THE ROLE OF SECURITY PROVIDERS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN THE CONTROL OF HATE CRIMES[1]

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Abstract:

In this paper is analysed the role of security providers at the national level in the control of hate crimes. The special particular reference is given on the role of the police and prosecutor's office but also the other entities which have a social significance in the creation of the suitable environment for the prevention of these criminal offences. Those are primarily educational institutions, political elites and media. Efficient control of the hate crimes is a comprehensive process in which should actively be involved different entities in the society, not only the authorities of the formal social control. Integral approach to this problem can give positive results in the long run, whether it is about the repressive action or the prevention.

Keywords*: Hate crimes, police, prosecutor's office, educational institutions, media.*

INTRODUCTION

Although, it is about the phenomenon which is deeply rooted in the human history, hate crimes syntagm is of relatively recent date as well as the right solutions in which manner the individual countries treat this issue. In the sociological context the hate crimes are the consequence of the conflicts of the social groups which have different social iden-

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tities. The individual as the object of attack is not important, his group affiliation is important. Such background of these criminal offences contains a great conflict potential and represents a security threat, particularly in the societies which have already confronted with the ethnical, racial or other forms of violence based on the identity differences. In the psychological sense, the hate crimes are committed due to prejudices towards the identity different social groups.

The control of the violence which is motivated by the hate and prejudices is a great challenge faced by the organizations at the supranational level. It is primarily about the United Nations, more precisely on the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of the Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), then the Council of Europe - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) (Lalić & Matijašević, 2015).

However, besides the supranational level, it is of the crucial importance confronting this phenomenon at the national level. The subject matter of this paper is the consideration of the action of the security providers at the national level in the control of the hate crimes. First, it will be analysed the role of the police, then the prosecutor's office and then the rest of the entities which may contribute by their action to the efficient control of this type of violence. Those are primarily educational institutions, political elites and media.

1. THE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF HATE CRIMES

The police have a crucial role in the society regarding the prevention and suppression of hate crimes. Training and success of the police in shedding the light of these criminal offences, treatment of victims and relations with the community and media is certainly of special importance.

Organizational culture particularities[3] of the police organizations are one of the factors that influence on reporting hate crimes (Nolan & Akiyama, 1999). Nolan and Akiyama state the following factors: stances in the organization regarding these issues, trust of the community in the police, resources, cultural conflicts caused by the differences between the dominant values of the culture of society in which the organization exists and cultural values of the endangered groups (Nolan & Akiyama, 1999:124). Reporting of hate crimes depends also from the police officers' individual characteristics, more accurately from the personal stances and values, responsibilities in implementation of organizational rules, support of heads and colleagues, personal belief in what measure the organization devotes the attention to this problem through training and awarded resources (Nolan & Akiyama, 1999:124) and the ability and readiness of the police officer to recognize that the certain criminal offence was committed out of hate (Saucier et al., 2006:891).

Willingness of the victims to report these criminal offences is of the crucial importance. One of the important reasons why it is a great dark number of these criminal

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[3]   Organizational culture represents a set of stances, values, standards and behaviour patterns which are inherent to particular organization (Brown, 1995; Janjićijević, 1997).

offences is the fact that the victims do not report it due to the fear of secondary victimization by the environment or due to distrust towards the police (Perry, 2001, Cogan, 2002; Levin et al., 2007; McVeigh et al., 2003; Berrill, 1992; Herek, 1992). Distrust towards the police may be the consequence of the police subculture particularity characterized by group closure, insufficiency of sensibility towards the different social groups and their culture and life styles. Often there is also police brutality, racial and other prejudices, conservatism, machismo and cynicism, what may lead to forming of the radical, right-wing stances toward the racial, ethical and sexual minorities and persons who prefer more free unconventional life styles (Reiner, 1985; Skolnick, 1966). Immigrants often do not report these criminal offences due to cultural differences: traditional distrust in the police of the countries from which they come from and also due to language barriers and illegal status (Levin & Amster, 2007:331).

Hate crime research depends from the legal basis for actions of police officers when these criminal offences are in question. Organizational factors also have a great importance. It primarily relates on the existence of the special departments for suppression of hate crimes within police organizations. It is also important that all police officers are trained to recognize a certain event as the act of violence motivated by hate or prejudices for the purpose of initiating of the further investigation. Other conditions are also necessary, such as trust and good relations with the community, especially with the endangered, minority groups whose members are often the victims of hate crimes (Strobl et al., 2005:638). For the establishment of trust in the work of the police, it is also of great importance the presence of the minority groups in the police structure (Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities [MOSAIC], 2003).

Efficient control of the hate crimes by the police is also possible in the very complex demographic and cultural environments. The example for it is the city of New York, USA, which is one of the cities with the most heterogeneous structure of the population in the world. Although the hate crimes were significantly expressed in the previous period after the adoption of the legal regulations that regulate this area and after the increased activity of the New York police from the mid 90 onward, there has been a downturn trend of these criminal offences. Positive results are visible despite the complex social environment caused by the intensive demographic, economic, technology and safety changes. The experiences of the New York police indicate that the increase of efficiency of the police work on suppression of hate crimes can be achieved by forming a specialized departments for suppression of hate crimes, with the establishment of the clear protocols for action, by training of the police, by efficient collection of data, contacts with the community, more severe penal policy, cooperation with the media and establishment of the multilingual service for victims (Levin & Amster, 2007:338).

The example of good practice is also the Baltimore County Police-BCPD USA which is one of the first police agencies in USA which has in 1981 introduced the programme for action regarding the incidents motivated by the religious, racial and ethnical hatred. Such practice is established due to frequent activities of Ku Klux Klan, especially by burning of crosses for the purpose of intimidation of the black population. A special attention is devoted to sensibility of the police actions towards the victims, their families and community - due to emotional traumas which they experienced. In accordance with the procedures, the police mark all events which have the elements of hate incident or

hate crime. The police officer is the first who receives the knowledge on the event, then the police officer notifies the investigators and after the collected evidence the investigators make a report which is submitted to the verification commission, which assesses if the certain event has the elements of the hate crime or not. From the Baltimore Police experiences derive the recommendations for the increase of police efficiency and those are primarily the existence of the clear procedures in the police organizations for action regarding hate crimes, then the police officers' training and the police work programmes in the community (Martin, 1999).

Positive experiences on control of the hate crimes and the increase of efficiency of police work come from Great Britain. Namely, it as about the experiences of one of the programmes of the Ministry of Internal Affairs focused on the hate crimes and family violence. The purpose of the programme is the transformation of the routine police records into the records of use for the practical policy, strategy and police practice. Besides the London's Police and criminologists, in the programme have took part other researchers from the area of social sciences which do not have experience in the work with police organizations. In the project they have applied the combination of the quantitative and qualitative methods on the basis of which they obtained useful data on the hate crimes and the police work - on the basis of which can be identified and understood problems and thereby also improve the action of the police. These programmes represent a good example of the application of the scientific research in the practical purposes (Stanko, 2004).

From the professional papers which can be found in the reference on the action of the police on the suppression of hate crimes, there is a guide made by the Working group on Race and Diversity of the Association of Chief Police Officers ACPO] & The Home Office Police Standards Unit, 2005). The purpose of the guide is the review of the present practices of the police agencies and the development of the new approaches and action tactics. The guide was made on the basis of the verified experiences of the various police agencies across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In the guide is stated the strategic importance of the police in the protection of the personal and property security of all citizens, as well as the vital civilization values of the demographic societies. The absence or inadequate reactions on these criminal offences affects the public confidence in the police, because the consequences of the hate crimes affect not only the victim but also on their family and the community which they belong. In the guide is given a meaningful display of instructions for the operational action and there are also the definitions of the term, legal regulations, methods of collecting of information, issues of the reporting of the criminal offences and statistical monitoring, procedure with the victims, instructions for the management of the investigations, cooperation with the other agencies and then are explained the specific emanations of the hate crimes, hate crimes and incidents within the police organizations, trainings of the police officers, relations with the media and eventually, evaluation of the working results.

Likewise, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has made concise instructions for the police officers regarding the research and the prevention of hate crimes (Turner, 2001). These instructions for the understanding of the nature of these criminal offences as well as the instructions to the police officers what they should do at the crime scene are useful.

Indicators that indicate on the existence of the hate crime[4] are of particular importance and also the instructions on how to deal with the victims and the communities which the victims belong. It is significant to mention also the OSCE programme - ODIHR training for the police services for suppression of the hate crimes. The programme is consisted of four phases:

1) response, investigation, collection and exchange of information and cooperation with the prosecutors,
2) development of the strategies for the suppression of the hate crimes which are based on the proactive management of the police and the cooperation with the communities,
3) development of the efficient process of collecting and forwarding of the data of the hate crimes,
4) trainings of the prosecutors on how to use evidence for the purpose of proving the criminal offence.[5]

The programme is adapted to the particularities and needs of each country in particular.

On the whole, the role of the police in the prevention and suppression of the hate crimes is of the essential importance. The efficient approach primarily includes the competence of the police, organizational culture that respects diversities and relations with the citizens based on mutual trust, especially with the minority communities.

2. THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF HATE CRIMES

The efficient work of the authorities of the judicial system is also of great importance for the social control of hate crimes. Criminal prosecution and establishment of the criminal responsibility is a clear indicator of the social disapproval of these criminal offences. Establishment of the criminal responsibility of the executors of the criminal offences perpetrated out of the hatred does not have the significance in the sense of the special and general prevention, but it is also important from the aspect of creation of trust of the victim and the victim's community in the criminal justice system and social system in the whole. Otherwise, if the system is not capable to perform its control and guiding functions, crises[6] are legally occurring, suitable social conditions are created for the emergence of the new racial, national, religious and other conflicts and deepening of

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[4] Perceptions of the victim and the witness regarding criminal offence, commentaries of the executers, gestures or written statements that indicate on the prejudices including graffiti or other symbols, each difference between the executers and the victim, whether real or assumed by the executers; similar incidents at the same locations or settlement that indicate on the same forms of behaviour; the victim was engaged on the activities of promotion of its group or community; the existence of coincidence of time of occurring the incident with he holiday or the date of the special importance; membership of the executer in the extreme groups or cooperation with their members; the absence of the other motive, such as material gain and similar (Turner, 2001).

[5] Training Programme for Police Officers, http://www. osce. org/publications/odihr/2006/09/20673_676_sr. pdf. Website visited on 23 December 2009

[6] Such state in the sociological theory is called dysfunction of the social system and in the political theory, the crises of the legitimacy of the government (Milašinović, 2008:70).

the existing, particularly in the social environment where those relations are traditionally disturbed.[7]

In the existing world literature, there is a very few scientific papers from this field that specifically or at least partially deal with the acting of the justice system and the responsibility of the executors of these criminal offences. One of the papers significant for this issue is *Hate Crime Offenders: An Expanded Typology* (McDevitt et al., 2002) where McDevitt and associates suggest that during the criminal prosecution and sentencing to the executor of the criminal offence committed out of hatred, if it is performed in a group, to be taken into consideration the degree of participation and responsibility of each participant, having in mind the role which they had during the incident. Regarding that, the authors distinguish four types of participants in the incident: leaders and accomplices, involuntary participants and heroes. For each of the four types of executors by the classification of these authors corresponds one of the mentioned roles - thereby also the degree of responsibility. According to them, leaders and accomplices bear the greatest responsibility, whether to encourage other on the execution of the offence or to actively participate in the execution. Unwilling participants do not actively participate in the incident or are trying to prevent the crime or to assist the victim. Heroes are trying to prevent other participants to perform the crime, warn the victims or report the group activity to the police (McDevitt et al., 2002:313).

Likewise, it should be mentioned also the academic article *The Prosecution of Hate Crimes The Limitations of the Hate Crime Typology* (Phillips, 2009), where it is criticized the typology of the executors of the hate crimes criminal offences made by McDevitt and associates, because it does not include the cases where the hatred is not the basic but the peripheral motive, which is of great importance in proving the criminal offence committed out of hatred and the sign to the legislator that it should foresee also such cases, because they often occur in the practice.

James Morsh in the quoted article *The Problem of Motive in Hate Crimes: The Argument against Presumptions of Racial Motivation* is concerned with the problem of proving of the hate crime motive, by analysing the arguments that the complex problem of proving the racial motive is solved in the manner that the burden of proving the motive is based on the defence and not on the prosecutor, that is, to be introduced assumption of the racial motive when the racial attacks of the white people on the minority groups in USA are concerned, because in that manner would be provided a larger number of convictions. In such a case, the defendant would have to prove that his act was not motivated by the racial hatred, but with some other motive (Morsch, 1991:674). Advocates of this approach state that in this manner is eliminated the possibility of arbitrary and illegal verdicts (Morsch, 1991:675) and its critics consider that it would not be in accordance with the USA Constitution, because the equality principle is violated before the law (Morsch, 1991:681). Morsch states that the state should adopt clear standards for proving the motive of the accused for the criminal offences committed out of hatred and the pros-

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[7]   For example, on 17 and 18 May 1980 in Miami, USA occurred major racial riots and conflicts due to the verdict that liberated four white police officers of the criminal liability who, due to allegedly committed offence, beaten to death a black person McDuffie. In the riots was fifteen dead people and more than two hundred was injured. In Los Angeles riots broke out on 29 April 1992 due to liberating verdict of the four white officers who were charged for physical abuse of the young black person. In the riots were 47 dead and 2 328 injured people (De Fontet, 1999:104).

ecutors should prove that the behaviour of the defendant is dominantly guided by the racial hatred. Likewise, he considers that the states should establish the control mechanisms for the supervision over the work of the justice system authorities, because the decisions which they make may also be racially motivated (Morsch, 1991:689).

Beside a small number of scientific papers, there are a modest number of professional papers. In that segment it is important to mention the Guide for Prosecutors, American Prosecutors Research Institute[8] (APRI, 2001). The guide contains basic explanations on what are hate crimes, the review of problems and law regulations, collaboration with the other agencies, instructions for the identification and research of the hate crimes, instructions for the preparation of the cases for criminal prosecution and at the end, the instruction for the prevention of these criminal offences.

Here we will mention the guide prepared by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE *Hate Crimes Laws: A Practical Guide* (OSCE - ODIHR, 2009a) in which are explained the arguments for the existence of the law regulations on hate crimes and are stated the examples from practice in what manner different legislations have solved the problem. Likewise, in the guide are processed crucial issues which the legislator should take into consideration during the drafting of the regulations from this field.

Although this guide is primarily intended for legislators as an aid in drafting the regulations from this field, it certainly represents a useful reading to the public prosecutors and judges for the understanding of the legal nature of these criminal offences. Besides, it is also mentioned a valuable experiences from other legislations. Particularly useful in the guide is the part on the proving of the criminal offences committed out of hate (OSCE-ODIHR, 2009a:47-52) which speaks of proving of the motive of prejudice of hate, such as in the cases where the motive is obvious and also for the situations where beside the motive of prejudice or hate there are also other motives.

The work of the justice system regarding the criminal prosecution of the criminal offences committed out of hate depends of the multitude of factors. Basic factors are the adequate legal solutions, therefore, the legal basis for action of the Prosecutor's Office and courts. If there is a clear legal framework for the criminal prosecution of the executors of these criminal offences, the formal-legal conditions are created for the action of all authorities of the formal social control, from the police to the Public Prosecutor's Offices and courts. However, due to insufficiency of the experience from this field, inadequate legal solutions or doubt that it will not be proven the motive of the executer, judge and prosecutors often qualify a certain criminal offence where the motive of prejudice or hate is obvious - as some other criminal offence (Morsch, 1991:672). Additionally, the judges easily accept the acknowledgement of guilt of the executer as some other criminal offence, denying the motive of prejudice or hate (Burney & Rose, 2002:111). If the public prosecutors in their practice fail to prove this motive or the trials last exceptionally long, after which the court imposes a light sentences for the executers of these criminal offences by the court (Strobl et al., 2005:638), the entire concept of hate crime loses the social sense and criminal and legal significance. Implementation of the legal provisions on the hate crimes sends the message of support to the minority groups and the small number of convictions is the indicator which indicates on the failure of sending this message

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[8]   *Hate Crimes: A local Prosecutor's Guide for Responding to Hate Crimes.*

(Morsch, 1991:673). For that reason, the efficient work of the authorities of the justice system should enable the certification of the validity of the hate crime as the special type of criminal offences - or that the entire concept is thoroughly investigated.

3. THE OTHER ENTITIES IN THE CONTROL OF HATE CRIMES

a) Educational institutions

Educational institutions have a crucial role in forming of the stances of the generations of young people. The society transfers on the young generations those values which sustained the trial of time and which showed by the experience as important for the maintenance of the certain social group. Observing it sociologically, not even one society is homogeneous, but heterogeneous by the various cultural, political, social and other bases. Social differences in favourable conditions create the paradigm of differences - ideological view of exclusivity of their own culture as valuable, with the simultaneous denying or disrespect of the values of other social groups. Stereotypes and prejudices are transferred from generation to generation in the form of tradition (Ueckert, Kakuska, & Nagorny, 1978:282). The question is raised if those unfounded stances may be considered cultural heritage and what consequences do they have on society and individual in the long term? Consequences are not harmless because they are expressed in the form of conflict between different social groups and the hate crimes are a violent form of manifestation of differences. Considering the negative social consequences of the stereotypes, prejudices, ethnocentrism and hate, which is their essential companion and essence, enculturation of such stances belongs more in the domain of the social pathology than in the domain of culture. Results of the social and psychological research tell us that the violent behaviour is learned (Bandura, 1977). In accordance with that theory can be set an opposite assertion: that the nonviolent behaviour is also learned. Certainly, the explanation of the violent behaviour is a very complex and it may not be *a priori* reduced on the educational process but this factor is significant in the explanation of the violent behaviour. If we accept the assumption that the education has a positive impact on the forming of the stances on social groups which rest on the different cultural values, we may speak on the significance and the role of education in the prevention of hate crimes.

Going forward, the prevention of hate crimes should include the education of the school children in the cultural differences by introducing the curricula and syllabi which will enable to the students to understand better the culture of differences and non-discrimination (Tilley, 2007:549). There is also the education of the young people through organization of the school seminars on xenophobia and visits to the commemorative centres of the Nazi crimes (Strobl et al., 2005:640). Such approaches are of special importance for the societies where there is a traditional hate and distrust between the antagonistic groups, whose painful historical remembrance is a part of the collective awareness.

The process of adoption of the cultural values of the dialogue and tolerance is not related only on the part of the population in the society that participates in the process

of formal education, but also on all citizens. Successful strategies for the prevention of the hate crimes must be focused on the strengthening of the democratic standards and values, what includes the series of activities of the citizens, institutions and media. For example it may be mentioned the experiences from Germany, where it is implemented the concept of positive general prevention which is consisted in raising awareness of the citizenship on the importance of standards in society. However, if the violation of standards is tolerated, in time the awareness on obligation of respect of these standards will weaken and then disappear. Just with the positive general prevention is performed reaffirmation of standards in society. (Strobl et al., 2005:635) It may be influenced on the citizenship in the educational manner by holding gatherings or concerts where is promoted tolerance and nonviolence. The adoption of the democratic standards does not depend from rejection of totalitarian and neo-Nazi ideology but in larger extent from accepting of the democratic lifestyle. These approaches have positive effects and in long term may effect on the reduction of the hate crimes (Strobl et al., 2005:636).

b) Political elites

Political elites often create socially favourable conditions for violence motivated by the national, racial, religious and other forms of hatred, providing the active or passive support to the stigmatisation, demonization or marginalisation of the traditionally oppressed social groups. In that way the state gives the legitimacy to the policy of violence and the policy of hegemony (Perry, 2001:179). Political elites have the responsibility to provide the equality of all citizens, the rule of laws and to develop a truly democratic political culture that promotes and does not judge the differences in the society. Hate crimes are the threat to the basic democratic values thereby the bearers of the political authority have the constitutional obligation to protect the rights of the citizens and to prevent the various forms of discrimination and violence in the society. There is an entire series of measures which may be implemented on this plan, such as the fulfilment of the international obligations which derive from the international conventions and other acts including also the establishment of cooperation with the international authorities that deal with this issue.

One of the essential questions is the legal protection of the minorities and their equal participation in the political, economic and cultural life. Supporting the initiatives by which is suggested the adequate legal solutions may be affected on the executive authority to enable an efficient implementation of the existing legal regulations from this field.

Political elites may support or at least enable an undisturbed work of the non-governmental organizations for the protection of the human rights, especially those which deal with the issues of racism, xenophobia, religion and other forms of discrimination and intolerance. It is of the special interest the role of the political elites in the post conflict societies, where are expressed the subjective consequences of the conflict in the form of the sentiment of hate toward the members of the other conflicting national, religious or other groups. Social psychologists consider that it may be influenced on the neutralization

of the hatred by directing the hatred on the participants in the war crime, then the legal measures, information, interaction and education (Milosavljević, 2004:395).

What is the role of the political elites in those social environments and what they can do on neutralising of the occurred consequences? Representatives of the political elites can direct and localize hatred on the participants in the war crime - organizers, ideologists and executers instead on the one nation or other group. By the localization of the hatred are identified the responsible for the crimes and in that way is prevented that the hatred is the exclusive and long term initiator of the relations between the antagonist social groups. On neutralizing of the hatred the political elite may influence in such a manner that they give a political support to the efficient action of the criminal justice system, whereby it is sent a clear message that such behaviour would be severely sanctioned. Likewise, in the public statements they may avoid violent communication and hate speech, where is evoked the sentiment of hatred. On the other hand by its moderate statements and political action they can promote the values of the political culture of dialogue, tolerance and nonviolence. If the action of the political elites is directed on the interaction and the dialogue with the antagonist groups as well as a defining of the common, possible targets, in the long run, this should contribute to the reduction of the existing tensions. And, in the end, the political elites can influence on the process of education of the young generations, in the manner that they will give a political support to the curriculum and activities by which are promoted democratic values.

c) Media

Media have a crucial role in forming of the public opinion, especially when it is about the delicate themes such as hate crimes. Media deal with the sale of news and the hate crime is always the news that evokes interest of the public. Media can have a double role; the first relates on objective information, the other on manipulation. In what manner the media will act is an ethical question.

Critics of the hate crimes concept criticise also the role of media, because they have created a large picture on the state of the hate crimes, frequently without the basis indicating on the alarming state (Jacobs & Potter, 1998:50-51). Green and associates state that the media had a significant role in the creation of the tide of xenophobic violence in Germany in 1990s (Green et al., 2001:496). It is important to mention also the fact that the development of the information technologies, especially the Internet enables a new ways of expansion of the various forms of hatred. Hatred on the Internet is a widespread phenomenon, because the extremists use them as the global mean of communication for the expansion of the hate ideology (Perry, 2001:174). The cooperation of the media ad the police are also of the great importance when the hate crimes are concerned. Approaches in the cooperation may be proactive and reactive. Proactive approach is consisted of the activities by which is promoted nonviolence and avoided an insulting terminology during reporting. It is of significance that the media inform the public on the details related for the deprivation of liberty, indictments and verdicts for the hate crimes, because such an approach strengthens the trust of the public in the criminal justice system (ACPO & Home Office, 2005:95). In the reactive approach, it means that when a certain event happens, the cooperation of the police and media is the opportunity that the police demonstrate openness and responsibility towards the public (ACPO & Home Office, 2005:95).

CONCLUSION

In this paper is given a short display of the role of the security providers at the national level in the control of hate crimes. Each society in accordance with its institutional capacities, the policy of suppression of crime and the level of respect of democratic values reacts on these specific criminal offences. The consequences of the hate crimes exceed the immediate victim; they are beside the attack on the individual also the attack on the group which the victim belongs. This is its uniqueness by comparison with the other criminal offences. Hate crimes can represent a threat for peace and stability in the society. Thereby also the role of the entities which need to provide it is great. The significance of the police as the traditional security provider is unavoidable. The successful control of these criminal offences depends from the training and successfulness of the police in the clarifying of these criminal offences, treatment with the victims and relations with the community and media. The work of the judicial authorities, prosecutor's offices and courts has a clear goal and that is criminal prosecution and establishment of the responsibility of the perpetrators of these criminal offences. Only in this way, it is possible to create the trust of the victim and the community to which the victim belongs in the system of the criminal justice system and the society as a whole. However, besides the bodies of the formal social control a significant role in achieving this goal also have the other entities. The system of education has a significant role. In that system, young people are preparing for the future. Learning about the cultural differences and nonviolent communication should be the integral part of the educational process at all levels. The significance of respecting democratic standards is not related only on the process of formal education but also on all citizens. The successful strategies for the prevention of hate crimes include a set of activities of the citizens, institutions and media. Political elites bear a heavy responsibility when the control of these criminal offences is in question. They are the ones that create a social environment and the ones that can judge the practice of the discrimination, hate and violence, but also to encourage it. Neutral stance also contributes to the social environment of the violence because the message of condemnation is missing. Political elites are the initiators of changes and strengthening of the institutional capacities for the suppression of hate crimes. Media also have a great importance in this process. Biased and tendentious information leads to creation of the tide of intolerance of violence. It may be concluded that the prevention and suppression of the hate crime is a comprehensive process which demands active participation of the entities from various spheres of social life. Only such integral approach to this problem in the long run can give positive results.

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