



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE OSCE/ODIHR PANEL OF EXPERTS ON
FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION FOR THE FOUR-YEAR TERM
EXPECTING TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER 2022**

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assists OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments, including on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly (FoPA) and association (FoA). These have been confirmed in several OSCE documents, including the Copenhagen Document of 29 June 1990 (paras 9.2 and 9.3). Further OSCE commitments regarding the Rights to FoPA and FoA include the Paris 1990 Charter for a New Europe, and the Helsinki 2008 Statement from the Ministerial Council. The OSCE/ODIHR is also promoting its work on FoPA through the Guidelines on Peaceful Assembly and the Guidelines on Freedom of Association in collaboration with the Council of Europe (CoE).

In this work, ODIHR has been assisted by a Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly and Association (the Panel). The Panel was established under the auspices of ODIHR in 2006 in order to help prepare the first edition of the ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly launched in March 2007. Since then, the Panel has been acting as a *pro bono* advisory and consultative body to ODIHR to assist participating States in developing and maintaining legislation on FoPA that is in line with key international standards and OSCE commitments and to promote FoPA in the OSCE area.

In 2015, ODIHR launched a new set of joint ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Association, which were prepared by a separate *ad hoc* working group that also included members of the Panel. In mid-2016, to ensure that these Guidelines remain a living document and to respond to the emerging trend of shrinking space for civil society, ODIHR decided to expand the mandate of the existing Panel to also cover FoA, and it was thus renamed the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly and Association.

ODIHR hereby invites applications from suitably qualified nationals of OSCE participating States with an expertise in the field of freedom of peaceful assembly and/or association, to join the Panel. Interested individuals are requested to fill in the application form and provide an up to three page resumé (CV) summarizing their experience in the area of FoPA and/or FoA. In the application form please include a statement of motivation, not exceeding 300 words, expressing an interest to serve on this body, setting out your motivation, how you

envisage contributing to the Panel's work, including the particular expertise, capacities and skills you believe you can bring to this important role.

Applications will be considered in the strictest confidence and should be submitted no later than 23:59 hrs CET on 30 May 2022 to FOAA-Panel@odhr.pl

A brief description of the work of the Panel, including qualifications and requirements of membership, is provided below. For further information about the role and the application process, please contact Mr. Jacob Bonnevie, ODIHR Legal Officer, on +48-22 5200 702 or by email at jacob.bonnevie@odhr.pl

OSCE/ODIHR PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

The role of the Panel is to:

- Provide advice, guidance and recommendations to ODIHR, and through ODIHR to OSCE participating States, on matters pertaining to FoPA and FoA, including on:
 - Compliance of (draft) legislation with OSCE human dimension commitments and international norms;
 - Ongoing trends, policies and state practices in this area, implementation of relevant OSCE commitments;
- Engage in research, drafting and/or reviewing of materials related to the international normative framework in the area of freedom of assembly and association; and
- Participate in educational and capacity-building efforts undertaken by ODIHR in the implementation of its efforts to advance freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association for all in the OSCE region;
- Working on revision, improvement and presentation of the Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Freedom of Association;
- Other tasks agreed with ODIHR.

The Panel is also expected to contribute to ODIHR's efforts to mainstream gender in all its activities pertaining to freedom of assembly and association by fulfilling its functions and tasks in a gender-sensitive manner and in line with the OSCE's 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and OSCE commitments and regulations on ensuring equality of men and women in all spheres of life.

Meetings of the Panel take place at least annually; additionally, meetings of the full Panel or groups of its members may be called, as and when necessary.

The up to 15 Panel members, appointed by the ODIHR Director, will be selected on the basis of their proven expertise and practical experience in the area of FoPA and FoA.

Expertise and experience in related areas such as legislative and policy analysis, international affairs, and work experience with international organizations or academia are considered highly desirable. Gender balance and geographical distribution of membership across the

OSCE region will also be important elements when composing the Panel. Solid command of English, the working language of the Panel, is required.

Members of the Panel are expected to make every effort to attend meetings and to fulfil their tasks in an independent and impartial manner, and to notify ODIHR of any potential conflict of interests that may arise.

Panel members are not remunerated for their service, but all travel, accommodation and subsistence costs in connection with participation in meetings and other activities as requested by ODIHR will be covered.