



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding 2-3 July 2015

Hofburg, Vienna

INFORMATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV, the participating States agreed to facilitate informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs during OSCE meetings.

In line with these agreements, the OSCE would like to invite civil society organizations to the second 2015 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) to be held on the subject of “Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding”. The meeting will take place on 2-3 July 2015, in Vienna, at the Hofburg conference centre. Additional information and other documents related to the meeting are available on the OSCE website at www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2015.

Recommendations from the meeting may be addressed to participating States, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE executive structures, the OSCE at large, other inter-governmental as well as other civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

Civil society organizations whose activities directly relate to the topic of the meeting, as well as those who wish to attend, are requested to register at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants wishing to attend are requested to **register preferably by 17th June 2015**. The registration will also be available after the date; however, early registration would be highly appreciated to facilitate the preparation of the SHDM. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges at the meeting’s venue as of Thursday, 2 July 2015, from 9 a.m.

Civil society organizations are invited to organize side events (SE). As we are introducing a new on-line SE Booking System, please register first in the ODIHR Registration System (<http://meetings.odihr.pl>) and then proceed with the Side Event Booking. Organizations wishing to organize a side event are requested to register and book the slot at their earliest convenience as the system is based on ‘first come, first serve’ basis’. **The system will be open on Friday, 12 June 2015, at 12.00 (CET) and will be closed by Tuesday, 23rd of June, 23:59 (CET). No bookings will be accepted after this date.** Additional information on the content and objectives of planned side events, as well as on timing and duration, are available in the document Side Event Information.

Participation in the Seminar is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants. Civil society organizations are kindly requested to make

their own travel and hotel arrangements. You can find a list of selected hotels in Vienna on the ODIHR website.

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.

The meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

For further information about the content of the meeting, please contact:

Substantive content matters:

Mr. Kishan Manocha at Kishan.Manocha@odihr.pl or tel. +48 22 52 00 757

Organizational matters:

Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 657

Coordination of side events:

Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 658

Registration of participants:

Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 627