

## **Organization for Defending Victims of Violence**

**Ireland**



### **Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review 25th session of the UPR Working Group, (April/May 2016)**

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). ODVV was established in 1988 in Tehran and has been active in the field of human rights and humanitarian activities. ODVV is also associated to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), a participatory of the NGOs Coalition for an International Court (based in New York), and national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labour (based in New Delhi) which cooperated in a variety of issues with international organizations and has working relations with many NGOs in Iran and around the globe. ODVV is also member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), conference of Non Governmental Organization (CONGO), and the International Movement for a Just World.

The present submission expresses ODVV's concerns about incidents of Xenophobia, Islamophobia and violation of Muslim rights observed in Ireland.

#### **C. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground**

##### **Muslim Rights:**

Ireland received three recommendations on protection of Muslim rights in the first round of its UPR and it is noted that all three recommendations are accepted by the country.

However, ODVV is concerned about cases of Muslim harassments by anonymous Christian extremists, such as sending a threatening letter to Muslim schools and mosques across the capital city Dublin<sup>1</sup>; the hate speech expressed by some people including the Belfast based

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<sup>1</sup> . <http://www.worldbulletin.net/haber/123667/far-right-extremists-threaten-muslims-in-ireland>

Pastor James McConnell<sup>2</sup> and political figures<sup>3</sup> and attacks on Muslim families in the city of Belfast which has made Muslims in Northern Ireland announce their plans to leave the country to avoid anti-Islamic violence.

ODVV notes the measures adopted by the Ireland police force to investigate allegations of hate crime and calls on the government to continue its efforts to tackle racial discrimination and to combat all forms of racism, Islamophobia and religious intolerance against foreigners and religious minorities, including Muslims.

ODVV calls on the Irish religious leaders and political figures to avoid any form of hate speech against religious minorities including Muslims.

ODVV echoes the concerns raised by Muslim minorities regarding their call on the government to address the root causes of hate crimes rather than trying to deal with them after they have taken place.

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<sup>2</sup> . <http://www.commdiginews.com/world-news/europe/muslims-flee-northern-ireland-to-escape-anti-islam-violence-18836/>

<sup>3</sup> . The First Minister of Northern Ireland, Peter Robinson, has also thrown his support behind Pastor McConnell. According to the BBC "[Robinson] went on to say that he would not trust Muslims either."