

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE OSCE/ODIHR PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF FOR THE THREE-YEAR TERM COMMENCING JUNE 2019

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assists OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments, including on the right to freedom of religion or belief. In this work, it has been assisted by a Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, first established in 1997, and whose importance has been confirmed in a number of OSCE Ministerial Decisions, including 4/03 (Maastricht), 10/05 (Ljubljana) and 13/06 (Brussels).

The new three-year term of the Panel commences in June 2019, and ODIHR hereby invites applications from suitably qualified nationals of OSCE participating States who wish to be considered for service on this body. Interested individuals are requested to provide a two to three page resumé summarizing their experience in the area of freedom of religion or belief and a cover letter setting out their motivation for applying for Panel membership and how they envisage contributing to the Panel's work, including the particular expertise, capacities and skills they believe they can bring to this important role.

Applications will be considered in the strictest confidence and should be submitted no later than 1800hrs CET on 26 April 2019 to forbpanel@odihr.pl.

A brief description of the work of the Panel, including qualifications and requirements of membership, is provided below. For further information about the role and the application process, please contact Dr Kishan Manocha, ODIHR Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, on +48-22-5200757 or by email at Kishan.Manocha@odihr.pl.

OSCE/ODIHR PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

The role of the Panel is to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to ODIHR, and through ODIHR to OSCE participating States, on matters pertaining to the freedom of religion or belief, including on (draft) legislation, policies and state practices in this area; the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments; research, drafting and/or reviewing of material related to the international normative framework in the area of freedom of religion or belief; and educational and capacity-building efforts undertaken by ODIHR in the implementation of its efforts to advance freedom of religion or belief for all in the OSCE region.

The Panel is also expected to contribute to ODIHR's efforts to mainstream gender in all its activities pertaining to freedom of religion or belief by fulfilling its functions and tasks in a gender-sensitive manner and in line with the OSCE's 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and OSCE commitments and regulations on ensuring equality of men and women in all spheres of life.

Meetings of the Panel take place at least once a year; additionally, meetings of the full Panel or groups of its members may be called, as and when necessary.

The 14 Panel members, appointed by the ODIHR Director, will be selected on the basis of their proven expertise and practical experience in the area of freedom of religion or belief. Expertise and experience in related areas such as religion and international affairs, religion and security, interfaith and interreligious dialogue, and education about religions and beliefs, is considered desirable.

Members of the Panel are expected to make every effort to attend meetings and to fulfil their tasks in an independent and impartial manner.

Panel members are not remunerated for their service, but all travel, accommodation and subsistence costs in connection with participation in meetings and other activities as requested by ODIHR will be covered.