

2005 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING WARSAW, 19 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

INFORMATION FOR NGOs

The 2005 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will take place in Warsaw, Poland, from 19 to 30 September 2005. This is the annual OSCE meeting where representatives of governments and civil society from the 55 participating States will review both the implementation of the OSCE's Human Dimension commitments and the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments. Please find attached the schedule of the meeting and the technical information, also available on the ODIHR website at http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_6_9733.html. The Annotated Agenda will be posted on the website when finalised.

All non-governmental organizations interested in participating in the HDIM are kindly requested to complete the on-line Registration Form in full by 31 August 2005 at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>.

Participants may also organize their own side events during the Meeting. For further information please visit ODIHR website at http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_6_9733.html

All formal sessions of the Meeting will be open for participation by NGO representatives, and NGOs will have equal access to the list of speakers.

The Meeting shall feature three special topic days as follows:

1. The situation of the media in the OSCE region and the role of State and non-State actors in promoting media freedom: The discussions will be centered on OSCE commitments ensuring the individual's freedom of expression, freedom of information, and the freedom of the media. The strategic assumption of these commitments is to place the media fully into the custody of society rather than in the custody of the state, where it has been in most countries before democratization. This session could usefully explore this process and the fundamental democratic function of the media.
2. Methods to prevent and combat torture: The session will deal with the prevention of torture at the State level, as well as the status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and monitoring of places of detention. The session will also cover issues relating to torture and its prevention within Criminal Justice systems, where discussions will focus on the experiences and ways of prevention of torture in various democracies.
3. Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: This session will review the results of and the necessary follow-up to the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance which was held in Cordoba, Spain on 7-8 June 2005. The main objective of this day is to discuss the implementation of existing commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as to raise awareness about multiple and cross-dimensional forms of discrimination in the OSCE region. Building on the conclusions

and recommendations of the ODIHR's June 2005 report on *Combating Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: An Overview of Statistics, Legislation and National Initiatives*, the session will focus on the need to address the information deficit among OSCE states pertaining to hate crimes data and statistics.

The new ODIHR document distribution system will allow for written statements and recommendations to be distributed electronically during the meeting; texts should be forwarded, preferably in advance, to hdim@odhr.pl or submitted during the Meeting to the Documents Distribution counter. These documents will be made accessible on our website after the completion of the Meeting.

The ODIHR is unfortunately not in a position to finance the participation of NGOs in the Meeting, but please find also enclosed a list of moderately priced hotels in Warsaw. NGOs are kindly requested to make their own booking arrangements.

Should you have any queries concerning the Meeting please contact us at e-mail: office@odhr.pl