Working group exercises

1. A lawyer representing the victims of a prior anti-Roma hate crime was attacked in his office by a group of men, led by a local prosecutor. The attackers first forced the victim to eat a document found in his office and when he could not, began beating and kicking him in his head and chest. The victim is convinced the attack was due to the fact that he works for a civil society organization representing Roma.

2. In country X, a Muslim student from Morocco was attacked while walking in the evening with his friend. The perpetrator used a knife and stabbed the student in the head and his friend in the chest before running away. The victims survived the injuries. Investigation found that the perpetrator was also suspected of committing crimes against other international students in the country. The suspect’s neighbors and classmates testified that he expressed racist ideas and talked negatively about people of other ethnic backgrounds.

3. Two Jehovah’s Witnesses were disseminating religious literature. A man started an argument, insulting them and demanding that they stop their religious activities. One of the Jehovah’s Witnesses turned around and started walking away. The perpetrator ran after him, hit him in the back and then began kicking him. The victim sustained bodily injuries of medium gravity.

4. A group of people attacked a public LGBT rights event. During the attack, a person was hit by an unknown object and sustained minor bodily injuries. The perpetrator belonged to a group that was protesting the event and accompanied his actions with homophobic statements and insults.

5. A Roma man was stabbed to death and four more were seriously injured in an attack in a Roma settlement by members of a nationalist group. Prior to the attack, the same group posted a threatening video online, showing the group’s members chasing Roma people through the city.

6. A memorial depicting a Roma street cleaner was damaged and covered in paint.