



Meeting:

Globalization, Diversity and Social Cohesion in Educational Settings

5 November 2012, Paris

UNESCO Headquarters, Room IX, 7, Place de Fontenoy

ANNOTATED AGENDA

States have committed themselves through inter-governmental organizations, including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to combat intolerance and discrimination in order to maintain international peace and stability. Globalization brings both opportunities and challenges in this regard. While increasing intercultural encounters contribute to the mutual enrichment of societies in diversity, social cohesion can become more vulnerable to international tensions, economic decline and evolving national identities. Acknowledging the central role of education in promoting mutual understanding and respect, initiatives have been launched in a number of countries to address the diverse needs of educators in promoting tolerance and social cohesion.

With the view of supporting educators in these efforts, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Council of Europe and UNESCO have co-published the *Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance against Muslims*. The Guidelines aim to assist educators in identifying the manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims in schools and provide suggestions on how to prevent and respond to these phenomena. They provide practical information on rights-based, participatory approaches, the importance of opening spaces for discussion, media literacy

and teaching about religions and cultures. The document also presents examples of good practices from a range of different countries and a substantial list of websites from which further ideas can be obtained. The intended audience of the Guidelines includes policy makers, school administrators, teachers, teacher trainers and non-governmental organizations, dealing with both primary and secondary levels of education.

The meeting is the second event which aims to promote the Guidelines and raise awareness of the role of education to counter intolerance and discrimination against Muslims through education. It seeks provide a forum for educational authorities to discuss how the Guidelines can be used to promote appreciation of diversity and social cohesion in the era of globalization. The discussions will focus on the following themes:

- The role of education in enhancing social cohesion;
- Sharing experiences and lessons learned; and
- Next steps to implement the Guidelines.

A report of the meeting will be issued highlighting recommendations to promote the Guidelines.

Agenda

Date: 5 November 2012

Venue: UNESCO Headquarters, Room IX, 7, Place de Fontenoy

09:30 Opening Remarks

- Kate Moriarty, Chief , Section of Education for Peace and Human Rights, Education Sector, UNESCO
- Azra Junuzović, Deputy Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR
- Yulia Pererva, Division on Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Directorate General IV - Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Council of Europe

09:45 Introduction: Presentation of the Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

- Taşkın Tankut Soykan, Adviser on Combating Intolerance against Muslims, OSCE/ODIHR

10:00 – 11:00 Role of Education in Enhancing Social Cohesion

Education can play a key role in promoting social cohesion, by raising awareness of multi-faceted identities in the society and appreciation of diversity as a value. Education can shape an inclusive notion of democratic citizenship and an understanding of respect for human rights, where all students can feel safe and respected. Although not all social and political tensions in the society can be resolved through education alone, it is important that educational approaches go beyond countering explicit manifestations of intolerance and discrimination and challenge the validity of implicit assumptions within the school curriculum. Education should also promote learning opportunities through which students can be involved with joint common activities for experiencing ‘living together’ in daily life. International standards and commitments dealing with education provide a useful basis for discussions on how to enhance social cohesion and respect for diversity. Within this framework, the Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance against Muslims make a unique contribution to the international efforts to increase intercultural dialogue and combat discrimination.

Moderator: Jun Morohashi, Programme Specialist, Section of Education for Peace and Human Rights, UNESCO

Speakers:

- Robin Richardson, Co-Chair, Insted Educational Consultancy, UK
- Jasmin Zine, Associate Professor, Sociology Department, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

11:00 –11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13.00 Sharing Experiences: Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Educational initiatives to counter intolerance and discrimination against Muslims can include various components. It may be necessary to incorporate tolerance education into integration policies and strategies as a means to promote respect for diversity and equality among students. Teaching materials and extracurricular activities can be put in practice to break stereotypes and recognize evolving identities in the society. Teacher training institutions can develop pre-service and in-service training programmes to enhance the competencies of educators to address intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims. It is important to discuss what lessons can be learned from existing educational initiatives and how the Guidelines can support their improvement.

Moderator: Yulia Pererva, Division on Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Directorate General IV - Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Council of Europe

Speakers:

- C. Eduardo Vargas, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy / Representative to the United Nations, Intersections International, USA
- Barbara Unterlerchner, Trainer, ZARA Civic Courage and Anti-Racism Work, Austria

13:00 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Promotion of the Guidelines – Next Steps

The publication of the Guidelines is only an initial step to promote mutual understanding and respect. In order to implement the Guidelines, it is necessary to identify other concrete actions for the use of this document in educational systems and discuss how the Guidelines can be used in different educational settings and national contexts. This session will identify recommendations which will address policy makers, educational institutions and intergovernmental organizations. It will also provide an opportunity to identify what educational policies and strategies have to be developed to enhance social cohesion in our increasingly diverse societies, what competencies teachers need to counter prejudice and how international organizations can support authorities in their efforts to ensure that educational settings are inclusive.

Moderator: Azra Junuzović, Deputy Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Speakers:

- Brigitte Ernst Cremer, Project Leader for Religion and Culture, Zurich Cantonal School Government, Switzerland
- Pascale Mompoint-Gaillard, Independent Consultant and General Rapporteur for Pestalozzi Modules for Educational Projects, France

15:30 – 16:00 Concluding Remarks**16:00: End of the meeting**