

July 8, 2018

Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir
Director, Office of Democracy and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Ul. Miodowa 10
00-251 Warsaw, Poland

Via Email: office@odihr.pl

Dear Ms. Gísladóttir:

We write to express opposition to a policy included in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) document regarding the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) entitled "Countering Violence against Women – Everyone's Responsibility," held 2- 3 July 2018 in Hofburg, Vienna.¹

As you are no doubt aware, on page 2, that document states, "Participants have a right to express their opinions freely, while respecting human rights & the principle of non-discrimination. Thus, the moderator will interrupt any speech that attacks a person or group on the basis of, e.g., race, religion, gender, sex or any other status."

As members of parliament and members of OSCE PA, we believe that this policy change has no legal basis. Regardless, we further believe that it was made without consensus of Participating States, including our home nations. It is therefore null and void and may not be enforced, at the 2-3 July SDHM or any other OSCE event overseen by ODIHR.

We are also aware that this policy change follows a set of attempts by OSCE's ODIHR and you personally to shut down speech about the threat of open borders, illegal immigration, Jihadi terrorism, and the totalitarian Islamic legal system known as Sharia.

In particular, our understanding is that these policies are intended to target a civil society delegation that has attended HDIMs for 10 years to express entirely appropriate concerns with respect to OSCE Participating States' immigration policy, the radical Islamic terrorism that policy has fostered, and attempts to shut down free speech on these matters.

With this flagrant abuse of the OSCE process, you are proving this delegation's point: radical Leftist Western European bureaucrats would rather shut down the speech of those who object to uncontrolled, unfettered, unregulated immigration and the resulting terror strikes, murders, rapes, and other crimes it is now creating, than reverse these ill-advised policies.

¹ "Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, Countering Violence against Women – Everyone's Responsibility, 2- 3 July 2018, Hofburg, Vienna," Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), available at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/384282?download=true>, accessed June 18, 2018.

Even were your attempts to shut down this debate not a direct contradiction to OSCE policy with respect to civil society organization (CSO) participation, it would be a violation of commitments Participating States have made with respect to fundamental rights including freedom of expression.

They are also in direct opposition to the current policies of our parties as well as those of the current governments of *inter alia* the United States of America, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, and potentially soon Germany.

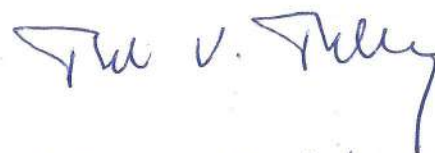
We demand that you either revoke this policy and permit free and open debate at all ODIHR events going forward, including specifically on immigration, Jihad, and Sharia, or admit that your own misguided policy preferences prevent you from carrying out ODIHR's mission to expose the ways in which Participating States are falling short of their OSCE commitments with respect to freedom of expression in particular – and resign.

Sincerely,

Members of Parliament, OSCE PA



(Roman HAIDER, Austria)



(Paul V. Podolay, Germany)



(Björn SÖDER, Sweden)



(CHRISTIAN HAFENECKER, Austria)