



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 10 – Gender aspects of security**

**Statement by
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Delegation of the Republic of Serbia

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Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished colleagues,

The Republic of Serbia is under specific circumstances as a consequence of war and isolation which resulted in exceptionally high number of refugee women and impoverished women. In such conditions gender equality deteriorates. Serbia made a commitment to gender equality by establishing the Sector for Gender Equality in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in July of this year. In the Sector, we plan to speed up the passing of Gender Equality Law which has been under discussion for a while, and is now projected for spring of 2008. We are also finishing the Strategy for improvement of position of women. Government made a commitment to accept that strategy by the end of this year. This strategy was developed in cooperation with NGO sector, and it includes issues of political participation of women, economic empowerment of women and combating violence against women, thus involving OSCE mandate and commitments. We plan to develop a National strategy for prevention, combating and eventual eradication of violence against women, including domestic violence. We plan a national conference on domestic violence against women for October 25th, at which we plan to develop a comprehensive protocol for dealing with domestic violence against women for health, social and police services involved. In this area, we already have encouraging examples of good practices implemented locally, which came about through cooperation of government services (most notably Ministry of Health and local police) and NGOs (for example, Autonomous Women's Centre). We hope we can incorporate them in a nationwide plan that will be effective.

Thank you.