Support for victims of Hate Crime

Input Workshop Session 4 – Capacity Building: Developing New Services

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Definition: Hate Crime

- A hate crime is a crime that is motivated by intolerance towards a certain group within society
  - The act must be a crime under the criminal code
  - The crime must have been committed with a bias motivation
- A “bias motivation” is a fundamental or core characteristic that is shared by a group, such as “race”, religion, ethnicity, language or sexual orientation.

  **personal level** – physical and psychological injuries
  **Group level** – message to a group of people that there are unwelcome
  **Society** – Hate Crimes are directed against the democratic principles of societies
The Problem: Hate Crimes in Europe

Germany: 737 Hate Crimes in 2013 + 18% (2012: 626; 2013: 737)
- Statistically 2 assaults per day
- Most often: racist-motivated attacks (344 out of 737)

OSCE: more than 56,000 Hate Crimes in the OSCE region 2012
FRA: every fourth person with a migration background became a victim of a hate crime in the last 12 month

Visible Minorities are most vulnerable
- 25% among 23,500 LGBT people experienced violence just because of their sexual orientation
- 33% among Jews experienced physical or verbal violence just because there are Jews

According to the FRA around 75% of the victims in Europe do not report the attack to the police or NGOs
Special target group

- Target groups facing multiple forms of discrimination
- Low resources (mobility, language, social exclusion…)
- Low trust in state institutions/society

We are using a proactive approach to compensate “deficits” of our target groups: active research of “cases”
Principles of our work

- Unequivocally on the side of the victim - we stand on the side of those who have experienced hate crimes, and we support their interests and perspectives

- Client-oriented – our advice is focused on the wishes and needs of those affected by hate crime and is not dependent upon the filing of a police report

- Mobile – consultations can take place at different locations

- Confidential and anonymous – we maintain the confidentiality of the services provided to our clients.

- Multilingual – if desired, an interpreter can be provided

- Free of charge
Our service

- Providing information about legal rights
- Accompanying victims to the police, lawyers, government agencies, and doctors
- Supporting victims through the process of preparing for court and accompanying victims to the trial
- Providing guidance on financial assistance and compensation, as well as the relevant applications (e.g. claims for compensation, relocation services, and legal fees)
- Offering counseling support and referrals to therapists
- Assistance with the improvement of victims’ living conditions and security
- Support with public relations in order to highlight the problem of right-wing violence and hate crimes
Hate Crime victims:

- risk of "secondary and repeat victimization, intimidation and retaliation"