

PuszMUN 2018

Human Rights Committee: How to guarantee the principle of non-discrimination and decrease the amount of national, racial and religious hatred?

Dear delegates,

The topic of this year's debates in Human Rights Committee circles around hatred - hatred based on religion, race and one's nationality. My name is Kacper Westfal and this year I am honoured to perform the duties of a chairperson in this committee. My co-chair, Natalia Pietrzak and I will do our best to help all of you approach this most challenging topic.

After reading it, most of you more than likely think about hate-based groups based in more developed countries, like members of the European Union. And that is where you are wrong. Hate is not only restricted to the countries with heavy heritage of hate from back in-the-days or those with strong national identity. "Racial Hatred' Cited After African Immigrants Are Shot in Italy". "How a Reporter and Victims' Families Went 'Beyond the Horror' of 2 Kansas Hate Crimes" "Hate crimes rose in 2016 - especially against Muslims and whites". Those are just a few article titles taken from the end of 2016, 2017 and the beginning of 2018. As you can see, this is not a problem of one or few small groups. Hate does touch us all, in one way or another. It's either targeted at you as a person, or your friends and family or the group you identify with. Not a single person is excluded. You may be hated for being a muslim or a christian, you may be hated for the fact that you are black or for the fact that you are white. Hateful slurs might be hurl at you for the fact that you are a male or a female. It does not matter who you are, in a small or big way you are or will be affected by it. What does matter is what do we do with it. The principles of equality and non-discrimination are part of the foundations of the rule of law. As Member States noted in the Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law, "all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to just, fair and equitable laws and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law". They also dedicated themselves to respect the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. THIS is one of the principles UN works under. And the task given to you today, dear delegates, is what are you able to do to ensure this to each citizen of your country.

But my task here is not to tell you what to think. The fact is that no matter your gender or the country you represent today, you should make a choice based on morals - not politics. I wish you all fruitful debates and good decisions. In times we live in, when we are more connected than ever before humans were the hate should not divide us.

Dear delegates, now it is your time to raise your voice and represent those, who cannot do it themselves. I am looking forward to meeting you all and hearing

your new, fresh ideas.

Best regards,

Kacper Westfal, the chairperson of the Human Rights Committee.