

**Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans**

**Contribution to**

**OSCE**

**Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Addressing All Forms of Intolerance and  
Discrimination**

25-26 May 2020

The Greek-Orthodox Minority of Istanbul during the whole of the 20th Century has been victim of extensive discriminations as a consequence of the policies pursued by the Republic of Turkey. The discriminatory state policies were intensified after 1962, when a Special Minority Committee (Azınlıklar Taali Komisyonu) was established at the Prime Minister's Office. This Committee on issues related to non-Muslim minorities had superseding power of all executive, legislative and judicial authorities. Although this Commission was abolished in 2004, the consequences of its discriminatory policies are still causing problems to minorities and generous remedy and reparation measures are needed to counteract them. Concerning the Greek-Orthodox minority, the most important consequence of discriminations is the severe population depletion faced since 98% of its population is living outside their native land as expatriated community. Moreover the Greek-Orthodox Community in the same context of discriminations, has been the victim of hate propaganda and the prime one being the provocative publications before the mass scale Pogrom of 6-7 September 1955. Recently such publications have again intensified inside Turkey as has been the case with the periodical Gerçek Hayat in May 2020 issue, publishing falsified accusations against the religious leaders of non-Muslim minorities who were supposedly planning a Coup d'état. All the religious leaders have condemned this publication. The absence of legislation in the Criminal Code has been already noticed by the Higher Court of Turkey in 2016, therefore the Public Prosecutor of Turkey should proceed with a legal investigation of the said publication and the Government of Turkey should proceed with establishing laws complying with international standards to prevent hate and defamatory publications.