

Summary of Internal OSCE Field Staff Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings
Organised by the OSCE ODIHR
Vienna, 20 June 2000

Following the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings the ODIHR took the initiative to organise a meeting that was attended by most of the OSCE field staff who participated in the SHD meeting. The purpose of this meeting held on 20 June 2000 in Vienna was to:

- Introduce OSCE field staff to new ODIHR staff persons working on trafficking, including Minister Helga Konrad, Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings
- Discuss the OSCE's lead role in co-ordinating anti-trafficking efforts, particularly in the Balkans
- Share experiences and exchange ideas about how the OSCE can better address trafficking and respond to urgent cases in the future
- Assess the needs of OSCE field staff and priorities for future activities
- Come up with a strategy to propose to the CiO and the CPC to ensure that OSCE field staff who are asked to work on this issue receive appropriate specialised training and opportunities to network with each other

Staff was present from OSCE field presences in: Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Turkmenistan and the ODIHR Office in Montenegro.

The meeting began with everyone briefly introducing themselves and summarising their involvement with anti-trafficking efforts. Minister Konrad addressed the group expressing her desire to improve both internal OSCE co-ordination on the issue and co-ordination between countries in the Stability Pact region. The draft concept for the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings was distributed at this time as well as the terms of reference for the regional co-ordinator.

OSCE field presences are already taking a lead role in monitoring and co-ordinating national efforts to combat trafficking and assist victims. On the political level, the OSCE has a unique strength in bringing together diverse actors from the NGO and government spheres to evaluate resources, prioritise needs and strategize for future activities. OSCE field presences are increasingly initiating projects that indirectly or directly deal with the issue of trafficking in human beings. ODIHR seeks to support these efforts and enhance the capacity of OSCE field presences to address this problem on the national and regional levels.

Several concrete recommendations were generated during the discussion on 20 June including the following:

Recommendations for OSCE Field Presences

- Every field presence should have a designated "focal point" working on the trafficking issue; larger field presences should have an expert on trafficking issues
- Larger field presences should organise a working group with relevant staff who work on legislative reform, gender issues, training of police, NGO capacity building, good governance, etc.

- Larger field presences should also take on a co-ordinating role for anti-trafficking strategies at the national level and encourage inter-agency working groups with key international organisations, NGOs and government officials
- As a goal of more effective co-ordination in response to urgent trafficking cases, OSCE field presences should determine their role in a “rapid response” mechanism that would ensure protection of victims (including voluntary repatriation) and prosecution of traffickers
- OSCE field presences need to improve monitoring and data collection activities; In co-operation with ODIHR and the CPC, Missions should also determine the most effective mechanism to exchange information
- OSCE field presences should play a key role in building NGO capacity to address the trafficking issue, particularly with regards to prevention efforts and providing shelter and services to victims

Recommendation for Training of OSCE Field Staff

During Working Group I at the SHD Meeting Jo-Anne Bishop from the OSCE Mission to Bosnia made the following recommendations:

- OSCE field personnel who deal with trafficking cases and related issues should receive specialised training
- Training should be specific for each OSCE presence
- Training should include a gender sensitivity component
- The training provided should be a training-of-trainers program in order to allow one field staff representative to train their colleagues and enhance the overall capacity of the OSCE field presence to deal with this issue

At the meeting of OSCE field personnel on 20 June, many participants agreed with Jo-Anne’s suggestions. There was concern raised by one representative that OSCE field personnel not spend too much time and resources on training of staff--that perhaps it was more relevant for larger Missions to have such trainings. Overall, however, OSCE field staff present felt that there is a need for them to be better equipped to deal with this complex issue. OSCE field personnel present supported the idea of a training-of-trainers program.

An ODIHR representative made the following recommendations:

- First step should be a training-of-trainers and networking opportunity organised for all “focal points” and key training personnel (from larger Missions)
- Second step would be trainers returning to their Mission to train other staff; At this stage it would be appropriate whenever possible for the ODIHR to support the inclusion of experts and key NGO actors as additional trainers and resource persons

Participants in the meeting were asked to continue to consider:

- Training of field staff
- Code of conduct for field personnel in the Balkans
- Role of OSCE presences in rapid response policy
- Potential regional projects for the Balkans

...and to provide more feedback to the ODIHR on these issues in the near future.