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# amnesty international

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**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2006  
STATEMENT IN WORKING SESSION 4: TOLERANCE AND NON-  
DISCRIMINATION I**

**Prevention of violence against women**

**Recommendations**

Amnesty International calls on Participating States to:

- State officials and political leaders at every level, national, district and local, should publicly condemn domestic violence. They should acknowledge that domestic violence is a human rights violation, and therefore a public concern, not a private matter. Officials may not invoke customs, traditions or religion to evade their responsibility to eliminate violence against women.
- Widespread public campaign should be launched in schools, citizen's forum and workplaces to denounce domestic violence, to remove the stigma from women targeted for violence, and to encourage survivors to seek redress.
- To ensure that all forms of domestic violence are treated in law and practices as criminal offences, that acts of domestic violence are investigated, prosecuted and punished in accordance with the gravity of the crime, and that victims receive appropriate reparations.
- Fund and implement compulsory training to programmes for officials – including police, lawyers, judges, forensic and medical personnel, social workers, immigration officials and teachers – in how to identify cases of domestic violence, how to ensure the safety of survivors and how to collect, safeguard, consider and present evidence.
- Fund and establish temporary shelters or other places for women, without compromising their privacy, personal autonomy and freedom of movement.
- Ensure that all relevant government departments collect and publish data and statistics on domestic violence, that they share data, and that the data is used by

policy-makers in devising effective policies and programmes to address domestic violence.

- Ensure that women suffering violence have access to information about their rights and the services and support they are entitled to.