

Centro Internazionale di studi sul Religioso Contemporaneo

XXIII SUMMER SCHOOL ON RELIGIONS
San Gimignano, Tavarnelle V.P. 24-27 Agosto 2016

Violenza e religioni

Assoc. **Monika Ślufińska**, Associate Professor, Jagiellonian University, Cracow
PhD **Agnieszka Nitszke**, Assistant Professor, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Abstract

Violence as a political issue. Hate language in public debate on immigrants to the EU. The case of Visegrad Group Countries

Immigration crisis, which is facing the European Union for several years, has highlighted a number of problems in European cooperation. The first is, of course, the ratio for admission. In this regard, we see a division between the Member States. Generally, it runs on the line - the old - the new Member States.

Political culture as well as some social norms developed in these countries for decades, make that immigrants are not perceived as a threat. A different situation is in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where for decades the communist regime developed homogeneous societies. Even if in these countries were ethnic minorities their status was not confirmed by law.

That made, after regaining full sovereignty and accession to the European Union, these countries had no educated norms of coexistence in a multicultural, multiethnic and multireligious society. Over the years of membership in the EU Eastern European countries were not fully forced to revise their policy because migration that occurred at that time, had the nature of intra and mostly concerned the situation of labor migration to western European countries.

The situation changed after the events of the Arab spring, when thousands and then hundreds of thousands of migrants appeared at the borders of Europe. Averting the crisis was primarily a political issue. Then it turned out that the concept of European solidarity, at least for some countries, is understood differently. This applies in particular to the Visegrad countries - Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The purpose of our presentation is to present some aspects of political and social issues related to the debate on refugees in the countries of the Visegrad Group and comparing their positions with the policies of other countries and the EU itself. An important element of our presentation will be issues related to radicalization of the language of public debate, which is affected by increase in support for populist parties, especially in Poland and Hungary last few years.

The aim of our paper is to answer the following research questions:

Q1: Is the hate language in public debate on refugees a characteristic of right-wing parties?

Q2: Why the opposition parties are not able to provide an alternate debate language?

Q3: Does the EU have the possibility to react to hate speech in the Member States?

Q4: Does hate speech presented by political parties and politicians affect the public opinion, including reluctance to immigrants?

Assoc. **Monika Ślufińska** (Associate Professor) in scientific work deals with issues of social and political communication and the doctrine of political radicalism. In her part there will be presented issues related to radicalization of the language of public debate, including elements of hate speech towards refugees.

PhD. **Agnieszka Nitszke** (Assistant Professor) in research work deals with European integration, including EU policies, as well as political parties and their influence on the decision-making process. In her speech there will be presented the main points of the programs of the ruling parties and the opposition in the countries of the Visegrad Group, as well as some proposals submitted by the Visegrad countries on the forum of the EU institutions.