



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

**9-10 July 2009
Hofburg, Vienna**

To civil society

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on *Freedom of Religion or Belief*. This Meeting will take place in Vienna from 9 to 10 July 2009. The Meeting will be preceded by a civil society roundtable, on 9 July 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:

- From Commitments to Implementation: Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE Area
- Status of Religious or Belief Communities
- Places of Worship

The Meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments on freedom of religion or belief. 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 25 June 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, 9 July 2009 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.