



Commemoration Event for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Hofburg OSCE Congress Centre, Vienna
Bibliotheksaal, 5th Floor
20 March 2009**

Programme for Roundtable Meeting **'Racism in the OSCE Region: Old Issues, New Challenges'**

10:00-10:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks
Moderator:	Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop , Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR
Speakers:	<p>Amb. Janez Lenarčič, Director, ODIHR</p> <p>Ms. Eva Smith Asmussen, Chair, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance</p> <p>Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Chair of the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights</p> <p>Mr. Githu Muigai, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance</p>
10:30 - 12:30	Plenary Session: Emerging Trends and Developments related to New Forms and Manifestations of Racism and Xenophobia
Moderator:	Ms. Pascale Charhon – Director, European Network Against Racism
Speakers:	<p>Ms. Gay McDougall, UN Independent Expert on Minority issues,</p> <p>Ms. Simone Wolken, Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <p>Dr. Khyati Y. Joshi, Associate Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University</p> <p>Individual acts of racism and xenophobia can have a far-reaching impact. They have a detrimental impact on entire communities, and in the long-term can interact with other phenomena to cause social unrest both at national and international level.</p> <p>The plenary session will provide the participants with an opportunity to discuss a broad range of issues related to racism and xenophobia, and identify major challenges and new emerging trends.</p>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch

13:30 - 15:30	<p>Simultaneous Thematic Discussions in Working Groups</p> <p>Working groups will discuss specific issues and areas of interest with a view to identifying recommendations for participating States, OSCE institutions and other relevant actors in combating racism and xenophobia.</p> <p><u>Working Group 1 (Room 525): <i>Vulnerable groups affected by racism: Women, youth, asylum seekers and refugees</i></u></p>
Moderator:	<p>Ms. Jamila Seftaoui, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE Secretariat</p>
Speakers:	<p>Ms. Simone Wolken, Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Diogo Pinto, Secretary-General, European Youth Forum</p> <p>Women, young people, refugees and asylum seekers are the target of racist attacks across the OSCE region. This working group aims to examine this worrying trend and the responses of various actors including governments, inter-governmental bodies and civil society organizations, and to identify how to address this issue in a more effective way.</p> <p><u>Working Group 2 (Bibliotheksaal): <i>Racism and xenophobia in time of Economic crisis - the situation of migrants and minorities</i></u></p>
Moderator:	<p>Ambassador Brendan Moran, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities</p>
Speakers:	<p>Mr. Jeffrey Labovitz, Chief of Ukraine Mission, International Organisation for Migration Mr. Larry Olomoofe, European Roma Rights Centre</p> <p>Where competition for scarce resources increases, the hostility to migrants and many minority groups is known to worsen. As the effects of the recent economic crisis starts to affect societies across the OSCE region, migrants and minorities risk becoming “scapegoats”. This working group will examine how governments, inter-governmental organizations and civil society can prevent the increase of racism and xenophobia linked to rising unemployment and economic downturn.</p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Coffee break</p>

16:00 - 16:45	<p>Closing Session</p>
	<p>Presentation of conclusions from the working groups and closing remarks.</p>
Moderator:	<p>Ms. Jo-Anne Bishop, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR</p>
Speakers:	<p>Ms. Jamila Seftaoui, Senior Adviser On Gender Issues, OSCE Secretariat Ambassador Brendan Moran, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities</p> <p>Closing remarks Amb. Janez Lenarčič, Director, ODIHR</p>