
**ODIHR'S REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OSCE ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

*Talking points prepared by the ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Unit
for the Meeting of the Informal Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking
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ODIHR Technical Assistance Programme

Assisting with legislative review and reform as well as policy development

Several points in the OSCE Action Plan task the ODIHR, in co-operation with relevant OSCE field operations and other partners such as the Council of Europe, to promote and support legislative review and reform efforts in compliance with international standards. Furthermore, the ODIHR has been given the mandate to render necessary technical assistance to participating States, when appropriate, in developing National Anti-Trafficking Plans of Action, including legislative and other assistance measures aimed at effective prevention and combating trafficking and protection of victims.

- Establishment of ODIHR Legislative Support Unit
- Highlights from on-going legislative review and reform efforts – Moldova, Georgia...
- Observer to the negotiations for the European Convention on Action against Trafficking
- Exchange and close co-operation with OSCE field missions

National Referral Mechanisms

Joining efforts to protect the rights of trafficked persons

The OSCE Action Plan recommends to participating States that they establish National Referral Mechanisms by creating a co-operative framework within which participating States fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of the victims of THB in co-ordination and strategic partnership with civil society and other actors working in this field. It is further noted that the ODIHR's Handbook on Guidelines and Principles to Design and Implement National Referral Mechanisms may serve as a useful source of advice and information regarding the role of NRMs in rendering assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings. Additionally, the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, together with the ODIHR, should further develop guidelines on the identification of suspected victims and of evidence of trafficking in human beings, in order to assist participating States, as appropriate.

- ODIHR National Referral Mechanism Handbook will be published in May
- Next steps – publication, translation into Russian, dissemination, launch in Vienna, information seminar on NRMs for OSCE field mission focal points, further development of ToT materials, conducting ToTs, close co-operation with field missions in assisting participating States ie Armenia and Moldova

Furthermore, the ODIHR and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit were tasked to continue to develop training materials targeted at law enforcement authorities on trafficking and sex crimes investigation and to consult with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest regarding possibilities for incorporating this training into ILEA programs, identifying law enforcement trainers to conduct training, and facilitating funding for training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States.

- Regular consultations and exchanges with SPMU
- SPMU colleague is meeting with the Director of the ILEA academy this week and will discuss making human trafficking part of their basic curriculum
- Looking forward to working with new Dutch secondment after she joins the SPMU in the near future

Data collection and research

The ODIHR's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti was requested to continue to gather data regarding trafficking in human beings, especially children, and its effects on Roma and Sinti communities.

- ODIHR work includes assessment, compilation of data and new training initiative
- Soliciting and collecting research and mapping reports such as the recent report by La Strada Czech Republic
- Publication, translation and broad dissemination of the ODIHR CPRSI Assessment report on trafficking in children from Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania
- Networking with relevant actors
- ODIHR participation in training with Romani women activists organized by the European Roma Rights Center and the Open Society Institute's Network Women's Program
- Plans to implement training project this year with Belgian support

Awareness-raising

Another area where the ODIHR has been implementing projects for over 4 years is the field of awareness raising. The ODIHR and, where appropriate, field operations will continue to contribute to research efforts as well as promoting and carrying out awareness-raising initiatives in co-operation with relevant partners throughout the OSCE region.

- Recent projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation
- Work with NGOs from Western Europe resulting in assessment report identifying urgent issues to be addressed by future monitoring and advocacy efforts
- Helsinki Conference on victim protection in countries of destination being organized for 23-24 September

As another vital component to implementation of the OSCE Action Plan, the ODIHR will enhance training activities with regard to the responsibility of the media for dealing with the topic of trafficking in a sensitive manner and without reinforcing negative stereotypes. Training will stress the complexity of the trafficking phenomenon and the need for a comprehensive response.

- Thus far in 2003 several recommendations to OSCE field missions implementing trainings with media including in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Training

The OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator will continue to use the induction course to develop and implement staff training on gender issues, trafficking in human beings and on relevant regulations and guidelines, in co-operation with the ODIHR, and to organize special workshops in the field. Heads of field operations will ensure that attendance at such training courses will be compulsory for all staff.

- First ODIHR Human Dimension Induction Course held in February 2003
- On-going consultations and co-ordination with relevant colleagues in the OSCE Secretariat

Tasking the OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator in co-operation with the ODIHR with developing information material on how to assist victims of trafficking, especially children, in response to requests either from individuals or governmental and non-governmental bodies, and with providing relevant training for OSCE mission members. The material might also be disseminated to military personnel, peacekeepers and other international staff in the field.

- ODIHR National Referral Mechanism Handbook and training to be developed further

Tasking the ODIHR with the collection and dissemination of information on measures, training programmes and materials already in place in OSCE participating States.

- Networking with relevant partners – UNDPKO, UNODC, UNICRI, NATO re: awareness raising with peacekeepers and other field operations
- Beginning to collect info on measures taken by participating States. ODIHR will co-ordinate this effort with UNDPKO, which has also recently made an appeal to all countries for such information. Furthermore, we would welcome if States could report on this issue to each other during Informal Group session.

Promoting and protecting the rights of children

In response to the OSCE Action plan more efforts should be made to develop co-operation with specialized international agencies, especially the United Nations Children's Fund and relevant international NGOs, on expert meetings, research and the development of guidelines promoting the best interest of the child.

In addition to our on-going programmatic and policy collaborations with UNICEF, the ODIHR has intensified our outreach efforts and exchange of information with other relevant actors involved in the protection of children's rights including NGOs involved in the ENACT [European Network against Child Trafficking] project and the Separated Children in Europe Programme.

Clearinghouse

Finally, in support of many of these efforts outlined above, the ODIHR is further developing its clearing-house function for the exchange of information, contacts, materials and good practices and with the enhancement of its project activities.

- Documents library on ODIHR web site
- Soon to include National Action Plans
- Sharing other best practice and materials with the OSCE Missions on trainings for journalists and law enforcement – including field operations in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan) and Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia) regions
- www.seerights.org
- www.legislationline.org
- responding to request from OSCE field missions, governments and other partners

Concluding remarks

- Special thanks to our colleagues in OSCE field missions and institutions
- We look forward to continued co-operation in our efforts to implement the OSCE Action Plan