



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)

CALL FOR MEMBERS



About the ISTAC

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been active in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (CTHB) in the OSCE region since 1999. ODIHR addresses trafficking in human beings (THB) through an approach that is based on human rights, rule of law, equality and non-discrimination, and is survivor-centred. Commitments of the OSCE participating States for inclusion of survivor voices in the OSCE anti-trafficking efforts have been clearly stated in recent Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/18, Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/17 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/17.¹

ODIHR has focused on the promotion of international human rights standards and gender sensitive measures in response to trafficking. As a result of its work, ODIHR has developed expertise and a significant role in victim protection and the promotion of rights of trafficked persons and at-risk groups. This approach recognizes that trafficked persons are holders of rights and ensures that responses to human trafficking protect these rights, as is reflected in tools such as the ODIHR “National Referral Mechanisms - Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: A Practical Handbook” (NRM Handbook). Other publications, e.g. “Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons” (Return Guide) and “Compensation for Trafficked and Exploited Persons in the OSCE Region” have provided guidance on international standards focusing on rights of survivors of trafficking in human beings.

Individuals are trafficked for various forms of exploitation and each of their experiences is unique, as well as their needs after they have been identified as victims or survivors. Although some OSCE participating States have included survivors in anti-trafficking policy development and work, their participation has been largely excluded across the OSCE region. There are stakeholders working to combat trafficking in human beings and to assist survivors with expertise in their respective areas – but their work should be informed by and be reflective of the experiences and realities faced by survivors. In order to ensure a human rights-based and survivor-centred approach to combating human trafficking, survivors’ voices need to be included in all aspects of anti-trafficking work with a particular focus on policy development.

Survivors of THB are a key stakeholder within the multidisciplinary approach to combatting trafficking in human beings. The purpose of the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) is to assist ODIHR in its anti-trafficking work. Upon request to ODIHR from OSCE executive structures and field operations, OSCE participating States,

¹ OSCE Ministerial Council (2018), MC.DEC No. 6/18 on Strengthening Efforts to Prevent and Combat Child Trafficking, Including of Unaccompanied Minors, 7 December 2018.

<https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/406745>

OSCE Ministerial Council (2017), MC.DEC No. 7/17 on Strengthening Efforts to Combat All forms of Child Trafficking, Including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children, 8 December 2017. <https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/362016>

OSCE Ministerial Council (2017), MC.DEC No. 6/17 on Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings, 8 December 2017. <https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/362096>

OSCE Partners for Co-operation and other relevant stakeholders, ODIHR can seek and share expertise of the Council's members in developing and promoting survivor-centered and human rights-based national and transnational anti-trafficking frameworks, which incorporate survivors as a key stakeholder.

The ISTAC has been developed based on consultations with survivor leaders, a survivor survey distributed in ten languages and the addendum to the forthcoming update of the NRM Handbook: "Guidelines on Inclusion of Survivors in National Anti-Trafficking Frameworks".

Composition

The ISTAC shall consist of 21 members, who are led by a Chairperson. Gender balance in the Council membership will be reflective of the proportion of detected trafficked persons as per the biennial UNODC report on Global Report on Trafficking in Persons², and will be diverse and reflective of different types of THB as well as represent a reasonable geographical cross-section of the OSCE region.

Members of the ISTAC shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be eligible for reappointment for up to two consecutive terms, for a maximum of six years.

Role

The role of the ISTAC is to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to ODIHR, and through ODIHR to the OSCE participating States, on matters pertaining to CTHB, including but not limited to, (draft) legislation, policies and state practices; the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments; research, drafting and/or reviewing of material related to the international normative framework in the area of CTHB; and educational and capacity-building efforts undertaken by ODIHR in the implementation of its CTHB efforts in the OSCE region.

The ISTAC as requested by ODIHR may also provide guidance to survivor leaders on the tools necessary to foster growth of national and international survivor networks.

Selection process

The members for the inception term of the ISTAC, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, shall be chosen by a three-person panel composed of the Director of ODIHR or a designated representative, the Head of ODIHR's Human Rights Department, and the Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues. Candidates can be proposed through: (i) (self-) nominations from individuals or participating States in response to a call from ODIHR; (ii) nominations from the ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Portfolio, the Office of the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) or OSCE Field Operations; and (iii) nominations from survivor networks. While there will be an application/nomination process, the selection

² The gender composition of first ISTAC will reflect the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that 74 percent of all detected trafficking victims are women and girls.

criteria will not be competitive but will seek to include regional and gender representation, as well as experience in survivor advocacy work.

Requirements, Terms and Conditions

Requirements

Candidates must meet the following requirements to apply:

- ✓ **Survivor Leadership** – Candidates must be survivor leaders and have experience in survivor networks, or in anti-trafficking activism nationally or internationally. Candidates should preferably be a publicly recognized survivor leader of trafficking in human beings or hold the status of victim of trafficking (statutory or non-statutory). Active participation in the international/national anti-trafficking movement and advocacy efforts would be a plus.
- ✓ **Place of residence** – Candidates must have their place of residence in a participating State³.
- ✓ **Language skills** Professional working proficiency in English or Russian. Applications of candidates speaking only other OSCE languages may be considered⁴.
- ✓ **Integrity** – Candidates must maintain the highest standards of personal integrity and impartiality during their membership in ISTAC. Candidates must act professionally and respectfully in a challenging, diverse and multi-cultural environment. They must also comply with normal standards of professional ethics.
- ✓ **Team Work** – Candidates must be able to work in cooperation with other members of ISTAC or other professionals.

Selection criteria

Only applications of members meeting the above-mentioned requirements will be considered. They will be assessed with the following criteria:

- ✓ **Expertise** – Candidates should be able to demonstrate experience in anti-trafficking advocacy work. Expertise in related areas, such as international affairs, law, as well as other areas related to combatting trafficking in human beings, would be desirable.

³ <https://www.osce.org/participating-states>

⁴ The six official languages of the OSCE are English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

- ✓ **Active participation** – Candidates should demonstrate their active and extensive participation in survivor networks and survivor leadership fora. Where these have not been developed, candidates should demonstrate a genuine interest in doing so.
- ✓ **Gender and geographical balance** – Selection of candidates will ensure gender and geographical balance among ISTAC members, as well as diversity of expertise.

How can I apply?

- Please send your CV and a request for an application form to OSCE/ODIHR by 17 October 2022 at: istac@odihr.pl

What will happen next?

ODIHR will inform selected candidates at the latest by 12 December 2022. Please note that the selected candidate will receive documents that must be read and signed before the membership is active.

If you have questions

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