

## **Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF)**

Hello and thank you Chair,

The Fundamental Rights Report 2020, by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union, notes that 19 years following the adoption of the Racial Equality Directive, and also 11 years after the adoption of the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia, several member states of the European Union had still not correctly transposed and applied relevant EU legislation. Hate-motivated attacks, crimes and hate speech are part of structural and systematic discrimination against persons belonging to national minorities, religious groups and other marginalized groups. The Turkish Community in Western Thrace has been target of numerous crime attacks, and in recent years, persons, institutions and places of work of this community have also been targeted. The Annual Report released on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, by the Racist Violence Recording Network, the RVRN, which was established in mid-2011, an initiative by the Greek National Commission for Human Rights and also the Office of United Nations High Commission of Refugees in Greece, notes that the stigmatization of people with different backgrounds, by public authorities, institutions, media, also political parties, is an act of racial discrimination and could create a very dangerous environment that reinforces racist attitudes and prejudices in Greece.

So we call up on Greece and all other European states to address this very important issue and dedicate a special effort in order to increase reporting and punishment of Greek hate crimes and hate speech on social media. And we also recall that recommendations of RVRN on effective strengthening of the mechanisms for identifying media hate speech, including online and social media platforms, is of utmost importance.

Thank you for your attention.