

Group 2**CRIMES MOTIVATED BY INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION:
PROBLEMS AND THEIR RESOLUTION**

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Report Summary

The members of Group 2 conducted a comprehensive review of the victim and witness protection measures and legislative approaches to addressing intolerance crimes in the participating countries. Noting that intolerance crime is a global problem, each country reported challenges, particularly in terms of public awareness of victim and witness protection measures, lack of public confidence in the effectiveness of such measures, and lack of public and professional understanding of laws enacted to counter intolerance crimes.

The group's analysis focuses on intolerance crimes and responses in all five participating countries. While the specific forms of intolerance crime and the target groups of these crimes vary from country to country, the group agreed that intolerance crimes are a global problem. Target groups include religious minorities, immigrants, racial minorities, the LGBT community, indigenous communities, among many others.

The group's review of key measures taken to counter intolerance crimes focused on legislative measures to enhance victim and witness protection and legislative measures to criminalize or enhance punishment of intolerance crimes. Regarding victim and witness protection, the challenges identified include: (1) the lack of victim and witness protection programmes in some countries, (2) lack of public awareness of victim and witness protection measures, (3) lack of faith in the effectiveness of such measures, resulting in less cooperation from the public in law enforcement investigations, and (4) insufficient human and financial resources.

From the perspective of legislative measures to criminalize or punish intolerance crimes, some countries have elected to create new substantive offences to criminalize intolerance crimes, while others have opted for penalty enhancement. Challenges identified include (1) lack of understanding of the new laws and reluctance to prosecute, (2) lack of sentencing parameters for judges, and (3) restrictive definitions of protected groups.