



United States Mission to the OSCE

Session 8: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination II

Right of Reply on tolerance

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Guest
October 6, 2010

Moderator,

One of the more recent interventions suggested a corollary between homosexuality, on the one hand, and pedophilia and necrophilia on the other. I would note that there clearly is no such rational connection and that the suggestion is to me – and I hope you as well – offensive. Surely all of us around this table, including me, condemn pedophilia. But I would note that these kinds of unfounded and inflammatory allegations are precisely the kind of language that not only is hurtful but tends toward the promotion of hate crimes. Certainly such allegations do nothing to bridge understanding and cooperation among us, which is why, I hope, we are all here.

Thank you.