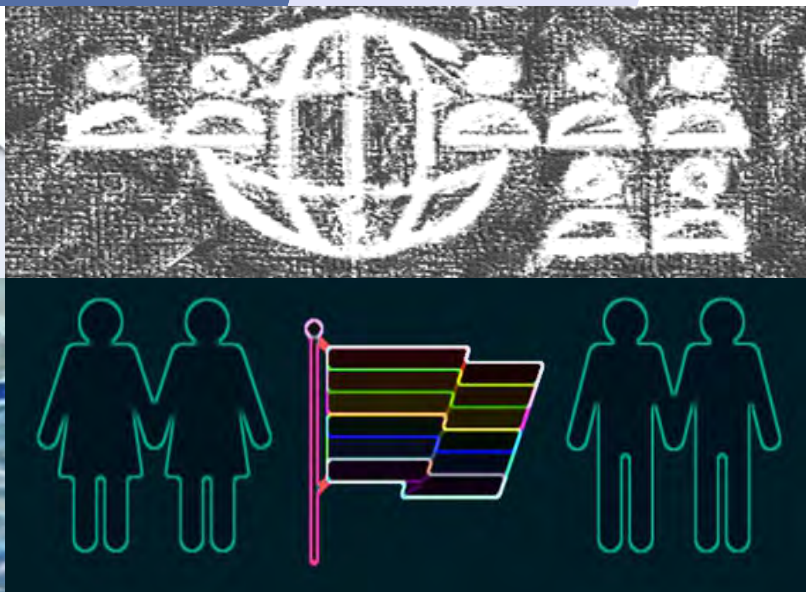
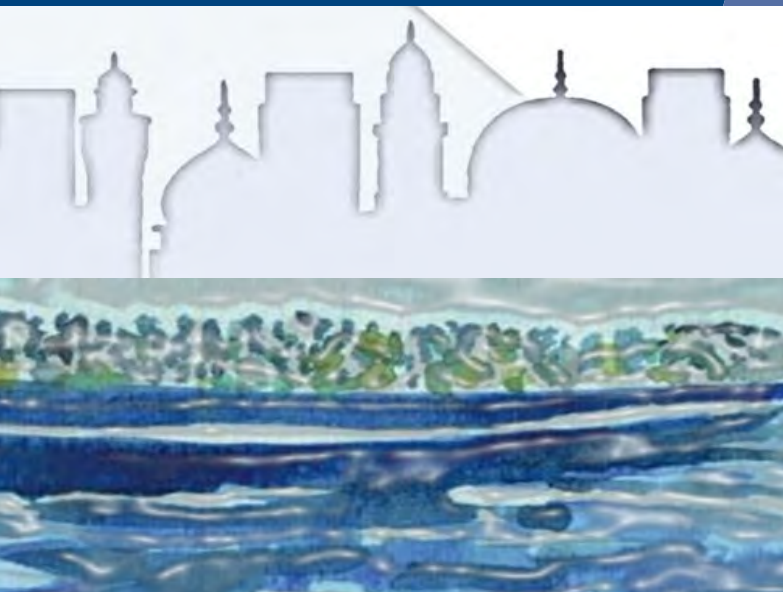


Enjoyment of Fundamental Freedoms



The Mission supports BiH in efforts aimed at improving and harmonizing laws and practices with international human rights standards in the fields of freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of expression (including freedom of the media) and freedom of religion or belief.

The Mission monitors the application of international human rights standards by monitoring the conduct of law enforcement agencies

during peaceful assemblies, cases against protestors, journalists, and human rights defenders. Complementary to this, the Mission highlights

recommendations to support authorities in ensuring compliance with international standards and advocates for improvement of the legal framework governing the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms.

The Mission uses its unique network of its field offices to reinforce contact with human rights defenders, civil society organizations, journalists, and representatives of religious communities in order to improve the exchange of information, particularly relating to any incidences of threats or attacks.

The Mission provides relevant trainings to key partners including law enforcement agencies, human rights organizations, members of the judiciary, media, and political representatives.

Freedom of Assembly and Association

Co-operating closely with relevant authorities and institutions, the Mission engages in numerous advocacy efforts throughout BiH aiming at improving the legislative framework governing the enjoyment of the freedom of peaceful assembly. The Mission plays an advisory role in the development and adoption of laws and bylaws related to freedom of peaceful assembly and association to ensure full compliance with specifically OSCE and Council of Europe international human rights standards and practices. The Mission engages in direct, systematic monitoring, reports on peaceful assemblies, and maintains close liaison with law enforcement agencies and human rights defenders. In addition, the Mission provides regular trainings and professional development opportunities to representatives of police agencies, judiciary and civil society organizations.

Freedom of Religion or Belief

The Mission is committed to protection and promotion of the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) and works on recognising and addressing obstacles to the enjoyment of this right. Such challenges include attacks against religious property or officials, hate speech, and a general lack of inter-religious dialogue at the local level, as well as higher-level issues, such as the restitution of property and agreements between the state and religious communities.

In addition to following key developments affecting FoRB in the country, the Mission provides training on FoRB, international human rights standards and national legal framework to representatives of religious communities, local authorities, members of local commissions for co-operation with religious communities, and civil society activists.

The Mission relies on communication with its field offices in keeping track of such happenings across the country. Furthermore, the Mission works with the Inter-religious Council

BiH and its local chapters as key actors promoting inter-religious dialogue.

Freedom of Expression

The Mission strives to promote a safe working environment for all journalists and media professionals in BiH. In pursuing this aim, the Mission highlights that BiH is obliged to respect the 2018 OSCE Ministerial Decision on Safety of Journalists¹.

The OSCE's country-wide network of human rights officers monitor threats, intimidation, and harassment directed at journalists and follow up with authorities to pursue justice. Individual attacks against journalists are regularly reported to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and are regularly publicly condemned.

Furthermore, the Mission monitors civil, criminal and misdemeanour proceedings against journalists and media outlets in BiH and collects and analyses data related to lawsuits brought against them in order to provide concrete recommendations to all levels of authority.

The Mission closely follows the adoption of new media legislation in BiH and advocates for transparency in media ownership, especially as far as public funding of the media is concerned.

In co-operation with the Press Council of BiH, the Mission organizes capacity building workshops for journalists and editors, providing them with new guidelines for addressing human rights issues at the local level.

The OSCE views human rights issues as an essential component of security. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media has an early warning function and provides rapid response in cases of serious breaches of freedom of the media or expression.

The Representative is mandated to observe media developments in participating States and to promote full compliance with the Organization's principles and commitments in this area.

¹ Available at <https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/406538>.

Follow OSCE Mission to BiH



OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Fra Anđela Zvizdovića 1, UNITIC Tower A
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina