



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON

HATE CRIMES – EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION

Side Event: Roundtable for Civil Society

**4 - 5 May 2009
HOFBURG, VIENNA
Room 525, V Floor**

10:30-13:00

Background

From 2006 onwards, the OSCE human dimension events related to tolerance and non-discrimination have been preceded by civil society meetings where participants formulated recommendations to the OSCE participating States and to the OSCE institutions. These meetings gave civil society the opportunity to discuss current issues and priorities related to the topics of the OSCE conferences, to inform governments of the results of their activities, to share best practices and to engage in coalitions and networks across the region. Since the meetings resulted in pertinent and constructive recommendations, and since the OSCE has committed to strengthen the involvement of civil society at policy level, the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Hate Crimes – Effective Implementation of Legislation will also be preceded by a Roundtable for civil society.

Purpose of the Side Event

- To provide an opportunity to exchange information on how to draft good hate crimes legislation, by reference to ODIHR's publication "*Hate Crime Laws: A Practical Guide*".
- To enable discussion of civil society experiences of working with public authorities.
- To discuss current issues and priorities related to the role of national institutions against discriminations.
- To exchange information on best practices.

- To facilitate and enhance coalition-building across diverse communities and civil society groups throughout the OSCE region.
- To provide civil society with an opportunity to prepare recommendations to be presented at the opening of the Meeting.

For consideration

The main objective of the Side Event is to formulate recommendations for the Meeting to the OSCE participating States and OSCE Institutions. In order to maximise the discussions, participants are encouraged to submit recommendations beforehand to the ODIHR (see <http://tandis.odihr.pl/index.php?p=cs.event>).

After the side event, the moderators will prepare a written summary of the discussions and recommendations, which will be read at the opening session and will be made available online as part of the report of the Meeting.

Agenda

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| 10.30– 10:40 | Opening remarks by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič |
| 10.40– 10:45 | Review of written recommendations |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Mapping the gap between commitments and implementation
Introducer/Moderator: Mr Larry Olomoofe, European Roma Rights Centre, Hungary |
| 11.00 – 11.45 | Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What steps have states taken to fulfil OSCE commitments to strengthen legislation and improve implementation?▪ How can political commitment be translated into effective action?▪ What role can NGOs and IGOs play in improving implementation?▪ What challenges do NGOs face in working in the area of hate crimes? |
| 11.45 – 12.00 | Practical steps to improve performance in hate crimes cases
Introducer/Moderator: Dr Robin Oakley, Police trainer and expert on Diversity/Hate crimes |
| 12.00 – 12.45 | Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How can states best identify and tackle systemic and structural barriers to responding to hate crimes?▪ Which governmental agencies should be involved in responding to hate crimes?▪ Can external oversight mechanisms assist?▪ What are the prospects and challenges of partnerships between police, prosecution agencies and civil society?▪ What are the good practices adopted by states, civil society, or other organizations? |
| 12.45 – 13.00 | Summary of discussions and close of session
<i>A summary of the discussion and the recommendations will be prepared by moderators after the side event.</i> |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Buffet Lunch |