

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

To take place during the SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON: COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The opinions and information shared during the side events convened by participants do not necessarily reflect the policy of the OSCE/ ODIHR.

Friday, 19 October	Friday, 19 October
<i>Title: Drawing up a Framework Action Protocol on Child Abuse in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the Catalan experience Convenor: Catalan Ombudsman Office Time: 12.00 – 14.00 Venue: Ratsaal Language: English, Serbian, Croatian</i>	<i>Title: Boys in Sex Industry Convenor: ODIHR Time: 12.00 – 14.00 Venue: Bibliotheksaal Language: English, Russian</i>

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organisers

18 – 19 October 2007

Hofburg, Vienna

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The content for each meeting was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE, ODIHR.

Friday, 19 October

Time: 12.00– 14.00

Venue: Ratsaal

Title: Drawing up a Framework Action Protocol on Child Abuse in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the Catalan experience

Convenor: Catalan Ombudsman Office

Language: English, Serbian, Croatian

Summary: The Catalan Ombudsman Office is implementing a cooperation project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BaH) whereby it conveys the Catalan experience to the relevant Bosnian institutions involved in the protection of abused children, namely ministries, judiciary, prosecutors and Ombudsman institutions.

The project is focused on the drawing up of a Framework Action Protocol to be followed by all relevant institutions in BaH in order to coordinate their actions in the best interest of abused children. The Protocol is also aimed at preventing the consequences of secondary victimization of the child.

The Catalan Ombudsman promoted such an initiative in Catalonia, where a Framework Action Protocol has already been adopted.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 19 October

Time: 12.00– 14.00

Venue: Bibliotekhsaal

Title: Boys in Sex Industry

Convenor: *ODIHR*

Language: English

Summary: Given the dramatic expansion of the sex industry on an international scale in recent years, it is not surprising that there is now an extensive academic, legal and policy literature on prostitution, pornography and sex trafficking. Yet, as valuable as such discussions have undoubtedly been, it is quite striking how the focus remains firmly on women and girls. Indeed the sex industry is frequently presented in gendered and heterosexual terms, with most commentators referring as a matter of course to sex workers as 'women' or 'women and children'. This serves not only to marginalise the significant number of sex workers who are male but also to shape the way in which debates about sex work are framed. Research in different countries on the prostitution of boys has revealed that it is a much larger problem than previously recognized. It has also revealed a degree of silent acceptance at all levels of society, on the sexual exploitation of boys. As such, initiatives to address these violations and to provide support for boy victims remain peripheral to other efforts that address gender violence in these countries. There is an urgent need to challenge the social indifference that allows these practices to continue unquestioned. More targeted actions in the area of prevention and victim's assistance are required to address this serious violation of children's rights.

This event brings together researchers and NGOs from Italy, Russia, South Asia and the UK to present their views on issues relevant to boys in the sex industry.

Refreshments will be provided
