

**Recommendations to OSCE ODIHR
on freedoms of assembly and association**

OSCE HDIM

Warsaw, Oct. 4, 2007

- We welcome the adoption of the OSCE ODIHR Guidelines on the Right to Freedom of Assembly. Unfortunately these guidelines have the character of “soft law” and its contents are not known to the majority of the governmental bodies in participating countries. We urge the OSCE ODIHR to actively push for the promotion of those guidelines and organize their presentation with the participation of government officials.
- We urge ODIHR to work towards a legally binding document on both freedom of association and assembly.
- We recommend ODIHR to continue the collection of information on violation of freedom of assembly and association and compile it into thematic reports.
- We recommend ODIHR to cooperate with Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe to translate into Russian language and disseminate decisions of the European Court of Human Rights on article 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights in the Russian speaking space in order to promote further popularization of European standards.
- We call upon ODIHR to hold trainings for responsible government bodies on implementation of Guidelines into practice of participating states.
- We urge the OSCE Focal point on human rights defenders to take into consideration the cases of persecution and closing down of human rights NGOs.
- We request the ODIHR to provide an expertise of Russian legislation on NGOs.
- We call upon ODIHR to organize a special session on Freedom of Association and to compile a special report on the observance of freedom of association in the OSCE region.

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