



Note to editors - 131(2008)

" Hate crimes: the ugly face of racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Gypsyism, Islamophobia and homophobia "

Strasbourg, 21.07.2008 - In his latest *Viewpoint*, the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, Thomas Hammarberg, reviews recent episodes of intolerance in different countries and proposes concrete measures to combat hate crimes. He also calls on political leaders to firmly stand up for human rights and respect for diversity. "Hate crimes are a daily reality all over the European continent. Government authorities have a responsibility to put an end to these shameful assaults."

The full text of this copyright-free article is available in English (French and Russian soon available) at http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/prems/HR-Europe-no-grounds-complacency_en.pdf#page=46

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