

2006 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING WARSAW, 2 – 13 OCTOBER 2006

INFORMATION FOR NGOs

The 2006 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will take place in Warsaw, Poland, from 2 to 13 October 2006. This is the annual OSCE meeting where representatives of governments and civil society from the 56 participating States will review both the implementation of the OSCE's Human Dimension commitments and the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments. Please find attached the schedule of the meeting and the technical information, also available on the ODIHR website at http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2006.html. The Annotated Agenda will be posted on the website when finalised.

All non-governmental organizations interested in participating in the HDIM are kindly requested to complete the on-line Registration Form in full by 6 September 2006 at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>

Participants may also organize their own side events during the Meeting. For further information please visit ODIHR website at http://www.osce.org/conferences/hdim_2006.html

All formal sessions of the Meeting will be open for participation by NGO representatives, and NGOs will have equal access to the list of speakers.

The Meeting shall feature three special topic days as follows:

1. Addressing factors contributing to the cycle of trafficking in persons: The Special day will provide an opportunity to review the implementation of OSCE commitments on the identification and protection of trafficked persons. Victims' rights protection is a key component of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat trafficking in Human Beings and is central to the ODIHR's anti-trafficking work. The session will allow for a stock-taking of developments on these issues since the 2004 ODIHR conference entitled 'Ensuring Human Rights Protection in Countries of Destination: Breaking the Cycle of Trafficking', held in Helsinki. The session will also review the commitments and issues relevant to addressing the demand side of trafficking for both labour and sexual exploitation. Consideration will also be given to measures needed in the build-up to large sporting and other events.
2. Access to justice: This topic will be discussed in two sessions. The first session will address access to affordable legal assistance in the participating States, including legal aid in civil and administrative matters. The second session will examine improvement of court administration to avoid delays in obtaining court judgments, as well as steps taken by the participating States to strengthen enforcement of court decisions.

3. Promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination and mutual respect and understanding: The implementation of OSCE commitments and the role of youth in relation to hate-motivated incidents. The session will review the commitments undertaken by participating States through the Maastricht, Sofia and Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions on tolerance and non-discrimination and will also allow discussion of the “Berlin Declaration”, the “Brussels Declaration” and the “Cordoba Declaration”. The discussions during the session will also focus on youth in relation to hate crimes and hate-motivated violent manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions.

The ODIHR document distribution system will allow for written statements and recommendations to be distributed electronically during the meeting; texts should be forwarded, preferably in advance, to hdim@odihr.pl or submitted during the Meeting to the Documents Distribution counter. These documents will also be made accessible on our website during the Meeting.

The ODIHR is unfortunately not in a position to finance the participation of NGOs in the Meeting, but please find also enclosed a list of moderately priced hotels in Warsaw. NGOs are kindly requested to make their own booking arrangements.

Should you have any queries concerning the Meeting please contact us at e-mail: office@odihr.pl