

**IFTC Intervention at 2011 OSCE Human Dimension  
Implementation Meeting**

**To:** The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE): 2011  
Review Conference Warsaw

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**Regarding:** *Tolerance and Nondiscrimination II*

## **Intolerance and Discrimination Against Medical and Mental Health**

### **Professionals, Researchers, and Educators Threaten the Freedoms of the Professionals and Those Whom They Serve**

This intervention is being given on behalf of the International Federation for Therapeutic Choice (IFTC). The IFTC supports the rights of sexual minorities who have unwanted attractions, orientation, behavioral tendencies, behaviors, and/or identity to receive competent professional guidance and therapeutic care. The IFTC also supports the rights of medical and mental health professionals to offer that care ([www.therapeutic-choice.org](http://www.therapeutic-choice.org)).

#### ***Central Recommendation to Participating States of the OSCE:***

**To draft legislation to safeguard the freedom of medical and mental health practitioners, educators, and researchers:**

- 1. To study, publish, and educate other professionals and the public about the possible causes, consequences, and amelioration of sexual minority attractions, behaviors, orientations, and identities; and**
- 2. To offer professional guidance and therapeutic expertise to persons whose sexual minority behaviors, orientations, and/or identities are unwanted and who freely choose help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions and behaviors.**

*Some* sexual minorities find their attractions, behavioral tendencies, behaviors, and/or identity *unwanted*. Some of these people *freely choose* or have *freely chosen* to seek professional guidance and therapeutic assistance to avoid basing their relational and sexual lives on their sexual minority attractions, behaviors, orientations, and/or identifications. More than one hundred years of clinical reports and other research literature document that *some* people have been successful in achieving this goal. I refer to the first volume of the *Journal of Human Sexuality*, which reviews the clinical and scientific literature on this issue (<http://www.narth.com/docs/journalsummary.html>).

Medical and mental health professionals who research, educate, and offer guidance and therapeutic services to people with unwanted sexual minority concerns are experiencing increasing intolerance and discrimination. When they attempt to train for and conduct their work, such professionals are commonly labeled as “homophobic” and are even accused of hate crimes. This intolerance and discrimination likewise hinders the freedom of people who want to receive the information and other services of these professionals.

I offer several examples:

- In 2010, United Kingdom psychiatrist Paul Miller was accused of unethical behavior for offering to help someone change same-sex feelings and behaviors. The person seeking help proved to be an undercover, self-identified gay journalist who lied about his true intentions.
- In 2011, this same UK journalist again posed as someone who wanted help to resolve unwanted same-sex attractions and behaviors, this time from Christian counselor Lesley Pilkington. As in the first case, after a couple of sessions, the fraudulent client/undercover journalist accused Ms. Pilkington of unethical practice. This led to her being dismissed from the British Association for Counseling and Psychotherapy (BACP), although her case is under appeal. It is worth noting that during her hearing, a key witness in her support was threatened by homosexual activists, causing the hearing to be postponed.
- In 2011, activists in Poznan, Poland, interfered with and tried to prevent a conference that had been publicized as offering training to help professionals understand how to better serve people with unwanted same-sex attractions and behaviors. Public media reported absurd accusations by gay activists that led the Poznan Medical School to cancel the written contract for the use of the conference facilities. The presenter—Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, PhD—was falsely accused of many things, including teaching fake pseudoscience, forcing people to undergo therapy,

using electric shock therapy, and forcing homosexuals to have sex with female prostitutes. Unfortunately, the negative publicity generated by these false accusations led a second conference facility to break its verbal agreement to allow the conference to be held at its site. The conference was finally held in a sports facility under tight security. The Internet provider of the organization conducting the conference received two letters demanding that the provider close down the organization's conference website due to "homophobic content." The Internet provider was subsequently hacked and the entire server crashed, impacting not just the conference organizer but all of the provider's clients.

These examples illustrate just a few of many recent instances of harassment, intolerance, and discrimination toward medical and mental health professionals, researchers, and educators who attempt to serve people with unwanted sexual minority attractions, behavioral tendencies, behaviors, and/or identities.

Such intolerant behavior by people who themselves claim to be victims of intolerance violates a number of rights upheld by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a11>), including the rights to:

- freedom for the full development of one's human personality (UDHR, Article 26)
- medical care and necessary social services (UDHR, Article 25)
- freedom of thought, conscience, and religion (UDHR, Article 18)
- freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media (UDHR, Article 19)
- freedom of peaceful assembly and association (UDHR, Article 20)
- the protection of the law against arbitrary interference with one's privacy, family, or correspondence and attacks on one's honor and reputation (UDHR, Article 12)

**We therefore recommend to OSCE Participating States:**

**In light the aforementioned fundamental rights upheld by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:**

**To recognize and condemn intolerance and discrimination against sexual minorities who freely choose to receive help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions, orientation, behaviors, and/or identity.**

**To draft legislation to safeguard the freedom of medical and mental health practitioners, educators, and researchers: 1) to study, publish, and educate other professionals and the public about the possible causes, consequences, and amelioration of sexual minority attractions, orientations, behaviors, and/or identities; and 2) to offer their professional guidance and therapeutic expertise to people whose sexual minority concerns are *unwanted* and who *freely* choose help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions, orientation, behaviors, and/or identity.**

**We recommend to OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE Missions:**

**To be aware of and condemn intolerance and discrimination against sexual minorities who freely choose help in order to overcome or diminish their unwanted sexual attractions, orientation, behaviors, and/or identity.**

**To assist OSCE Participating States in monitoring and drafting legislation, with special attention to safeguarding the above-mentioned rights upheld by the UDHR.**

