

Symposium - Launch of the Publication: Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. A Compilation of Good Practices

Vienna, 8th June 2009

Background

Violence against women (VAW) affects all countries and the lives of millions of women worldwide in all socio-economic and educational classes. VAW not only devastates lives and fractures communities; it stalls security and impedes human development and democratization.

Project funded by:
*Austria, Finland, France,
Germany, Greece*

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To different degrees, a number of OSCE participating States have experience in developing legislation, policies and programmes to prevent and react to VAW. Innovative approaches have been tested by several countries. Recent initiatives also target boys and men, seeking their positive involvement. Additionally, a number of OSCE field operations, together with their host countries, are devoting increased attention to combating VAW.

The much needed access to the description, assessment and knowledge of most of the above- mentioned experiences is poorly developed and comprehensive compilations of effective practices are almost unavailable. Thus, the Gender Section of the OSCE decided to contribute to closing this gap by preparing a compendium of good and innovative practices in the prevention of violence, the protection of the victims and the prosecution of the offenders that could be used by governments and non-governmental organisations, as well as OSCE staff.

Ahead of the preparation of the compilation, the Gender Section organized an expert's seminar on innovative approaches to combating VAW in Dushanbe in October 2008. The seminar counted with the participation of 89 international experts, policy makers, NGO activists and representatives of international organizations from 21 countries. Experts from Austria, Finland, France, Georgia, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom gave presentations on effective approaches from their countries, organized around the topics of prevention of violence against women, protection for survivors and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women. Special attention was also given to efforts to engage young people and men in combating violence against women.

The seminar's report is available in English and Russian under:

http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html

A hard copy is available upon request at the Gender Section.

Symposium's Objective

As a follow-up, the Gender Section is organizing a symposium in June, its aim being to launch the compilation described above and to encourage increased knowledge on effective approaches and inspire for twining projects addressing VAW among OSCE stakeholders. The symposium, during which the publication will be presented, will give the audience - in particular the OSCE delegates and the gender focal points - the opportunity to obtain valuable information on good practices and support by the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions towards combating VAW.

The technical and programmatic information gained in the symposium is expected to nurture implementation oriented debates by participating States in the HDIM and the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting with regard to combating VAW and advancing gender equality in the OSCE area.

Agenda

Location	Ratsaal, Hofburg, Vienna, Austria.
Date	8 th June 2009
09:00-09:10	Opening OSCE Greek Chairmanship Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General
09:10- 10:30	09:10- 09:30 Combating violence against women: Strategies in conflict related settings. Minister Elisabeth Rehn
Panel 1 Moderation: Jamila Seftaoui	09:30- 09:50 Addressing the causes and consequences of VAW: Lessons learned from the UN Campaign. Prof. Yakin Ertürk, UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences
	09:50- 10:10 The role of men in combating violence against women Todd Minerson, Executive Director, White Ribbon Campaign
	10:10 – 10:30 Debate
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:25	11:00 – 11:15 Jamila Seftaoui, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE Secretariat, Office of the Secretary General, Gender Section “Bringing security home: Combating violence against women in the OSCE region”. Presentation of the compilation of good practices.
Panel 2 Moderation: Ambassador Eric Lebédel	11:15 – 11:30 Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Director, OSCE/ODIHR
	11:30 – 11:45 Tone Tingsgaard, Vice president and Special Representative on Gender Issues, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
	11:45-12:00 Colonel Xavier Denis, Commandant du Groupement de Gendarmerie / Jura. Example of a good practice.
	12:00 – 12:05 Ambassador Renatas Norkus, Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee
	12:05- 12: 25 Discussion
12:25 – 12:30	Closing by Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov (tbc)
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch reception
Participants	Members of Delegations to the OSCE, OSCE staff members, selected VAW experts and international organizations, OSCE Gender Focal Points*.
Language	English

*The Annual Gender Focal Points’ meeting will take place in Vienna just after the Symposium on 8-10 June 2009