", May 2010, p. 6.

Christianophobia or *Christophobia* are common terms that describe the phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Christians. The term consists of the words „Christian“ or „Christ“ and „phobos“ (φόβος) which means “irrational fear”. The term means therefore an irrational animosity towards Christ, Christians, or Christianity as a whole. As Christianity is familiar to Europeans, and antagonism against Christians is not due primarily to an „irrational fear of the unknown“, we have chosen to use the phrase *Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians* when speaking about this phenomenon.

Please note: We do not generally use the term *persecution* when speaking of Christians in Europe, as it refers more appropriately to a *systematic* mistreatment commonly understood to focus on imprisonment, torture, execution, or confiscation of property.

5. QUOTATIONS: WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS

These quotes are selected examples. Sources as well as other quotes may be viewed at the Observatory’s website.

Pope Benedict XVI on the problem of intolerance and discrimination of Christians

(17.09.2010 London Westminster Hall) “I cannot but voice my concern at the increasing marginalization of religion, particularly of Christianity, that is taking place in some quarters, even in nations which place a great emphasis on tolerance. There are those who would advocate that the voice of religion be silenced, or at least relegated to the purely private sphere. There are those who argue that the public celebration of festivals such as Christmas should be discouraged, in the questionable belief that it might somehow offend those of other religions or none. And there are those who argue – paradoxically with the intention of eliminating discrimination – that Christians in public roles should be required at times to act against their conscience. These are worrying signs of a failure to appreciate not only the rights of believers to freedom of conscience and freedom of religion, but also the legitimate role of religion in the public square. I would invite all of you, therefore, within your respective spheres of influence, to seek ways of promoting and encouraging dialogue between faith and reason at every level of national life.”

UK Catholic Archbishop Peter Smith on the reduction of religion to the private sphere

(06.10.2010) “Religion is regarded as a legally permissible private eccentricity; allowable behind closed doors once a week, but not in any way to be given expression in public or working life.”

Commentator Melanie Phillips warns of secularism

(21.09.2010) The rising tide of secularism is not a state of neutrality but an attempt to get rid of religion and enforce its own values and beliefs, a top media commentator has warned. “The public sphere is conceived as being neutral and neutrality is interpreted as being without religion”, Melanie Phillips told the Church of England Newspaper. “I believe that in fact there is no neutrality in the culture wars.” She says that secularism is often presented as neutral, “but to be secular is to embrace certain values and beliefs. Instead of neutrality there is an attempt to get rid of religion and to promote something else instead.” “It has produced a ‘me society’, a society of great selfishness and increasing cruelty and brutality. We no longer see the need to put other people first. Instead we adopt an instrumental approach towards them.”

Member of the European Parliament Roger Helmer: Christians persecuted like smokers

(19.09.2010) “I imagine many Christians today feel under threat. The newspaper headlines about Christmas/Winterval, about the exclusion of faith groups from the public space and civic programmes, about the banning of Christian symbols, have become almost clichés. Indeed I see a kind of parallel with smokers, who are also persecuted, and forced to indulge their habit out in the rain. I am neither a member of any organised religion (though I feel a cultural affinity with the Church of England), nor am I a smoker. But as an MEP I represent a great number of Christians, and smokers, and they have rights too. At least they have a right to respect for their views. We don’t have to agree with them, but we must recognise their right to disagree with us.”

Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury lamented the relegation of Christianity to the personal sphere

(02.03.2010) “What is happening in Western Europe is not persecution but a marginalising of faith which seeks to portray it as a matter of personal conscience only. Some examples of this originate from a mistaken but well-meant political correctness that is anxious not to upset minority faiths by seeming to ‘privilege’ Christianity.” Lord Carey also warned of an aggressive campaign by atheists to banish faith from the public sphere.

Durban Review Conference held in Geneva from April 20th to 24th of 2009, recognizes the phenomenon of Christianophobia

(24.04.2009) The Durban Review Conference... “12. Deplores the global rise and number of incidents of racial or religious intolerance and violence, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and anti-Arabism manifested in particular by the derogatory stereotyping and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief...”

Intolerance and discrimination against Christians needs to be addressed, concludes OSCE meeting

(04.03.2009) OSCE participating States need to do more to address intolerance and discrimination against Christians, concluded the first OSCE meeting focusing specifically on the topic of intolerance and discrimination against Christians. Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR): “What came out clearly from this meeting is that intolerance and discrimination against Christians is manifested in various forms across the OSCE area. While denial of rights may be an important issue where Christians form a minority, exclusion and marginalization may also be experienced by Christians where they comprise a majority in society.”

Harvard researcher Edward Green comments on professional risks for non-Christians taking Christian standpoints

(02.03.2009, Washington Post) “We liberals who work in the fields of global HIV/AIDS and family planning take terrible professional risks if we side with the pope on a divisive topic such as this. The condom has become a symbol of freedom and, along with contraception, female emancipation, so those who question condom orthodoxy are accused of being against these causes.”

Tony Blair warns that Christians must speak out in 'aggressively secularist' age

(01.03.2009) “...In general terms in British society there is a risk that people see faith as a personal eccentricity ... I hope and believe that stories of people not being allowed to express their Christianity are exceptional or the result of individual ludicrous decisions. My view is that people should be proud of their Christianity and able to express it as they wish. ... The real test of a religion is whether in an age of aggressive secularism it has the confidence to go out and make its case by persuasion.” His wife Cherie Blair said in a Channel 4 documentary: “Everywhere you look today churches are being closed, Christians are often being marginalised and faith is something few people like to discuss openly.”

Orthodox Archbishop criticizes growing Christianophobia

(25.01.2008, Interfax) Orthodox Metropolitan Alfeev Hilarion, the representative of the Russian Orthodox Church in European international organizations: “We often hear about anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and very little is said about Christianophobia, which is gaining strength in many European countries.” Among the forms of Christianophobia in Europe, Bishop Hilarion mentioned the removal of Christian symbols from the public sphere, the denigration of Christianity and refusal to recognize the Christian heritage of Europe, the persecution of people who openly express Christian convictions and who choose to live according to Christian moral standards.

Mr. Doudou Diène, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

(01.01.2008) „The Commission is invited to make an urgent appeal to Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that the promotion and development of secularism do not lead to a questioning or denial of the right of everyone, irrespective of religion, to participate in public life. In this context respect for religious and cultural pluralism implies acknowledgment, not only of the right but also of the vocation of religions and spiritual traditions to deliver opinions on the fundamental issues in society, in particular those relating to ethics, the family, marriage and life.“

Report by the UN-Economic and Social Council, Dec. 13, 2004

(13.12.2004) (para. 54): ...Christianity is also under pressure from a form of secularism, particularly in Europe. In part feelings of suspicion towards Christianity and limitations of its expression stem from the difficulty encountered, in particular in Europe, in managing the increasing presence of Muslims in the region. Thus the tendency to favour similar restrictions on all forms of religion results in the denial of the visible expression of any religion. It also seems that there is a fear of allowing religion to play a role in public life. This is apparently explained by a “rationalist” aversion towards religion, which is seen as representing the irrational, as well as by a tradition of secularism that denies religions the possibility, if not the right, to play a role in public life. This form of prejudice against Christians or ideas based on religion, which exists both in Europe and in the United States, mainly concerns questions relating to sex, marriage and the family, on which the Catholic, Muslim and Orthodox churches have taken stands.“

II) INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE

1. GROWING RECOGNITION

International governmental institutions have mentioned the growing threat to religious freedom for Christians on many occasions. On March 4th 2009 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe hosted a meeting in Vienna on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, which gathered about 100 experts and state representatives. *“What came out clearly from this meeting is that intolerance and discrimination against Christians is manifested in various forms across the OSCE area,”* said Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Director of the host organization, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. In his press release he summarized how the phenomenon was portrayed: *“Meeting participants discussed several aspects of intolerance and discrimination against and among Christians, including violent attacks against persons, property and places of worship, as well as restrictions to the right to freedom of religion or belief. Participants also highlighted inaccurate portrayals of Christian identity and values in the media and political discourse, leading to misunderstandings and prejudice.”*

Mario Mauro, Italian member of the European Parliament and OSCE representative on freedom of religion recently published a book called *War against Christians* in 2010.

In France Michel de Jaeghere wrote a book entitled *Enquete sur la christianophobie* explaining his perception of the phenomenon in detail in 2006.

The topic is on the table in the United Kingdom: The Christian Institute published a report called *Marginalizing Christians*, which catalogues numerous cases of Christians being sidelined by public bodies, popular media, employers and of being faced with barriers to public funding in 2009. The United Kingdom House of Commons held an enquete on discrimination against Christians in the beginning of 2009. House member Mr. Jackson of Peterborough called for a debate on “*Systematic and institutional discrimination towards Christians*” asking: “*Does fairness and equality only apply to people who are non-Christians in this country?*” The BBC aired a one-hour documentary on Easter Sunday 2010 entitled “*Are Christians Being Persecuted?*”. In September 2010, the Spectator ran the cover story “*Don’t Even Think It – Thought Crime Special.*”

2. DISCRIMINATION: WHERE RIGHTS ARE DENIED ON THE BASIS OF ONE’S CHRISTIAN FAITH

Discriminatory laws directly or indirectly prevent equal exercise of freedom. With regard to Christianity in Europe, this is often the case in the areas of freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and freedom of religion. The latter is understood to include the right to raise one’s children in one’s faith, to share one’s faith peacefully with others, to publish religious materials without censorship, to change one’s religion (by choice, not coercion) and to practice no religion at all.² We often come across overly broad equal treatment or anti-discrimination legislation that causes indirect *side-effect discrimination* of Christians. Equally, hate speech legislation has a tendency to indirectly discriminate against Christians, criminalising core elements of Christian teaching. We recommend that legislators carefully consider legislation with a view to freedom of religion, speech and conscience especially with regard to its effect on Christians.

2.1. Freedom of conscience

Freedom of conscience enables a believer to live according to the demand of his faith, which gives meaning to his own life. Limiting or denying an individual the right to freedom of conscience, even on the basis of other rights, voids this right of meaning and in turn violates personal autonomy as a main requirement of human dignity.

European Institutions: MP McCafferty Attempted to Restrict Freedom of Religion and Conscience

October 2010: Former British MP Christine McCafferty urged the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to recommend limitations to conscientious objection when it comes to abortion. The draft report contained a limitation of freedom of conscience to

² Hilary Clinton at the presentation of US International Religious Freedom Report 2010 (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148995.htm>).

individuals. Objecting individuals would have faced restrictions and blacklisting. The draft, aiming at discriminating against Christians, was voted down on October 7th.

Spain: Judge Suspended for 18 Years for Delaying Adoption by Homosexual Couple

November 2008: Judge Fernando Calamita was sentenced to 18 years of occupational ban for exercising conscientious objection and thereby delaying the adoption of a little girl by the lesbian partner of her mother.

Spain: Severe Restriction on Conscientious Objection

September 2010: Administration interprets freedom of conscience for medical personnel so narrowly, that only those directly involved in the objected surgical act are allowed to invoke the right to conscientious objection.

United Kingdom: Supreme Court Rejects Registrar's Wish Not to Register Homosexual Unions

March 2010: The UK Supreme Court has refused permission for an appeal in the case of Lillian Ladele, a Christian registrar who was disciplined because of her stance on civil partnerships.

United Kingdom: Home for Retired Missionaries Loses Funding on Gay Issues in Questionnaire

January 2009: Brighton Council requests care home for elderly Christians to ask its residents about their sexual orientation and cuts funding when rejected.

2.2. Freedom of expression

Voltaire is quoted for this sentence: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Freedom of Expression is one of the fundamental rights of a democratic society. This includes the right to publically make declarations however unpopular and unpleasant they may be. This right also applies to the public acknowledgement of one's faith and enables people to declare the truth according to their faith. Unpopular, impolite, disrespectful or stupid statements are protected under freedom of expression as long as they are not direct instigations to violence. The European Court of Human Rights even speaks of a "right to shock".³ So-called hate-speech legislation is often in contradiction to the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

Belgium: Head of Belgian Catholic Church Could Face Charges of Homophobia For Controversial Speech

November 2010: Msgr. Leonard faces accusations of homophobia for expressing controversial positions on the causes of HIV/Aids.

3 *Handyside v. the United Kingdom*, 7 December 1976, § 49, Series A no. 24.

France: Member of Parliament Sued for „Homophobic Insults“

January 2005: French member of parliament, Christian Vanneste, sentenced to payments for „homophobic insults“.

Germany: Gay Students Disrupt Lecture At Cologne University

December 2009: Homosexual students disrupted a lecture of Protestant philosopher Prof. Edith Düsing at Cologne University. The students made noise and used kissing and banners due to the Professor's support of a manifesto in May 2009 that protested the cancellation of an academic lecture at a psychology congress on grounds of the speaker's research on healing homosexuality.

International / Academic Community: Liberal Harvard Scholar in Public Cross-Fire for Agreeing with Pope

March 2009: Liberal Harvard scholar Edward Green was strongly attacked in public for agreeing with the Pope in saying that the distribution of condoms will not prevent the spread of HIV/Aids.

Italy: Pope's Visit to University Cancelled

January 2008: Pope's visit to University La Sapienza was cancelled because of anti-Catholic protests and false accusations that the Pope is not supportive of scientific discovery

Spain: 100.000 Euro Fine For Christian Broadcaster

July 2010: Spain's government fined the Christian television network 100,000 euros for running a series of advertisements in favor of the family and opposing homosexual lifestyle.

Turkey: Case Against Turkish Christians Ongoing Despite Lack of Evidence

June 2010: Turkish attorneys are now in the fourth year of prosecuting two Christians for allegedly slandering Islam. Despite the lack of any concrete evidence to support their claims, Turkish courts are continuing prosecution.

United Kingdom: Anti-Abortion Campaigner Jailed

May 2006: Anti-abortion campaigner jailed for sending abortion photo and video to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, Norfolk, UK.

United Kingdom: MSP Patrick Harvie Reports Archbishop to the Police for Defending Marriage

January 2006: Member of the Scottish Parliament asked Strathclyde Police to investigate remarks made by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow. The Archbishop had defended the institution of marriage in a church service.

United Kingdom: Street Preacher Arrested Over Comments About Homosexual Activity

February 2010: A district judge has thrown out the case against another street preacher, Paul Shaw, who was arrested on February 19 in Colchester over comments he made about homosexual activity.

United Kingdom: Street Preacher Arrested for Comment on Homosexuality as a Sin

May 2010: Street Preacher Dale McAlpine was arrested after stating to a passersby that homosexuality was a sin. After seven hours in a police cell, McAlpine was released. (video footage available!)

United Kingdom: Humanists Campaign to Stop the Noah's Ark Zoo Farm Because it Says that God Created the World

October 2010: BHA (British Humanist Association) has called on the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, North Somerset Council, to visit Britain and South West England to shut down the zoo. The secular group claims that the zoo is misleading tens of thousands of visitors annually and 'threatening public understanding' by questioning the traditional view of evolution.

United Kingdom: (Scotland) Street Preacher Arrested and Fined £1000 In Glasgow After Night in Jail

March 2010: A street preacher has been arrested and fined £1000 in Glasgow for telling passersby, in answer to a direct question, that homosexual activity is a sin. He was sentenced for "homophobic remarks...aggravated by religious prejudice."

2.3. Collective dimension of freedom of religion

The collective dimension of Freedom of Religion implies respect of public authorities for religious institutions themselves by respecting the managerial autonomy of the churches. It guarantees churches a sufficient autonomy to fulfil their vocation according to their religious faith and morals. The increasing disrespect for collective freedom of religion has led to undue pressures and interferences in church affairs. This goes so far as to include direct attacks such as "criminalization" and prosecution as well as legislation indirectly forcing religious institutions to put an end to their activities.

Austria: Attempt to Legally Qualify Catholic Church as Criminal Organisation

March 2010: Vienna-based lawyer Georg Zanger wants to sue leading members of the Catholic Church on grounds of membership in a criminal organisation (§ 278a StGB, Austrian Code of Penal Law).

Belgium: Parliament Issues Formal Protest against Pope's Statement on Condoms

April 2009: The Belgian Chamber and Senate approve overwhelmingly two resolutions formally condemning the Pope for having stated that the distribution of condoms will not help to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Pope's position is called a "crime against humanity".

Czech Republic: Law Upheld which Interferes with Churches' Affairs

November 2007: The Czech Constitutional Court dismissed the proposal by a group of senators to abolish a controversial amendment to the church law that had been pushed through by the left and that churches say limits their rights.

European Institutions / Italy: European Court of Human Rights Violates Freedom of Religion

October 2009: Professor Luigi Lombardi Vallauri's teaching contract was not prolonged by the Catholic University of Milano after he taught things like the gospel was the "Most frightening message ever made known to mankind" and that "Jesus was through and through a bad human being." On October 20th, the Court ruled that this was a violation of his freedom of opinion.

European Institutions: Parliament Liberals Table Anti-Pope Amendment

May 2009: Liberal Group in the European Parliament tabled an amendment to the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World condemning Pope Benedict XVI's anti-condom statement.

France: Provocation of Christians in Front of Church by Gay Activists

February 2010: Gay activists plan mass kissing provocation in front of Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. Counterdemonstrations led to new location while a few remained there.

Netherlands: Gay Service Disruption and Priest Sued over Communion Refusal

February 2010: Openly homosexual activists disrupt Catholic services for refusing Holy Communion to open homosexuals.

Russia: Religious Persecution Through Bureaucratic Obstacles

January 2006: (ongoing) Visa difficulties for religious personnel; police failure to protect the faithful; administrative obstacles prevent religious services.

Turkey: Aramaic Christians Under Great Pressure

December 2008: Aramaic Lawyer David Gelen reveals in an interview with German daily „Die Welt“ the pressures Turkish authorities put on the Christian Aramaic minority.

United Kingdom: Anglican Bishop Fined £47,345 and Sent to „Re-Education“ in Gay Employment Case

February 2008: The Anglican bishop of Hereford has been ordered by a court to undergo „equal opportunities training“ and pay a fine of £47,345.00, the equivalent of about Euro 63,540.00, for refusing to hire an active homosexual for a position of trust with young people.

United Kingdom: Catholic Church Forced to Withdraw from Adoption

April 2007: New gay rights law forces the Catholic Church to pull out of offering adoption services in the UK.

United Kingdom: Equality Bill Feared to Limit Freedom of Religion for Churches in Employment Issues

May 2009: A new Equality Bill will force Churches to employ practicing homosexuals or transsexuals as youth workers.

United Kingdom: Equal Opportunities Means that Homosexual Rights Trump Christian Rights in Employment

November 2009: Christians in employment in the UK will no longer be able to act according to their consciences and the rights of homosexual couples trump those of people of Christian faith, according to a ruling of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

2.4. Employment

A person's religious affiliation should not be cause of discrimination in the area of employment. Certain legislation however has direct or indirect effects on the employment of Christians, for example the narrow interpretation of the right to conscientious objection might cause a discrimination against Christians. Equally, an overly strict separation of work and personal faith might force a Christian to "leave his or her faith in the lobby".

European Institutions: Polish Minister Excluded From EU-Jury Because of "Homophobic" Statement

October 2010: Polish equality minister Elzbieta Radziszewska not reinstated to be a jury-member for this year's EU journalism award, "Together against Discrimination", after she spoke on the rights of schools with regard to employing homosexual teachers.

Netherlands: Mobbing of Christians at Islamic School

August 2009: Christian teachers are treated disrespectfully and pupils are taught that "Christianity would be abolished in the end, all other religions would disappear and everybody will convert to Islam" at school in Amsterdam, and that "after all, only Muslims can be good people."

Spain: Judge Suspended for 18 Years for Delaying Adoption by Homosexual Couple

November 2008: Judge Fernando Calamita was sentenced to 18 years of occupational ban for delaying the adoption of a little girl by the lesbian partner of her mother as a form of conscientious objection.

United Kingdom: Equal Opportunities Means that Homosexual Rights Trump Christian Rights in Employment

November 2009: Christians in employment in the UK will no longer be able to act according to their consciences and the rights of homosexual couples trump those of people of Christian faith, according to a ruling of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

United Kingdom: Paediatrician Dismissed For Christian Views And Reinstated Upon Public Outcry

July 2009: Experienced community paediatrician, who was dismissed from adoption panel over Christian views, has been reinstated because of public outcry.

United Kingdom: Anglican Bishop Fined £47,345 and Sent to „Re-Education“ in Gay Employment Case

February 2008: The Anglican bishop of Hereford has been ordered by a court to undergo „equal opportunities training“ and pay a fine of £47,345.00, the equivalent of about Euro 63,540.00, for refusing to hire an active homosexual for a position of trust with young people.

United Kingdom: Christian Carer Struck Off

February 2009: A Christian foster carer has been struck off because she allowed a Muslim child in her care to convert to Christianity.

United Kingdom: Trades Union Congress Calls for Christian to Be Sacked from Equality and Human Right Commission

September 2008: The Trades Union Congress (TUC), a federation of trade unions in the United Kingdom, has issued a call for the removal of a Christian Equality and Human Rights Commissioner. Joel Edwards is the director of the Evangelical Alliance and a figure loathed by homosexualist activists for his forthright calls for a re-insertion of Christian morals in public life and defence of the rights of Christians who oppose the homosexualist political agenda.

United Kingdom: Oxford University Lecturer Discriminated Against After Converting to Christianity

July 2010: Dr Tali Argov was overlooked for promotion, stripped of her privileges and ill-treated at social gatherings, after converting from Judaism to Christianity.

United Kingdom: London Homelessness Prevention Officer Suspended for Mentioning Faith

January 2009: A homelessness prevention officer with Wandsworth Council has been suspended from work for nearly two months for encouraging a homeless woman with an incurable medical condition to look to God for help.

United Kingdom: Threat of Condemnation for “Harassment” for Having Offered Information on Homosexuality

October 2010: Following a display of information on homosexuality, British Chaplain Thomas Yap was threatened that any speech or teaching that he gave within the University about unwanted same-sex attractions will be deemed as harassment resulting in staff disciplinary action if he contravened harassment legislation.

2.5. Education and rights of parents

Christians are the indirect targets of discrimination in religious education when they are denied the liberty to educate their children according to their philosophical and religious views. This takes place on the one hand through direct or indirect interferences of public authorities with denominational schools, as well as religious education in non-denominational schools. On the other hand, interferences are constituted by the impossibility of opting out of classes that contravene the religious and moral convictions of the parents.

Austria: Christian Sexual Education Made Impossible by Government

September 2008: The government of Austria reinforces guidelines for sexual education that practically prohibit the teaching of authentic Christian sexual values. The guidelines extend to classes of religious education.

France: Study Reveals Discomfort of Parents on Religious Freedom in Schools

February 2009: 67% of French Catholic parents say that public schools do not respect the freedom of conscience of their children.

Germany: Mother Jailed Upon Taking Son Out of Sex Ed

February 2010: A mother of eight was detained on February 17th to spend eight days in a prison. She had refused to send her nine-year-old-son to school on grounds of her objection to the sexual education.

Germany: University Bans Ethics Seminar Due to Christian Contents

March 2008: The Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) in Munich withdraws recognition from „Management Ethics on a Christian Foundation“ seminar because of its Christian content. It is said to violate “political correctness” and to have too little reference to the curriculum of business and administration ethics.

Spain: New Educational Program Spreads Secularist Ideas: 55.000 Parents Opt Out

April 2010: 305 Christian parents lodge complaint with European Court of Human Rights as the mandatory school curriculum is antithetical to their moral convictions.

Sweden: New Law Curbs Religious Elements in Schools

(2008/2009) Sweden curbs the influence of religion in private confessional schools in a move to „prevent the spread of fundamentalism“. The law entered into force in the beginning of 2009.

Turkey: Christian Children Must Attend Islamic Religious Education

(Ongoing) In Turkey, Christian children must attend Islamic religious education.

United Kingdom: Sex-Ed Bill Passed Forcing Schools to Promote Homosexuality, Abortion

February 2010: Under the bill, schools, both religious and secular, will be required to give children information on homosexual relationships as well as artificial contraception and abortion, including on how to obtain abortions and contraceptives. Catholic and Anglican schools will be required to promote abortion, contraception, “civil partnerships” and homosexuality as “normal and harmless.”

United Kingdom: Christianity Marginalised in Religious Education Courses in English Schools

June 2010: English schools are failing to teach pupils about basic Christian beliefs in religious education lessons, according to a new report by education “watchdog” Ofsted.

3. INTOLERANCE: WHERE CHRISTIANS AND EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTIANITY ARE MARGINALISED

Religious intolerance shows itself in ways that go beyond voicing disagreement. Attempts are underway to make the public expression or exercise of the non-tolerated religion impossible. When such intolerance is conducted by a state, it becomes discrimination with regard to the exercise of fundamental freedoms. When it is conducted by individuals or groups of society, it becomes a social phenomenon. This phenomenon must be recognized and tackled by soft political measures, such as awareness campaigns. The participating experts at *The OSCE Roundtable on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians* in March 2009 marked the following areas of concern in regards to the issues of social exclusion and marginalisation of Christians:

Exclusion of Christians from public life (when Christian politicians are mobbed or Christian positions not accepted at the public square)

Stereotyping of and creating prejudice against Christians by their portrayal in the media Targeting of Christian symbols, as we see for example with Christmas symbols Aggressive opposition towards Christians in public engagements.

We recommend to legislators not to overlook religious intolerance. But we generally do not advocate new laws against religious intolerance or “bad behavior”. As long as it does not involve violence or go against existing laws and fundamental rights, it should not be banned by the force of law. We do not view the law as being a tool of education for the ill mannered to become gentlemen.

In January 2009 a poll showed that more than four out of five churchgoers in the United Kingdom (84 per cent) think that religious freedom, of speech and action, are at risk in the UK. A similar proportion (82 per cent) feels it is becoming more difficult to live as a Christian in an increasingly secular country.⁴ When we speak about intolerance, we are looking at a social level where the Observatory witnesses marginalisation and social exclusion, negative imagery through negative stereotyping in the media, defamation, as well as insult or blasphemy of Christians. The Observatory does not propose to *legislate* against social intolerance, but to answer the growing phenomenon with soft measures such as raising awareness and giving incentives.

3.1. Negative stereotyping

Negative stereotyping is the process of standardizing and simplifying negative conceptions of groups based on some prior assumptions. It reinforces existing prejudices through the display of negative images of the Christian religious denominations, institutions and renowned Christian individuals in the media (equally in the areas of mainline media or entertainment media), or through the communications of opinion leaders. The media, as the most powerful tool to build informed, tolerant and benevolent public opinion, ought to be more aware of the marginalisation of Christians when they are selecting information and choosing how it is presented. Opinion leaders must also be aware of their responsibility in shaping a tolerant public discourse and should refrain from negative stereotyping of Christianity. Here are some recent cases of negative stereotyping:

Germany: Due Diligence Omitted in Anti-Christian Newspiece

December 2009: Due diligence was omitted in a questionable article in the German daily *Die Zeit*, which wrongly accused Christians of being in favour of radical law in Uganda. Complaint to Press Council lodged by professor of journalism.

Germany: Evangelicals Defamed by Government Agency

December 2008: The governmental agency ‘Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung’ (Federal Central Unit of Political Education) defames evangelicals as hostile to the constitution.

⁴ Pollwatch January 09 (Cpanel Special), ComRes, January 2009.

International: Movie Fosters Anti-Christian Stereotypes

May 2009: "Angels & Demons", a film adaptation of Dan Brown's novel of the same name, which was released on May 15, 2009, is filled with historical inaccuracies and anti-Christian stereotypes.

International: (BBC) Christianity Slated on British Television

April 2009: The popular TV soap *Coronation Street* featured a series of outspoken attacks on the Christian faith. Numerous TV series and broadcasts present Christianity as ridiculous and absurd.

Turkey: Christianophobic TV Series

January 2008: The most expensive Turkish TV series ever produced is shown in cinemas. The „bad guy“ is a prayerful Christian.

3.2. Defamation and insult

Generalizing insulting or defaming statements about individual Christians, Christian institutions or Christianity as whole, on broadcasts or in person, in graffiti, on leaflets or posters, often during manifestations or political activities, are not only hurtful to Christians but create social hostility and professional difficulties. Such demeaning statements are disrespectful of the dignity of persons, irrespective of their religion or belief. While the Observatory does not recommend creating new laws against insults or weaker forms of defamation, a more friendly and positive atmosphere in favour of religion in general and Christianity in particular ought to be fostered.

Belgium: Head of Belgian Catholic Church Could Face Charges of Homophobia For Controversial Speech

November 2010: Msgr. Leonard faces accusations of homophobia for expressing controversial positions on the causes of HIV/Aids.

European Institutions: Church Compared to Mafia in European Parliament

May 2010: In a meeting on child abuse, European Parliament Platform for Secularism says that Roman Catholic Church is protecting criminals and that its behavior is comparable to that of the Sicilian Mafia.

International: IPPF Stereotypes Catholic Church

February 2010: According to pro-contraception and pro-abortion NGO International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Catholics are indistinguishable from Islamists: *"Fundamentalist and other religious groups, the Catholic Church and madrasas (Islamic schools) for example, have imposed tremendous barriers that prevent young people, particularly, from obtaining information and services related to sex and reproduction."*

Austria: Anti-Christian Slogans at Anti-Life Demonstration

September 2009: Anti-Christian slogans such as *"There is no God"* and *"If Mary had had an abortion, we would have been spared from you!"* shouted at anti-life demo in Vienna.

Germany: Birth Place of Josef Ratzinger Vandalized

April 2010: In the night of April 13th the birthplace of Josef Ratzinger, now Benedict XVI, was vandalized. The house in Marktl am Inn was sprayed on with „insulting contents“ as reported by the police.

Germany: Freedom of Speech Impeded / Anti-Christian Slogans on Posters

May 2009: German Gay and Lesbian Association in opposition to two speeches at Psychotherapy congress on whether sexual orientation could be changed if wished for. Speeches had to be delivered with police protection. Anti-Christian counter-demonstration portrayed Jesus as a pig nailed to the cross and used slogans such as: *"We are here to hurt your feelings."*

Hungary: On-Air Insult in Talkshow

January 2010: In a famous Hungarian talkshow, the statement was made that *"a child's life can be destroyed by two things: Christianity and pornography"*.

Ireland: Amnesty International Supports Anti-Catholic Bigotry During Gay Pride Belfast

September 2008: Amnesty International participated this year in the homosexualist movement's efforts to insult and vilify the Catholic Church during the Belfast gay pride festival in August. Amnesty's Belfast director has admitted that the group was using the Belfast Pride event to caricature the Cardinal Archbishop of Riga, Janis Pujats, who has spoken out against the homosexualist movement's efforts in Latvia.

Italy: Gay Pride Parade demeans Christianity

June 2009: Gay pride parade in Rome depicts crosses with sex items, ridicules the suffering Jesus by live imitations and carries anti-Catholic flags.

United Kingdom: Christian Family Called Names and Spat on

August 2009: Harrassed Christian family sends report to the Observatory.

3.3. Disrespectful works of art

Art has become a playground for anti-Christian activity. Some of the most desecrating and blasphemous acts today are sadly found in art exhibitions, varying from defamatory paintings to obscene depictions of what is considered holy by many. The Observatory calls for respect of religious identity and convictions in the art community, including artists as well as gallery owners and hosts. Works of art that are solely directed towards mocking faith, as we often witness with regard to mocking the Christian faith, should not be offered a stage.

Austria: Statues of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Covered in Condoms in Art Exhibit

November 2010: The lower Austrian main building of government (NÖ-Landhaus) hosts an exhibition which displays Mary, the mother of Jesus, covered in a condom, and sperma. This exhibition is funded by public money and approved by the governer Mr. Erwin Pröll.

Italy: Painter Exhibits "Madonna Carrying Hitler Child"

October 2010: Exhibition in Italian city Salemi shows a painting of Madonna holding child Hitler. Jewish and Christian Church leaders have condemned the display.

Italy: Defamation of Christianity on Television

April 2009: Television program Annozero openly insults Christianity by showing satirical vignettes of the Way of the Cross.

Poland: Pop-Singer Madonna Offends Polish Catholics With Images, Contents and a Date

August 2009: Pop-singer Madonna performed in Poland on August 15, the main Marian feast day of Polish Catholics. She used lyrics and images offensive to Christians. Ads included sentences such as "There is no room for two queens in this country."

Portugal: Playboy Magazine Displays Photos of Jesus Christ With Topless Models

July 2010: Playboy's Portuguese edition published photos depicting Jesus Christ among topless Playboy models, allegedly in a tribute to author Jose Sarmago.

Spain: Sculpture Presents Christ with a Missile

February 2006: Sculpture shows Christ with a missile instructing Second World War German soldiers in Ferran Cano Art Gallery in Madrid.

United Kingdom: (Scotland) Bible Defaced In Art Exhibition

August 2009: Obscene and offensive messages have been scrawled over a Bible at a taxpayer-funded exhibition in Glasgow.

United Kingdom: Hospital Bans Paintings of Churches

May 2009: A London hospital informed local artists who contributed paintings for its decoration that any depictions would be welcomed,

except those of churches. The reason given was to be mindful of other religions.

3.4. Repression or removal of religious symbols

The wearing or displaying of religious symbols is a constitutive element of one's faith. The beholder could wrongly perceive this displaying as an attempt of proselytizing, as a symbol of not tolerating another or no religion, or be simply unpleasantly reminded of what Christianity stands for. While the Observatory understands such emotional reactions, it sees however no reason to limit freedom of religion by repressing or removing religious symbols. Freedom of religion includes the wearing of religious symbols in schools or in the work place as an expression of identity as long as no danger for public health or order derives from it. The Observatory also calls for respect of long-standing traditions and historic-cultural parameters when considering religious symbols in public places. The Christian symbol of the cross is more than a religious symbol, it illustrates historical roots and its removal is more than a merely neutral act.

Belarus: Mother Denied to Bury her Executed Son According to her Christian Faith

October 2010: Mother of an executed prisoner can not pray at her son's tomb. It is unclear whether he had seen a priest before execution.

European Institutions / Italy: European Court of Human Rights Bans Crucifixes in Italian Schools

November 2009: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled on November 3rd that the display of crucifixes in public schools restricted religious freedoms. „*The compulsory display of a symbol of a given confession in premises used by the public authorities ... restricted the right of parents to educate their children in conformity with their convictions.*“

European Institutions: Secularists Attempt to Ban Catholic Services from European Parliament

February 2010: A group of socialists, communists, liberals and greens, headed by Dutch liberal Sophie in't Veld and German green Franziska Brantner seek to ban the Catholic Service which has been in place in Strasbourg for 11 years.

Germany: Crosses Removed From Hospital Walls and Thrown Into Trash Bags

February 2010: Twelve crosses were removed from the walls of the surgery unit of the public hospital of Bad Soden, Germany, in February, while patients were watching. The crosses were subsequently thrown into trash bags.

Germany: Left Wing Radicals Throw Pro-Life Symbols Into River

October 2009: Large white crosses carried by pro life manifestations through the city of Berlin. Several of the crosses were stolen by members of left wing associations and were thrown into a nearby river.

Greece: Priest Given Suspended Sentence for Loud Bell

January 2008: A Greek Orthodox priest was given a suspended 70-day sentence after residents complained he rang his church bell too loudly and too often.

Italy: Community Ruling Forbids Any Religious Symbols

May 2009: A community ruling forbids any religious symbols, such as the crucifix, including those on cemetery grounds, on May 6, 2009, in Lugo di Romagna.

Netherlands: War Memorial Cross Removed

March 2006: War Memorial Cross was removed in Baarsjesweg, Amsterdam after Moslems in the neighborhood said that it "disturbed" them. After protests of war veterans it was subsequently replaced.

Spain: No Plaque for Catholic Saint on House of Birth

November 2008: Saint Maravillas de Jesus was born in a house which is now the local Spanish parliament of Valladolid. A plaque with a commemorative inscription was declined on behalf of left wing parties.

Switzerland: Church Burglarized and Vandalized

May 2010: Unidentified criminals burglarized and vandalized a Catholic church in Switzerland. The act included desecration of the Eucharist and of the Bible.

United Kingdom: Catholic Airport Worker Suspended for Displaying a Picture of Jesus

October 2007: Manchester, England - A Catholic airport worker was suspended for displaying an image of Jesus on a staff room wall after a Muslim colleague made a complaint against him.

United Kingdom: Christian Symbol Forbidden to Students

June 2006: Students barred from wearing Christian chastity symbol in Millais School, West Sussex; UK.

United Kingdom: Ruling in BA - Cross Case: Legality of Suspension Upheld

January 2008: (October 2006 - January 2008) Employee banned from wearing a cross on a necklace by British Airways, UK, in Oct. 06. Court ruling in Jan. 08 upholds prohibition for Christian, but not for other religions' symbols.

United Kingdom / Scotland: Christian References Removed from Holiday Celebration

November 2009: Scotland town eliminated all references to Christmas, an address by a Christian minister, and the traditional nativity from its annual holiday celebration.

3.5. Marginalisation of ideas and individuals

Political correctness is an unwritten but merciless set of rules of public discourse. It shapes our inner convictions as fashion shapes our tastes. It is difficult to emancipate one's own thinking, and it is hardly possible for society as a whole to think critically if this thought is different from the common understanding of what is currently politically correct. From this follows what could be called, in a very illustrative sense, a 'dictatorship of opinion', in which certain standpoints are viewed as 'outrageous' and 'impossible'. What is considered 'politically correct' changes with time, and at this time Christian viewpoints are not those on the advantageous side. This places Christians in the difficult situation that many their viewpoints, which are necessary elements of their faith, especially those in moral areas, are considered as not belonging to the politically correct group of ideas. It is therefore part of religious freedom and freedom of expression to hold, express and defend views that are considered to be politically incorrect. Making the expression of such views impossible violates fundamental rights and freedoms. The marginalisation of ideas is accompanied by the marginalisation of people who express such views. The marginalisation extends to the removal of unwanted people from public office, with the opposition of Italian Rocco Buttiglione as EU-commissioner in 2004 as its most prominent example.

Austria: Sidewalk Counsellors Violently Harrassed

November 2007: Pro-life sidewalk counsellors praying in front of an abortion clinic were violently harrassed and sexually assaulted by people allegedly hired by the owner of the clinic, Dr. Christian Fiala, in Vienna, Austria.

European Institutions: Polish Minister Excluded From EU-Jury Because of "Homophobic" Statement

October 2010: Polish equality minister Elzbieta Radziszewska was not asked to be a jury-member for this year's EU journalism award, "Together against Discrimination," after she spoke on the rights of schools with regard to employing homosexual teachers.

Germany: Christian Youth Festival violently disturbed by Anti-Christian Forces

May 2008: The Christian Youth Festival "Christival" experienced tremendous opposition on the site of the conference. 15.000 peaceful youth were disturbed by the socalled "Anti-sexistic Alliance" under the name of "No Christival" shouting slogans such as "Masturbation instead of Evangelization" or "Never again Jesus."

Germany: Gay Students Disrupt Lecture At Cologne University

December 2009: Homosexual students disrupted a lecture of Protestant philosopher Prof. Edith Düsing at Cologne University. The students made noise and used kissing and banners due to her support of a manifesto in May 2009 protesting the cancellation of an academic lecture at a psychology congress on grounds of the speaker's research on healing homosexuality.

Italy: Pro-Life Politician Pelted with Bottles and Eggs

April 2008: An Italian pro-life politician was pelted with eggs and bottles during an April 2 campaign appearance in Bologna. At least 15 people were injured.

International / Academic Community: Liberal Harvard Scholar in Public Cross-Fire for Agreeing with Pope

March 2009: Liberal Harvard scholar Edward Green was strongly attacked in public for agreeing with Pope in saying that the distribution of condoms will not prevent the spread of HIV/Aids.

Spain: 100,000 Euro Fine For Christian Broadcaster

July 2010: Spain's government fined the Christian television network 100,000 euros for running a series of advertisements in favor of the family and opposing homosexual lifestyle.

United Kingdom: Humanists Campaign to Stop the Noah's Ark Zoo Farm Because it Says that God Created the World

October 2010: BHA (British Humanist Association) has called on the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, North Somerset Council, Visit Britain and South West England to shut down the zoo. The secular group claims that the zoo is misleading tens of thousands of visitors annually and 'threatening public understanding' by questioning the traditional view of evolution.

United Kingdom: Street Preacher Arrested for Comment on Homosexuality as a Sin

May 2010: Street Preacher Dale McAlpine was arrested after stating to a passersby that homosexuality was a sin. After seven hours in a police cell, McAlpine was released.

United Kingdom: (Scotland) Street Preacher Arrested and Fined £1000 In Glasgow After Night in Jail

March 2010: A street preacher has been arrested and fined £1000 in Glasgow for telling passersby, in answer to a direct question, that homosexual activity is a sin. He was sentenced for "homophobic remarks...aggravated by religious prejudice."

United Kingdom: Street Preacher Arrested Over Comments About Homosexual Activity

February 2010: A district judge has thrown out the case against another street preacher, Paul Shaw, who was arrested on February 19 in Colchester over comments he made about homosexual activity.

United Kingdom: MSP Patrick Harvie Reports Archbishop to the Police for Defending Marriage

January 2006: Member of the Scottish Parliament asked Strathclyde Police to investigate remarks made by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow. The Archbishop had defended the institution of marriage in a church service.

United Kingdom: Paediatrician Dismissed For Christian Views And Reinstated Upon Public Outcry

July 2009: Experienced community paediatrician dismissed from adoption panel over Christian views has been reinstated upon public outcry.

United Kingdom: Trades Union Congress Calls for Christian to Be Sacked from Equality and Human Right Commission

September 2008: The Trades Union Congress (TUC), a federation of trade unions in the United Kingdom, has issued a call for the removal of a Christian Equality and Human Rights Commissioner. Joel Edwards is the director of the Evangelical Alliance and a figure loathed by homosexualist activists for his forthright calls for a re-insertion of Christian morals in public life and defence of the rights of Christians who oppose the homosexualist political agenda.

4. HATE CRIMES AGAINST CHRISTIANS

When a crime is driven by hate, some criminal law traditions see this as an aggravating circumstance of the crime and call it hate crime. With regard to faith, hate crime is a crime that is driven by hatred against Christianity or against a person because of his or her Christian faith. This, however, is dealt with by criminal law. The Observatory collects data on hate crimes against Christians in order to show hatred and hostility as a social problem, because it is also important to be aware of instances where hostility goes overboard. Hate crimes are the tip of a social iceberg that needs to be addressed by Western societies.

4.1. Hate crimes against church buildings: desecrations and vandalism

Hatred of Christianity is often directed against church buildings. Acts of vandalism and desecration take place more frequently than many would expect. The French daily Le Figaro reports one every other day in France alone. Some desecrations prove to be satanic acts, others an expression of disapproval of moral viewpoints of Christianity. The Observatory recommends that European states collect data on hate crimes against Christianity in separate statistics in order to have a full picture of the problem as well as to have comparable data.

Albania: Vandalism in Bushat, Shkodër

December 2009: Violation of the Catholic cemetery and the desecration of graves as well as the demolition of a cross in Bushat, Shkodër were reported. Police did not apprehend the perpetrators.

Austria: Fire Set in Famous Vienna Catholic Church

February 2010: Two glass doors were broken and fire set on the altar under the tabernacle. Fire did not spread and extinguished by itself.

Austria: Socialist Pupils Association Encourages Members to Vandalize Churches

March 2008: In a newsletter Austrian „Aktion Kritischer Schüler“ (socialist pupils association) encourages members to use the occasion of the international day against racism (March 21st) to vandalize churches.

Belgium: Fire Set to Catholic Church

December 2008: A Greek-Melkite parish was set on fire in the night before Friday 12. December. The pastor could quickly contain and limit the damage.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: 16 Hate Crimes Against Christians Reported in 2009

December 2009: 16 incidents of hate crimes against Christians and desecrations were reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2009.

France: Basilica Desecrated

May 2009: Half a dozen swastikas were found tagged on several columns in the Basilica of Saint Denis, Paris.

France: Steady Increase of Desecrating Acts in French Cemeteries

October 2010 - ongoing: A report of the Gendarmerie Nationale underlines the fact that most desecrations since 2005 have been aimed at Christian cemeteries and other Christian places of worship.

France: Christian Cemetery Vandalized

May 2010: Acts of vandalism in cemetery target Christian graves in particular.

France: Fire-raising on Catholic School and Chapel

June 2006: Fire-raising on Catholic school and chapel in Montpellier, France.

Germany: Several Attacks on Churches Recorded

May 2010: The renowned daily reports on a noticeable rise in quality and quantity of attacks against Church buildings.

Germany: Protestant Chapel Set on Fire

November 2009: Chapel set on fire in the night from November 15th to 16th in Over (Hamburg). Damage caused values more than 100,000 Euro.

Italy: Cemetery Desecrated

April 2009: On the 27th of April 2009, the cemetery di Vezzo in the Comune della Provincia di Verbano Cusio Ossola was desecrated.

Liechtenstein: Graffiti on Church Buildings

December 2009: Graffiti on several church buildings, presumably by satanic groups. Two incidents were reported to the police in 2008, one in 2009.

Lithuania: Churches and Cemeteries Vandalized

December 2009: In 2008 and 2009 several cases of vandalizing of churches took place in various parts of Lithuania. These cases include breaking into churches and vandalizing cemeteries.

Russia: Fire Set to Catholic Chapel

December 2007: Unknown perpetrators set a Catholic chapel on fire in the Cossack village of Leningradskaya, the Krasnodar Region. Motivation might be, but wasn't proven to be religious intolerance.

Turkey: Christian Cemetery Desecrated in Istanbul

September 2009: Large-scale vandalism of a Christian cemetery recalls decades of suffering of Orthodox Christians in Turkey.

United Kingdom: South Wales Church Damaged by Vandals

September 2009: A Christian church in South Wales was targeted by vandals who smashed its newly restored stained glass windows. Worshippers were forced to cancel services.

4.2. Hate crimes against Christians

When hate crimes are committed against individuals, it is often an issue of physical violence, ranging from beatings to killings.

Austria: Attacks on Pro Life Activists

September 2010: Ongoing attacks against sidewalk-counseling pro life activists are taking place in Vienna in front of Dr. Christian Fiala's abortion clinic, committed by people allegedly hired by the abortionist. The attacks are being filmed and published online.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: 16 Hate Crimes Against Christians Reported in 2009

December 2009: 16 incidents of hate crimes against Christians and desecration were reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2009. Please view the list below.

Germany: Catholic Priest Beaten and Left for Dead in Fulda

June 2010: A 78 year-old priest was found bound and badly beaten; he is in critical condition following emergency surgery.

Germany: Orthodox Priest Beaten

October 2009: Aleksejs Ribakovs, Orthodox Priest, was beaten and forced to move to another city to protect his family. One of the suspects was caught and identified as a young Muslim who proclaimed to hate Christians.

International / Internet: Video Glorifies Violence Against Christians

December 2005: Animated video glorifies violence against pro-life Christians on Planned Parenthood website.

Italy: Franciscan Monks Cruely Beaten

August 2008: Unidentified hooded men attacked four Franciscan monks in their monastery in Turin. All four were hospitalized.

Russia: Church Service Stormed, Pastor Beaten

April 2008: A Pentecostal service was stormed by perpetrators, the pastor was beaten, parishioners were threatened with pistols held to their heads. No prosecution of the four attackers occurred by the end of 2008.

Russia: Hate Crimes Against Christians 2009

December 2009: Find here a list of cases for the year 2009 which were brought to our attention.

Turkey: Catholic Bishop Murdered in Turkey

June 2010: Catholic bishop in Turkey, Luigi Padovese, was fatally stabbed in his home. A driver confessed to the murder, and although the motive is as yet unclear, the viciousness of the attack and his

reported actions after the killing have raised suspicions regarding his alleged insanity.

Turkey: Christian Murdered Because of Faith

July 2009: German entrepreneur murdered in Istanbul most likely motivated by hatred towards Christians. CNN-Turk and Agence France Press quote the murderer to have stated in an interrogation that he had aimed at „killing Christians.“

Turkey: Catholic Priest Attacked and Stabbed

December 2007: A Catholic priest was hospitalized Sunday after being stabbed, the Italian Embassy in Ankara said, in the latest in a string of attacks on Christians in Turkey. Police said they had detained the suspected attacker.

Turkey: Three Christians, Employees of a Christian Publishing, Tortured, Stabbed and Killed

April 2007: Three Christians were tortured, stabbed and killed in Turkey. Four of the five men detained confessed to having committed the crime for nationalist and religious reasons.

United Kingdom: Anglican Priest Beaten up in ‚Faith Hate‘ Incident

March 2008: Anglican priest, Canon Michael Ainsworth was beaten up and insulted in a ‚faith hate‘ incident in his own churchyard by Asian youths.

United Kingdom: Converts to Christianity Assaulted

February 2005: Convert family from Islam to Christianity was assaulted in Bradford.

Excursus - United States: Hate Crimes Against Christians Up 25%

November 2009: New FBI statistics on hate crimes show a nine percent increase in crimes against religious groups in 2008 and an almost 25 percent increase in reported hate crimes against Catholics.

III) RECOMMENDATIONS

While Christianity holds a majority in Europe at least in numbers, it faces acts of intolerance, partly inflicted by small radical groups. Discriminatory laws are created when intolerance is paired with legislative power. It is the duty of the political community to be aware of and tackle the phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Christians as a call for equal rights and freedoms for everyone. The Observatory has formulated the following recommendations for different political levels:

1. WE RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:

- To ensure freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the right to conscientious objection.
- To refrain from interferences and to modify legislation that discriminates against Christians.
- To recognise and condemn intolerance and discrimination against Christians and ensure the right of Christians to participate fully in public life.
- To monitor carefully the growing phenomenon of intolerance against Christians and take appropriate soft measures in response.
- To collect data with the specific aim at monitoring intolerance and discrimination against Christians.

2. WE RECOMMEND TO THE EUROPEAN UNION:

- To respect, without prejudice, the protection of the autonomy of churches in accordance with Article 17 (1) of the Lisbon Treaty and to promote more dialogue with church leaders on the issue of intolerance and discrimination in accordance with Article 17 (2).
- To examine European Union legislative initiatives with regard to direct or indirect discrimination against Christians.
- Especially to Fundamental Rights Agency: to make freedom of religion, speech and conscience a priority of their work.
- Especially to Fundamental Rights Agency: to report on freedom of religion with special regard to the situation of Christians.

3. WE RECOMMEND TO INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS:

- To report on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and recommend appropriate action to their member states.
- To encourage governments to monitor the situation of Christians carefully.
- To examine their own reports and recommendations with regard to indirect discrimination against Christians.

4. WE RECOMMEND TO OSCE/ODIHR AND OSCE MISSIONS:

- To recognise and condemn the problem in its different features, both in the eastern and western countries of the OSCE.
- To use all their means to work against intolerance against Christians, inter alia by
 - Seeing the problem as one of their core issues in the framework of its work on tolerance related issues
 - Raising awareness throughout the OSCE region
 - Collecting data
 - Working more closely with representatives of Christian churches

- Assessing legislation in the participating States in view of discrimination and intolerance against Christians (labour law, equality law, freedom of expression and assembly, laws related to religious communities, right of conscientious objections, etc.)
 - Encouraging the media not to spread prejudices against Christians and train professionals not to do so
 - Further developing the TANDIS page (<http://tandis.odihr.pl/>) with more specific information on intolerance and discrimination against Christians
 - Devoting specific attention to the issue of discrimination against Christians in their reports on human rights offences, in particular on hate crimes and hate events
 - Building a stronger relationship with NGOs working specifically in the field of intolerance and discrimination against Christians.
- We recommend to 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:
- To work with the OSCE on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.
 - In his mission and in his country visits to take into account the outcome of *The Expert Roundtable on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians* held in Vienna on March 4, 2009.

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