



**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON
HATE CRIMES –
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION**

**4 - 5 May 2009
Hofburg, Vienna**

To civil society

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on *Hate Crimes – Effective Implementation of Legislation*. This Meeting will take place in Vienna from 4 to 5 May 2009. The Meeting will be preceded by a civil society roundtable, on 4 May from 10.30 to 13.00.

Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>

The Meeting will address the following three subjects:

- Legislation on hate crime
- Improving the policing and prosecution of hate crimes
- Special challenges posed by violent hate groups

The Meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss how to improve the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes also enable participants to highlight best practices for the OSCE participating States. The conference will gather government officials, OSCE delegations, civil society, regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-cutting issues.

Civil society representatives whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register by **Thursday 23 April 2009**. We encourage participants to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> if at all possible. Alternatively, you may return a completed NGO registration form by fax at + 48 22 52 00 605.

Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Monday, 4 May 2008 from 9.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in the main entrance hall. Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the Meeting 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 Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements. For further information please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 627 or Ms. Aleksandra Pietrowska at Aleksandra.Pietrowska@odihr.pl or at tel.: + 48 22 52 00 778.