

# Effective and Human Rights-Compliant Counter-Terrorism Policing

## OSCE/ODIHR Training Courses for Law Enforcement



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# Human rights and counter-terrorism

Human rights are an integral element of all police operations and their practical application is an essential part of any successful counter-terrorism effort. Human rights are the allies of effective police work. Paying attention to the rights and particular needs of the men, women and children in the community a police officer serves makes the police more effective. This principle applies as much to terrorism-related crimes as it does to other crimes.

Respect for human rights in counter-terrorism policing is a pre-condition for preventing terrorism effectively. Failure to respect and protect human rights is one of the root causes of terrorism; human rights-compliant policing is key to any effort to counter this security threat. Respect for human rights is thus the cornerstone of law enforcement efforts to counter terrorism.

Consequently, when preventing, investigating and responding to terrorism, police officers can benefit greatly from training that strengthens their understanding of and ability to respect and protect the rights of all.

Recognizing the importance of protecting human rights for countering terrorism effectively, the OSCE participating States tasked the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to offer technical assistance and advice on the implementation of laws and policies aimed at countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) in line with their international human rights obligations and commitments. At the request of a participating State, ODIHR conducts capacity-building activities for law enforcement officials. ODIHR offers the following training courses:

- Standard (foundational) training: *The Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism Effectively*
- Advanced training: *Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations*
- Tailored courses for law enforcement on protecting human rights while preventing and countering VERLT, e.g., through a community policing approach.



***Human rights violations take a heavy toll on our collective efforts to fight terrorism and ensure greater security for our societies. ODIHR's training activities help strengthen the skills of law enforcement officers in protecting human rights while countering terrorism.***

**Govkherzhan Yuldasheva**

Doctor of Law, Professor, International Law and Human Rights Department, Tashkent State Law University and National Co-Trainer of ODIHR's course

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## Who should take part?

The training courses are aimed at police officers, prosecutors and other state actors (e.g., security and intelligence services, other security sector officials) who are tasked with counter-terrorism issues — preventing, investigating and responding to terrorism. The training is suitable both for command officers/officers with supervisory functions and frontline officers from local, regional or national police forces. ODIHR will always push for the equal participation of men and women. The courses are each designed for 20 participants to ensure they are interactive and encourage the sharing of experiences and views.

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## How we work?

### **Needs-driven and tailored to the local context:**

Training courses are tailored to the results of a pre-training assessment, which usually involves a visit to the country and desk research. This information gives the training team an understanding of the local terrorism-related issues and associated human rights concerns. Training materials are prepared in local language(s), as required.

### **Interactive:**

Experience shows that people learn better when actively involved in practical exercises. Therefore, our courses are very interactive and include plenary and small group discussions as well as problem-solving exercises. Participants are encouraged to share their knowledge and experience so that they can learn from each other as well as from the trainers. Lectures and presentations are strictly limited during the courses.

### **Motivational:**

The training demonstrates how upholding human rights is effective in protecting both the public and officers from harm in the short and long term. This motivates participants to apply human rights-based strategies and practices.

### **Long-term:**

To get the most out of our training courses, we aim to engage with countries over the long term; delivering a package of standard and advanced courses, ideally followed by a training of trainers (ToT) course to allow the country to take over the training for itself.

### **Expert-led:**

Training teams comprise at least one trainer with a human rights background and one from law enforcement (current or former law enforcement officer).

# ODIHR courses

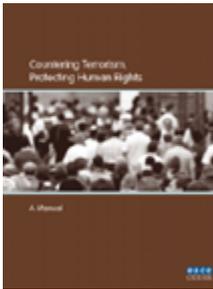
## Standard (foundational) training – *The Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism Effectively*

**Target group:** Counter-terrorism law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other state actors (up to 20 participants)

**Length:** 2 days

**Learning objectives:** By the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Better protect human rights while engaged in counter-terrorism policing;
- Understand and apply human rights standards to situations that arise in their work;
- Understand the risks to effective counter-terrorism policing caused by a failure to comply with human rights standards; and
- Engage in counter-terrorism policing that is more effective in the short and long term.



**Content:** The training is interactive and dynamic, focusing on the inextricable link between human rights and the operational effectiveness of policing. Among other topics, it covers human rights standards; risks from human rights violations in the counter-

terrorism context; the impact of human rights violations on both suspects and law enforcement officers; interviewing techniques that create trust and respect; and stereotypes and implicit bias in counter-terrorism policing. The curriculum uses real examples and case studies from the practical experiences of counter-terrorism law enforcement officers. The training builds on a broad range of ODIHR tools, such as the *Manual on Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights* ([www.osce.org/odihr/29103](http://www.osce.org/odihr/29103)) and the *Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of „Foreign Terrorist Fighters” within a Human Rights Framework* ([www.osce.org/odihr/393503](http://www.osce.org/odihr/393503)).

## Advanced training – *Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations*

**Target group:** Law enforcement officers engaged in counter-terrorism investigations, prosecutors and other state actors (up to 20 participants)

**Length:** 2 days

**Learning objectives:** By the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Evaluate the level of compliance with human rights within several phases of a counter-terrorism investigation;
- Increase the operational effectiveness of all phases of an investigation as a result of human rights compliance; and
- Facilitate cross-agency law enforcement collaboration to strengthen human rights compliance within counter-terrorist investigations.



**Content:** This course builds on the standard (foundational) course, but can also be implemented as a stand-alone course. It follows the scenario of a genuine counter-terrorism investigation and looks at issues such as intelligence and information gathering and

analysis, special investigation techniques, arrest and detention, searches, interviewing techniques, accountability and investigation security. The aim of the course is to examine not only the human rights issues that may arise at different stages of an investigation, but also how the protection of human rights can increase the effectiveness of counter-terrorism investigations. The curriculum is based on the joint ODIHR and TNTD/SPMU manual on *Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations* ([www.osce.org/odihr/108930](http://www.osce.org/odihr/108930)).

Developed by ODIHR and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit (TNTD/SPMU)

## Other courses

Upon request, ODIHR can also provide specialist training on protecting human rights while countering terrorism and preventing VERLT for different target groups in law enforcement (such as municipal police, border guards or others). This is tailored to the specific needs of the participants and is based on ODIHR tools and training modules.

# ODIHR training in your country

## Step 1: Request

Any participating State or OSCE field operation may request ODIHR's assistance in improving human rights-compliant counter-terrorism policing through one of our training courses.



## Step 2: Needs assessment

Before the training, ODIHR usually conducts a needs assessment visit, in close cooperation with state authorities, to understand the local context and identify potential human rights and counter-terrorism issues, including:

- The history and risk patterns of (real or perceived) terrorism threats
- The strategies used by counter-terrorism police and the impact these have on terrorism-related threats and on communities
- Counter-terrorism legislation, specialized bodies (such as internal commissions, task forces, etc.) and national institutions tasked to deal with terrorism
- Human rights and gender issues arising in counter-terrorism legislation and its practical application

The needs assessment visit may involve meetings with:

- National authorities (main counterparty), and representatives from the police, prosecution authorities, security services and other law enforcement authorities
- Police academy and other training centres for police representatives
- National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and other human rights oversight bodies
- Human rights NGOs, lawyers involved in counter-terrorism cases, women's organizations, community representatives, in particular from communities most affected by terrorism and counter-terrorism, as well as any association of victims of terrorism

The assessment visit usually lasts 2 days and should take place at least one month before the training course.



## Step 3: Adapting the curriculum

Based on the results of the assessment visit and desk research, ODIHR may decide to adjust the curriculum. Training materials are translated into local language(s) as required.



## Step 4: Delivery

ODIHR takes care of the organizational matters and arranges a venue if necessary. Training is delivered in English and the local language(s); simultaneous interpretation is provided. ODIHR can organize several training courses each year.



## Step 5: Evaluation

ODIHR conducts evaluations of each training course, e.g., with pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires and feedback sessions. The purpose is to assess the effectiveness of the training and gather feedback for trainers on their performance.

If you are interested in ODIHR training for your law enforcement officials, please contact us at: [office@odihr.pl](mailto:office@odihr.pl)

For detailed information about ODIHR's activities on human rights and counter-terrorism issues, or to view its full range of publications and reports, scan the QR code below or visit: [www.osce.org/odihr/countering-terrorism](http://www.osce.org/odihr/countering-terrorism)



## OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ul. Miodowa 10  
00-251 Warsaw, Poland  
Tel: + 48 22 520 0600  
Fax: +48 22 520 0605  
Email: [office@odihr.pl](mailto:office@odihr.pl)  
[www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr)

