
Group Workshop Sessions

Group 1

THE CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES TO ENCOUNTER CRIMES MOTIVATED BY INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Chairperson	Mr. Ahmed Shuhad	(Maldives)
Co-Chairperson	Mr. Jimmy Puieki Onopia	(Papua New Guinea)
Rapporteur	Ms. Rana Fujita	(Japan)
Co-Rapporteur	Mr. Win Myint Zaw	(Myanmar)
Members	Mr. Tufail Ahmend	(Pakistan)
	Mr. Teruhide Numamae	(Japan)
Advisers	Prof. Takuya Furuhashi	(UNAFEI)
	Prof. Junichiro Otani	(UNAFEI)
	Prof. Masahiro Yamada	(UNAFEI)

Report Summary

Group 1 explored challenges faced by the participating countries in combating crimes motivated by intolerance and discrimination (hereinafter, "intolerance crimes"), as well as best practices to respond to such crimes. Recognizing that gender-based violence is a common problem in all countries, the group reported that some countries face unique intolerance crimes (such as those related to ethnicity, political ideology, sorcery and tribal conflict). The group offered recommendations to enhance the response to intolerance crimes, stressing the importance of establishing legal frameworks to overcome intolerance crimes.

There are a number of underlying problems which limit the ability of criminal justice authorities to respond to intolerance crimes. These problems include: the lack of specific legal frameworks, making it difficult to prosecute and impose appropriate sentences; lack of recognition by some within criminal justice systems that violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV) are crimes; the prevalence of revictimization; social stigma against victims of abuse; lack of gender sensitivity; and lack of skilled human and financial resources.

To respond to these problems, specific recommendations were offered in reference to the following categories: (1) legal framework and political will; (2) human resources and staff training; (3) monitoring and reporting of intolerance crimes; (4) inclusion of victims' perspectives in policymaking; and (5) public awareness and access to victim support services. Further, it was noted that social barriers—such as socio-cultural beliefs, attitudes toward domestic violence, lack of awareness of legal rights and options, and fear of retaliation—weakens efforts to counter intolerance crimes.

Group 1 stressed the importance of establishing legal frameworks to overcome intolerance crimes. Each of the countries participating in the group relied on international conventions, constitutional provisions, penal codes, and domestic violence legislation. Several countries have established national action plans to respond to intolerance crimes, while others have adopted specific legislation focused on vulnerable groups in need of protection.