



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

### **PREVENTION OF TORTURE**

**10-11<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
Hofburg, Vienna**

#### **To civil society**

The prohibition of torture is absolute and non-derogable and is enshrined in OSCE human dimension commitments, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and a number of regional human rights instruments. All 57 OSCE participating States have committed to prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and are States Parties to the Convention against Torture (CAT) which specifically aims to eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the States Parties.

The last SHDM on the Prevention of Torture took place in 2003. Eleven years down the road, the implementation of States' obligations and commitments under CAT, OPCAT and the OSCE commitments remains a key challenge in the OSCE area. It is time for the OSCE, its institutions and participating States to take stock of the status of progress on the follow-up to the recommendations. The meeting will thus provide a platform to reassess the situation in light of any new challenges and opportunities, share experiences with civil society and other international organizations active in the prevention of torture, and develop strategies and solutions for moving forward with enhanced efficiency.

The meeting will address the topic through the following three sessions:

- Taking stock of developments in the OSCE Region since the 2003 SHDM on the Prevention of Torture;
- National level responses and the role of National Preventive Mechanisms;
- The role of the OSCE in assisting participating States to prevent torture: The way forward.

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, the OSCE at large, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE field operations, other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors in OSCE participating States. Additional information relevant to the SHDM can be found on ODIHR website at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/116404>.

## **Registration**

Civil society representatives whose activities directly relate to the topic of the SHDM and who wish to attend are advised to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> by **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. The registration will also be available online after the deadline and during the Meeting on the spot. Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that registered participants can collect their badges for the SHDM as of Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 from 09:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre.

Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the SHDM by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. Participants are encouraged to intervene during the SHDM Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the OSCE/ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the SHDM. You can find a list of suggested hotels in Vienna on ODIHR website. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

## **Side events**

During SHDM, the civil society organisations can organise side events. For that purpose 2 rooms in Hofburg are pre-booked and the available time slots are: Thursday, 10 April, 13.00 – 15.00 (2 available rooms) and Friday, 11 April, 12:00 – 14:00 (2 available rooms). Refreshments or interpretation can be provided upon request, at your expense – please find the contact details in the side events' checklist document.

If you wish to organise a side event, please submit the checklist latest by **Friday, 28 March 2014** to Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at [Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl](mailto:Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl). Requests are processed on a first come, first served basis, subject to availability of rooms.

## **For more information please contact:**

*Substantive content matters:* Ms. Irina Urumova at [Irina.Urumova@odihr.pl](mailto:Irina.Urumova@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 705

*Organizational matters and registration of side events:* Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at [Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl](mailto:Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 657

*Registration of participants:* Ms. Anna Sierant at [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 627