

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

EVIDENCE-BASED LAW MAKING TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*Joint event by the OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme,
the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and
the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)*

Wednesday, 19 May, 14:30-16:30 CET

OSCE commitments on preventing and combating violence against women and girls and democratic law-making

The OSCE Ministerial Council decisions¹ on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (2005, 2014 and 2018) demonstrate the organizational commitment in addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) and call on the OSCE participating States to improve national legislation, policies and practices to combat violence, support women who experience violence and prevent VAWG through different measures. They also task the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States in implementing these commitments, including by cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations to collect sex-disaggregated data and statistics on the occurrence of VAWG in the OSCE area. Moreover, the OSCE PA 2018 Resolution on preventing and combating gender-based violence highlighting United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security calls on the OSCE participating States to pass legislation consistent with international norms and standards that addresses domestic and sexual violence, harassment, including workplace harassment and abuse of authority. Further, OSCE commitments relating to democratically made laws specify that legislation should be “adopted at the end of a public procedure, and regulations will be published, that being the condition for their applicability” (Copenhagen Document, 1990) and that “legislation will be formulated and adopted as the result of an open process reflecting the will of the people, either directly or through their elected representatives” (Moscow Document, 1991).

Making effective laws to combat violence against women and girls

OSCE/ODIHR has vast experience in providing legislative assistance to OSCE participating States through reviewing legislation in the area of gender equality and VAWG (www.legislationline.org). To ensure effective legislative frameworks to combat VAWG that conform to international standards, it is important for relevant stakeholders to be consulted

¹ <https://www.osce.org/ministerial-councils/268646>

and informed throughout the legislative process and for gender impact assessments, on the basis of relevant and reliable data and other research and evidence, be part of regulatory impact assessments. Furthermore, any legislative reform on preventing and combating violence should be accompanied by more general initiatives to raise awareness on gender equality and support the empowerment of women in all spheres of life.

How to use survey data to prevent and combat violence against women and girls

The [OSCE-led Survey on Violence against Women](#) launched in 2019 provides a wealth of information, including data on social norms and attitudes, prevalence rates of violence against women, its consequences as well as reporting and help-seeking by survivors. The research shows that gaps in the ability of local institutions to understand and address women's and girls' experience of personal insecurity and violence continue to exist. A dedicated guide was prepared on [How to Use Survey Data to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women and Girls](#), which provides practical guidance for Members of Parliament, in addition to decision-makers and civil society organizations.

Objectives of the event

The OSCE Secretariat's Gender Issues Programme, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, are organizing this event to discuss innovative approaches to evidence-based law making to prevent and combat violence against women. With the event, we aim to

1. Provide a platform to exchange good practices, lessons learned and innovations in evidence-based law making and policy-making to prevent and combat violence against women and girls;
2. Raise awareness among parliamentarians of OSCE participating States of OSCE tools and resources, including on ODIHR's legal reviews, assessments and guidelines, and the OSCE Secretariat's guide on *How to Use Survey Data to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women and Girls*.

Audience

This event is open only to Members of Parliaments from OSCE participating States and pS delegations to the OSCE, including the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

Technical information

Translation for Russian and English languages will be provided.

If you have any questions to the organizers of this event, please contact Simon Carpentier (simon.carpentier@osce.org).

DRAFT AGENDA

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14:30-14:45	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helga Maria Schmid, OSCE Secretary General - Matteo Mecacci, ODIHR Director - Representative of OSCE PA
14:45-15:05	<p>Presentations of tools for evidence-based law making to prevent and combat violence against women and girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ODIHR presentation on evidence based law making and examples of legal review - OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme presentation of the guide on how to use survey data to combat violence against women
15:05-15:30	<p>Moderated discussion</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of a parliaments from South-East Europe - Representative of a parliament in Central Asia - Representative of an regional women’s NGO
15:30-16:20	<p>Questions and answers</p>
16:20-16:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of an international organization