

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING  
ON  
GENDER EQUALITY WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**5-6 November 2009, Hofburg, Vienna**

**AGENDA**

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>5 November 2009</b>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>OPENING SESSION</b>
16:00-18:00	<b>Session I: Protection and Assistance for Victims of Violence Against Women</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>6 November 2009</b>
10:00 – 12:00	<b>Session II: Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence Against Women</b>
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	<b>Session III: Prevention of Violence Against Women</b>
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 17:30	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>

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**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**Background**

Violence against women, which can take the form of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, remains widespread and constitutes a major impediment to achieving gender equality. It deprives women of their right to security and dignity and infringes on their enjoyment of other basic rights in the political, social and economic field.

Violence against women takes various forms and can occur in the private sphere (i.e., intimate partner abuse, family violence, underage and forced marriage, dowry-related violence and the murder of women in the name of family honour), the community sphere (i.e., sexual harassment in the workplace or educational institutions, trafficking in women and girls) and acts perpetrated or condoned by the State (i.e., sexual violence in custodial settings, sexual violence and rape by law enforcement, security, military or peacekeeping forces)<sup>1</sup>.

Several years of concerted actions at the international level have helped to put the issue of violence against women in the broader human rights framework and have led to the recognition that violence against women is global, systemic and rooted in power imbalances and structural inequalities between men and women. These efforts have also underscored the responsibility of states to take all necessary efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women, to prosecute perpetrators and to provide adequate protection to victims of violence.

The 2002 OSCE/ODIHR Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting “Preventing and Combating Violence against Women” paved the way for the Organization’s future work in this field. Following to this, the Organization intensified efforts to work on immediate and long term protection for victims, investigating and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women, and different measures for preventing violence against women.

At the 2005 Ministerial Council in Ljubljana, the OSCE participating States confirmed their unified commitment to addressing violence against women by adopting MC Decision 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women. This decision reaffirms existing international legal instruments that recognize violence against women as a violation of fundamental human rights. Also relevant is the Organization’s Action Plan for the Promotion

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<sup>1</sup> The UN Secretary General’s in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (2006), A/61/122/Add.1., General Assembly, 6 July 2006.

of Gender Equality adopted by the Ministerial Council in Sofia in 2004, which calls on participating States to address violence against women.

Addressing the phenomenon requires an inter-disciplinary, rights-based approach particularly in the three areas mentioned above: protection, prosecution and prevention. The OSCE, including its institutions and field operations, takes concrete actions to support the participating States in implementing their political commitments.

The ODIHR has implemented programmatic activities and worked with participating States on women's rights, gender equality and violence against women. Projects have supported participating States to increase government structures' respect for women's rights, and to integrate women's rights and gender issues into national planning and policy initiatives. Specific work to prevent and combat violence against women has also included capacity building programmes for professionals working on violence against women, such as law-enforcement officials. Recognizing the role of civil society, they have aimed at increasing co-operation between state and non-state actors.

In line with the priorities set forth in the OSCE Action Plan on Gender Equality, the Gender Section of the OSCE Secretariat brought together experts to review a wide spectrum of approaches to violence against women in 2008. Recognizing the many innovative approaches from the OSCE region and beyond, the Gender Section compiled a resource guide for practitioners and policy makers entitled: *Bringing Security Home – Combating Violence Against Women: A Compilation of Good Practices*.

Several participating States in the OSCE region have taken important steps by adopting comprehensive legal instruments for combating various forms of violence against women and are successfully implementing other approaches to prevent violence and protect victims. Many other participating States are contemplating possible legal and policy reforms to address the issue.

The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Gender Equality, with a Focus on Combating Violence against Women, on 5-6 November 2009, will take stock of the progress and challenges in promoting gender equality and the implementation of relevant measures to prevent and combat violence against women. The meeting will serve to highlight approaches and measures that have proven most successful with regard to the three priority areas of work: prevention, protection and prosecution of violence against women. Furthermore, the meeting will review positive methods and practices in identifying and combating causes of gender-based violence, such as gender-based discrimination against women and its particular forms and manifestations in public and private spheres.

The three thematic sessions of the meeting will be dedicated to the particular topics of Protection and Assistance for Victims of Violence Against Women, Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence against Women, and Prevention of Violence against Women. Such thematic sequence, and in particular, the review of questions related to the prevention of violence against women has been chosen in order to underscore the importance of developing comprehensive measures for prevention, including measures for primary prevention (stopping violence before it occurs), secondary prevention (an immediate response after violence has occurred to limit its extent and consequences) and tertiary measures (longer-term care and support for those who have suffered violence). It is believed that this objective will be better

achieved by reviewing issues related to the prevention following the review of questions related to protection and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women.

**Day 1**                      **5 November 2009**

**15:00 – 16:00**              **OPENING SESION**

**16:00-18:00**              **Session I: Protection and Assistance for Victims of Violence Against Women**

A key policy objective for participating States in combating violence against women is the provision of immediate and long-term measures to ensure the safety and security of the victims. Therefore, participating States ought to adopt a broad concept of protection, understood to include comprehensive and integrated protection and support services. This can entail legal, psychological and medical support, housing, financial and employment assistance. These services are most often provided by specialized agencies, either governmental, non-governmental or, ideally, a partnership of both. Special attention should assure that these are accessible to victims who are in need of such assistance without unnecessary delay.

The discussion during this session will focus on reviewing existing practices under the broad category of protection of victims of violence against women and on reviewing emerging issues and challenges in this respect. In particular, the following issues could be considered:

- Effective models for the provision of comprehensive and integrated protection and support services to victims of violence against women, including protection measures provided by law enforcement agencies, as well as services undertaken by healthcare and social assistance providers;
- Legal mechanisms for the protection of victims of violence (for example, protection orders, visa/immigration status, financial compensation schemes);
- Implementation of measures to address the special circumstances and needs of victims belonging to minority groups and other vulnerable sub-groups;
- Review of measures to address the needs of victims of custodial violence against women, such as violence against women in police cells, prisons, social welfare institutions, immigration detention centres and other State institutions;
- Establishment of both open and closed victim assistance and rehabilitation facilities such as shelters, safe houses, crisis centres;
- Ways to assure the victim's ability to voice her needs and participate in developing a programme for her protection;
- Mechanisms to ensure that protection programmes are properly funded.

**Day 2**

**6 November 2009**

**10:00 – 12:00**

**Session II: Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence against Women**

Violence against women is rooted in structural inequalities between women and men and a history of impunity for perpetrators. Crimes of violence against women have too frequently gone unreported due to lack of awareness of or clarity in the legal provisions regarding mandates of law-enforcement and other agencies. Another concern is that authorities often do not prioritize the investigation of these crimes. Underreporting can also occur when women feel there might be repercussions for reporting, including being ostracized by their communities.

Responsibility for prosecuting perpetrators of violence against women should lie with State authorities and not with the victims, regardless of the level or type of violence. Effective investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women, leading to appropriate sentencing of perpetrators, sends a strong message of zero-tolerance for violence against women on the part of the State. In addition, successful approaches in this field should include initiatives which provide necessary counseling and rehabilitation to persons prosecuted for crimes involving violence against women.

The following issues could be considered during the session:

- Legal mechanisms that ensure effective prosecution and sentencing of cases involving various forms of violence against women, in line with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments;
- Police mandates and practices for investigating and responding to cases of violence against women, risk-assessment, and methods for preventing repeated violence;
- Training to guarantee that all relevant public officials are fully capable of recognizing, documenting and processing cases involving violence against women as well as identifying and addressing any type of gender-bias in the judiciary;
- Specialized investigation and prosecution methods for perpetrators of violence against women during armed conflicts, including measures for counselling and treatment;
- Efforts to ensure that women are aware of their rights to seek justice and compensation, including outreach, information at health centres and legal aid clinics;
- Mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities among women and men for participation/service in judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions, so that the number of women in judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions better reflects the society.

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-16:00

**Session III: Prevention of Violence against Women**

Efforts to prevent violence against women should include a broad scope of initiatives aimed at primary prevention (stopping violence before it occurs), secondary prevention (an immediate

response after violence has occurred to limit its extent and consequences) and tertiary measures (longer-term care and support for those who have suffered violence). Furthermore, prevention work can be conducted at the international, regional, national and local levels.

While many of the related issues will have been discussed during the previous sessions, this session will primarily address issues of primary prevention, such as initiatives to raise awareness of various forms of violence against women and to expose and convey the unacceptability of such acts. Furthermore, the session will review advocacy initiatives targeted to increase governments' political will and to take specific measures for prevention, programmes to sensitize the media, and educational curricula, targeting both, men and women, and educational programmes aimed to address root causes of violence against women, including gender-based discrimination, gender-based stereotypes and harmful traditional practices which violate women's human rights.

As detailed in the OSCE's publication *Bringing Security Home – Combating Violence Against Women: A compilation of good practices*, prevention can “focus on changing gender-related attitudes and stereotypes at the individual level, among both men and women, and at the societal level.” Men and women should not only be the target of prevention campaigns, but should both participate in the process to define priorities and objectives of such campaigns.

The session will review:

- Successful prevention programmes that are specific by nature and aim to raise awareness on nature and ways of combating various forms of violence against women;
- Methods for data collection and data processing, which lead to evidence-based policies in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution;
- Ways to effectively involve men in preventing violence against women;
- Specific initiatives aimed to empower women directly, through legal literacy, economic empowerment, psycho-social support and other forms of capacity building;
- Measures to prevent gender-based violence perpetrated against women and girls during and after armed conflict and emergencies;
- Programmes that monitor and report on the escalation of cases of violence against women;
- Examples of successful media involvement and the use of information technology in addressing violence against women.

16:00 – 16:30            Break

16:30 – 17:30            **CLOSING SESSION**



**SUPPLEMENTARY**

**M E E T I N G**

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING  
ON  
GENDER EQUALITY WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**5-6 November 2009, Hofburg, Vienna**

**General Guidelines**

**The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002)**

**1. Aim of the Meeting**

The aim of the SHDM is to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments on gender equality with a special focus on violence against women.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- Protection and Assistance for Victims of Violence Against Women
- Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence Against Women
- Prevention of Violence Against Women

Recommendations may be addressed to the participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE institutions including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, as well as the OSCE field operations, or other inter-governmental or nongovernmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions in OSCE participating States.

**2. Participation**

Representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of international governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors will participate in the Meeting.

The 'Partners for Co-operation' are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

**3. Guidelines for the Debates**

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, introductory remarks, background information and written statements circulated in advance or

during the Meeting. To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the Meeting and are discouraged.

Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

#### **4. Organization**

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihhr.pl>

In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at [Anna.Sierant@odihhr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihhr.pl) or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 627 or Ms. Jolanta Cichočka at [Jolanta.cichočka@odihhr.pl](mailto:Jolanta.cichočka@odihhr.pl) or at tel: +48 22 52 00 733.

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday 5 November 2009, from 9.00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the main entrance hall. Registration during the Meeting is available at the same place.

#### **5. Other**

Side Events may be held in the course of the two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the website of the Meeting.





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**To civil society**

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on *Gender Equality with a Special Focus on Violence Against Women*. This Meeting will take place in Vienna from 5 to 6 November 2009. The Meeting will be preceded by a civil society roundtable, on 5 November from 10.00 to 12.30.

Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>

The Meeting will address the following three subjects:

- Protection and Assistance for Victims of Violence Against Women
- Prosecution of Perpetrators of Violence Against Women
- Prevention of Violence Against Women

The conference will gather government officials, OSCE delegations, civil society, regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-cutting issues.

Civil society representatives whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register by **Thursday 29 October 2009**. We encourage participants to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> if at all possible. Alternatively, you may return a completed NGO registration form by fax at + 48 22 52 00 605.

Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 5 November 2009 from 9.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in the main entrance hall. Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. Participants are encouraged to intervene during the Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For further information please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 627 or Ms. Jolanta Cichocka at [Jolanta.Cichocka@odihr.pl](mailto:Jolanta.Cichocka@odihr.pl) or at tel.: + 48 22 52 00 733.

Please note that room rates are subject to alteration depending on various factors, e.g. season

## HOTELS IN VIENNA

Hotel Address			Tel/Fax (+43-1)	e-mail/website
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<b>RATHAUS</b> €118 - €138 – incl. breakfast	Lange Gasse 13	1080 Vienna	Tel: 407 43 02 Fax: 409 42 72	<a href="http://www.hotel-rathaus-wien.at">www.hotel-rathaus-wien.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@hotel-rathaus-wien.at">office@hotel-rathaus-wien.at</a>
<b>ROYAL</b> €79 – incl. breakfast	Singerstraße 3	1010 Vienna	Tel: 515 68-96 Fax: 513 96 98	<a href="http://www.kremslehnerhotels.at">www.kremslehnerhotels.at</a> <a href="mailto:royal@kremslehnerhotels.at">royal@kremslehnerhotels.at</a>
<b>KAISERHOF</b> €109 – incl. breakfast	Frankenberggasse 10	1040 Vienna	Tel: 505 17 01-81 Fax: 505 88 75 88	<a href="http://www.hotel-kaiserhof.at">www.hotel-kaiserhof.at</a> <a href="mailto:reservation@hotel-kaiserhof.at">reservation@hotel-kaiserhof.at</a>
<b>TIGRA</b> €108 - €176 – incl. breakfast	Tiefer Graben 14	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 96 41 Fax: 533 9645	<a href="http://www.hotel-tigra.at">www.hotel-tigra.at</a> <a href="mailto:info@hotel-tigra.at">info@hotel-tigra.at</a>
<b>AMADEUS</b> €87 - €126 incl. breakfast	Wildpretmarkt 5	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 87 38 Fax: 533 87 38/38	<a href="http://www.hotel-amadeus.at">www.hotel-amadeus.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@hotel-amadeus.at">office@hotel-amadeus.at</a>
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<b>WANDL</b> €96,30 – €114,30 – incl. breakfast	Petersplatz 9	1010 Vienna	Tel: 534 550 Fax: 534 55 77	<a href="http://www.hotel-wandl.com">www.hotel-wandl.com</a> <a href="mailto:reservation@hotel-wandl.com">reservation@hotel-wandl.com</a>
<b>WIENER STAATSOPER</b> €82 - € 96 – incl. breakfast	Krugerstraße 11	1010 Vienna	Tel: 513 12 74 Fax: 513 12 74-15	<a href="http://www.zurwienerstaatsoper.at">www.zurwienerstaatsoper.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@zurwienerstaatsoper.at">office@zurwienerstaatsoper.at</a>
<b>Pension NOSSEK</b> €76 - €98 – incl. breakfast	Graben 17	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 70 41 Fax: 535 36 46	<a href="http://www.pension-nossek.at">www.pension-nossek.at</a> <a href="mailto:reservation@pension-nossek.at">reservation@pension-nossek.at</a>
<b>AUSTRIA</b> €80 – incl. breakfast	Wolfengasse 3	1010 Vienna	Tel: 515 23 Fax: 515 23-507	<a href="http://www.hotelaustria-wien.at">www.hotelaustria-wien.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@hotelaustria-wien.at">office@hotelaustria-wien.at</a>
<b>KÄRNTNERHOF</b> €76 - €99 – incl. breakfast	Grashofgasse 4	1011 Vienna	Tel: 512 19 23 Fax: 513 22 28/33	<a href="http://www.karntnerhof.com">www.karntnerhof.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@karntnerhof.com">info@karntnerhof.com</a>
<b>POST</b> €73 - €87 – incl. breakfast	Fleischmarkt 24	1010 Vienna	Tel: 515 83/0 Fax: 515 83/809	<a href="http://www.hotel-post-wien.at">www.hotel-post-wien.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@hotel-post-wien.at">office@hotel-post-wien.at</a>
<b>SCHWEIZERHOF</b> €85 - €95 – incl. breakfast	Bauernmarkt 22	1010 Vienna	Tel: 533 19 31 Fax: 533 02 14	<a href="http://www.schweizerhof.at">www.schweizerhof.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@schweizerhof.at">office@schweizerhof.at</a>
<b>CLIMA CITYHOTEL</b> €140 – incl. breakfast	Theresianumgasse 21a	1040 Vienna	Tel: 505 16 96 Fax: 504 35 52	<a href="http://www.climacity-hotel.com">www.climacity-hotel.com</a> <a href="mailto:reservierung@climacity-hotel.com">reservierung@climacity-hotel.com</a>
<b>CARLTON OPERA</b> €89 – incl. breakfast	Schikanedergasse 4	1040 Vienna	Tel: 587 53 02-0 Fax: 581 25 11	<a href="http://www.carlton.at">www.carlton.at</a> <a href="mailto:carlton@eunet.at">carlton@eunet.at</a>
<b>DREI KRONEN</b> €49 – €119	Schleifmühlgaße 25	1040 Vienna	Tel: 587 32 89-0 Fax: 587 32 89-11	<a href="http://www.hotel3kronen.at">www.hotel3kronen.at</a> <a href="mailto:office@hotel3kronen.at">office@hotel3kronen.at</a>
<b>NH HOTEL MARIAHILF</b> No special rates	Mariahilferstraße 32-34	1070 Vienna	Tel: 521 72-0 Fax: 521 72-15	<a href="http://www.nh-hotels.de">www.nh-hotels.de</a> <a href="mailto:nhwien@nh-hotels.com">nhwien@nh-hotels.com</a>
<b>NH HOTEL ATTERSEEHAUS</b> No special rates	Mariahilferstraße 78	1070 Vienna	Tel: 524 56 00-0 Fax: 524 56 00-15	<a href="http://www.nh-hotels.de">www.nh-hotels.de</a> <a href="mailto:nhatterseehaus@nh-hotels.com">nhatterseehaus@nh-hotels.com</a>

Please note that room rates are subject to alteration depending on various factors, e.g. season