

Speaker: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of Plataforma per la Llengua, an NGO based in Barcelona, promoting the language rights of Catalan speakers. One of whom is the artist that did the work above your heads. We want to express our deep concern about the hate and discrimination against the Catalane people and the Catalan language not being prosecuted in the Spanish state but somewhat [inaudible]. Last year, Spain stated in a letter to Mr. [inaudible] that the [inaudible] analysis seems to forget the value of having a common language as an instrument of participation in a political community. Instead of sparring for a greater political community in which all language groups can participate using their languages, Spanish nationalism argues that the majority's language and identity should be imposed upon minorities who do not even have the right to a distinct identity of their own. It is not uncommon for Catalanian language publications on social media to be the target of [inaudible] and hateful comments. To mention a few particular examples, a couple of years ago, one of the most prominent newspapers in the country, published that more than half of internet Spanish users at present feel Catalanophobic. And just this week a Catalan teacher was targeted by the Spanish media and many internet users were receiving numerous [inaudible] and death threats. Having her picture published and even news websites justifying this because she wrote her tweets in Catalan. Meaning, she hated Spain. For this we have three recommendations. One, towards the investigation of hate speech against minorities on social media. Two, towards Spain and the rest of states to take this matter seriously and act against it, as it should, when a hate crime is being committed. [inaudible] Three, urge the states to develop effective mechanisms to identifying, responding to and imposing sanctions for hate speech and [inaudible] and discriminatory and violence against minorities and specifically against Catalan speakers in the case of Spain. Thank You.