

2025 Publications



February



6th Report on Monitoring of Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Selected OSCE Participating States

This report presents the findings of ODIHR's sixth peaceful assembly monitoring cycle, conducted in Estonia, France, Moldova and Romania, between May 2022 and June 2024.

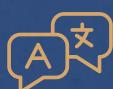


March



Sarajevo Tool for Engaging Male Politicians in Achieving Gender Equality in Politics

This publication gives guidance on how to inspire and strengthen the engagement of male politicians in promoting gender equality.



English, Bosnian, Russian



March

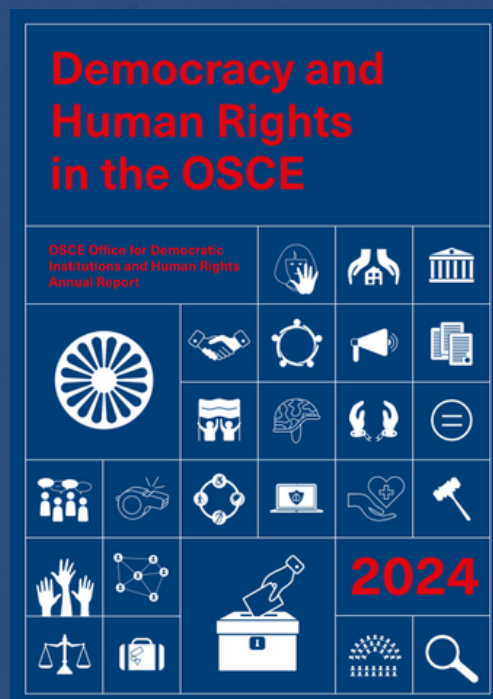


CHANGE Project Factsheet

Launched in 2021, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) CHANGE project employs a transformative approach to promoting gender equality, women's human rights and safety. It integrates a broad range of elements from across ODIHR's mandate to address obstacles to achieving gender equality.



March

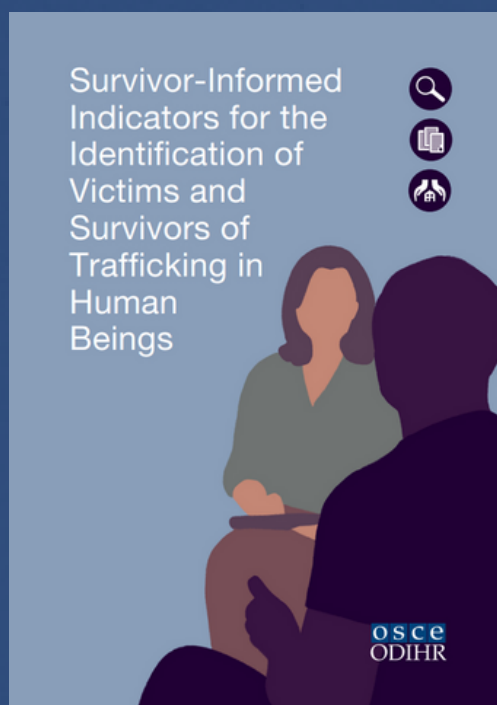


Democracy and Human Rights in the OSCE. The ODIHR Annual Report 2024

This report highlights the impact of activities carried out by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in 2024.



March



Survivor-Informed Indicators for the Identification of Victims and Survivors of Trafficking in Human Beings

This publication aims to help address the gap in tools for identifying victims of trafficking in human beings, drawing on the knowledge, professional expertise and lived experience of survivor leaders from ISTAC.



April



Stronger Democratic Institutions in Eastern Partnership Countries

An ODIHR project supported and funded by the EU, this project aims to increase public trust in democratic institutions and foster more inclusive, accountable and transparent governance, with respect for human rights and the rule of law. Stronger democratic institutions contribute to more effective responses to current crises while building resilience to future challenges.



April

ODIHR Election Observation to the 2025 Presidential Election in Poland



Following an invitation from the Polish authorities and based on the findings of a pre-election needs assessment mission (NAM), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has sent an observation mission to the forthcoming presidential election taking place on 18 May 2025, with a potential second round on 1 June. This is the seventh time since 2007 that ODIHR is observing an election in Poland; most recently, ODIHR observed the 2023 parliamentary elections.

What is ODIHR's election observation?

ODIHR carries out election observation across the OSCE region. Election observation missions assess the extent to which fundamental freedoms are respected in the campaign and the elections are characterized by equality, universality, political pluralism, confidence, transparency and accountability. ODIHR's mandate to observe elections comes from the OSCE commitments outlined in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, other international obligations standards for democratic elections and with national legislation. Since the Office's establishment over 30 years ago, ODIHR has deployed more than 450 missions.

What is the scope of the mission?

In line with its pre-election needs assessment, ODIHR has deployed a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) to Poland. The LEOM format is used where concerns centre more on the pre-election environment, election preparations, the campaign, media coverage and the handling of election disputes, and do not focus on the voting process on election day.

To provide a comprehensive analysis of the election process, the mission will look at a wide range of activities including:

- Legal framework and its practical implementation
- Election administration, including technical preparations, voter and candidate registration, forming of election commissions, training of polling station staff, voter education and election day procedures
- Campaign environment, including online, and tone of campaign rhetoric used by parties and individual candidates, equal opportunities in the campaign and any misuse of administrative resources

ODIHR Election Observation to the 2025 Presidential Election in Poland

A factsheet explaining the purpose of the Limited Election Observation Mission to Poland's 2025 Presidential Election.



English, Polish



May



ODIHR Election Observation to the 2025 Presidential Election in Poland

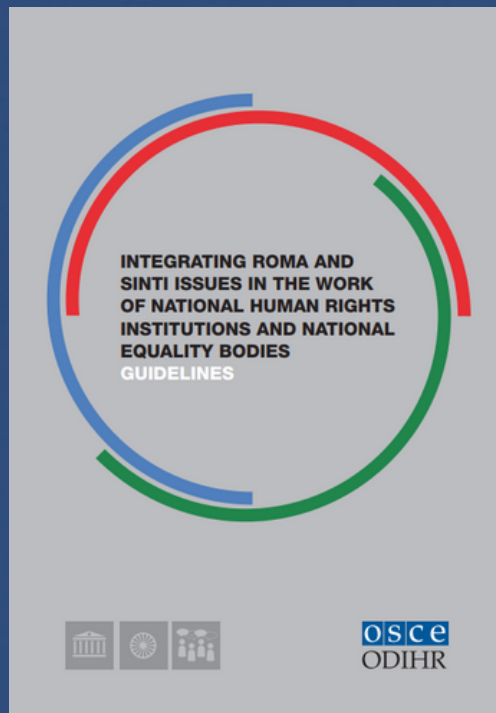
This publication presents a comparative study of parliamentary oversight of the executive enshrined in the constitutions and parliamentary Rules of Procedure of 56 OSCE participating States.



English, Russian



June

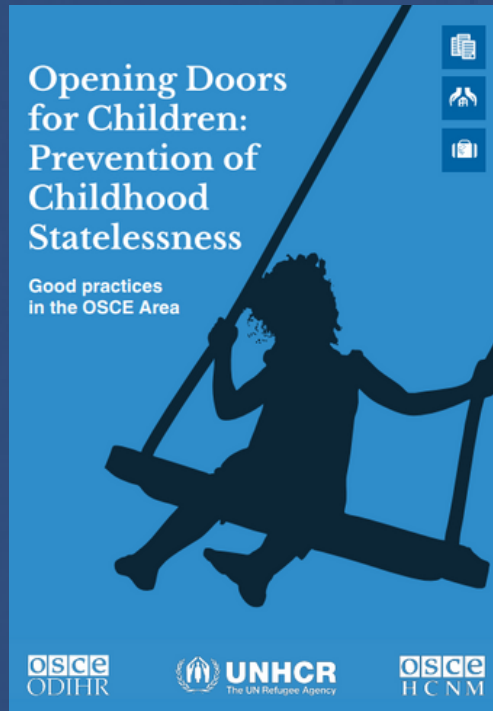


Integrating Roma and Sinti issues in the work of National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies — Guidelines

These guidelines aim to assist National Human Rights Institutions and National Equality Bodies in protecting and promoting human rights and equality for Roma and Sinti.



July



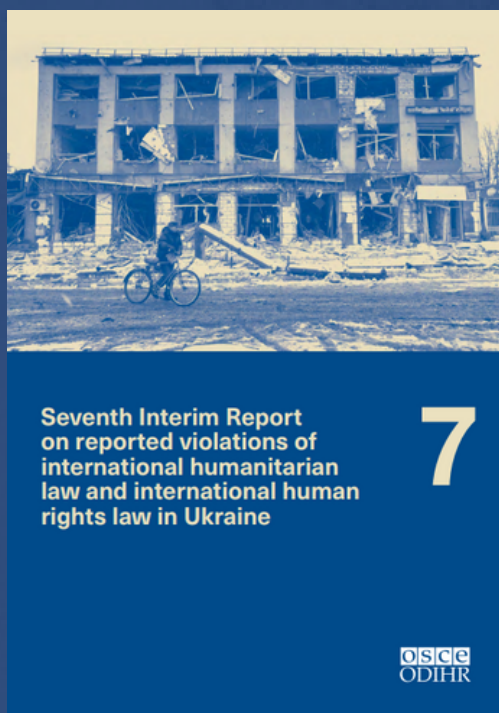
Opening Doors for Children: Prevention of Childhood Statelessness - Good Practices in the OSCE Area

This guide, jointly developed by ODIHR, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and UNHCR, aims to encourage OSCE participating States to adopt good practices to address and prevent childhood statelessness, ensure universal birth registration and implement other positive measures to protect stateless children.

 English



July



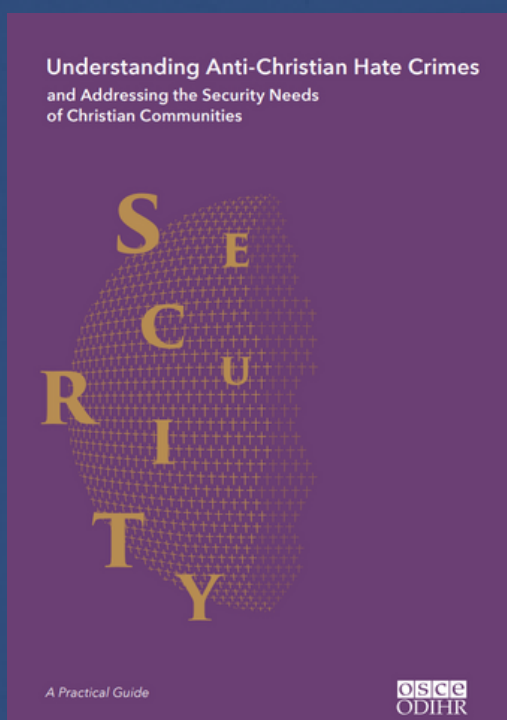
Seventh Interim Report on reported violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine



English, Russian, Ukrainian




July



Understanding Anti-Christian Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Christian Communities — A Practical Guide

This guide sets out to increase understanding of anti-Christian hate crimes and the importance of ensuring the security needs of Christian communities.

 English, Italian, Russian



September

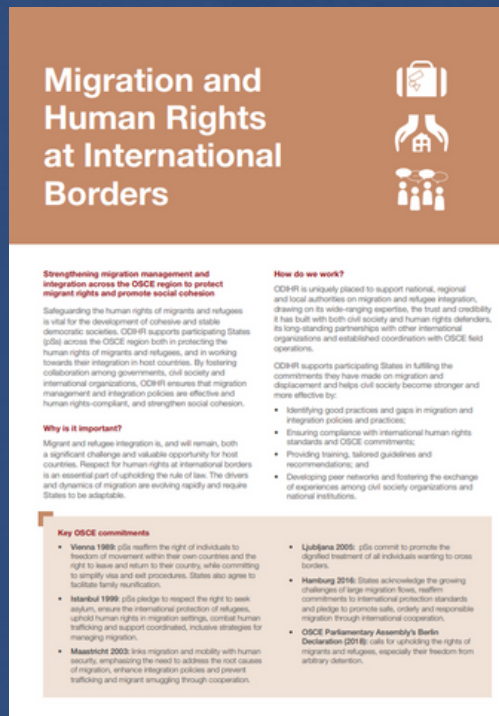


ODIHR and Roma and Sinti Issues

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR in promoting the human rights of Roma and Sinti and their integration in society.



September

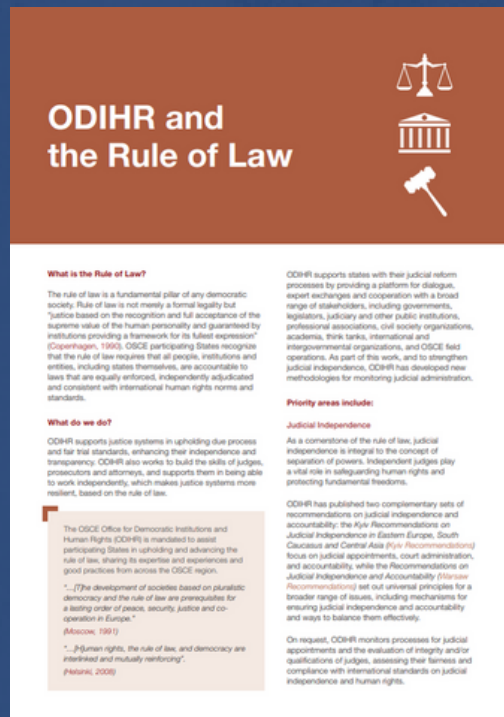


Migration and Human Rights at International Borders

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR on migration and human rights at international borders.



September



ODIHR and the Rule of Law

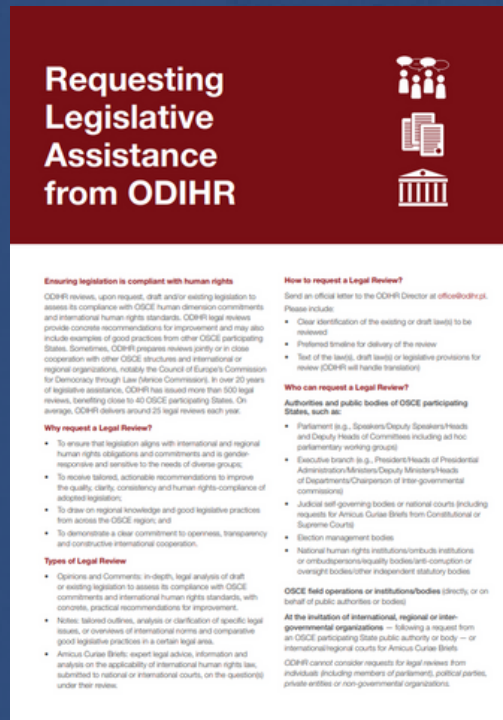
A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR on Rule of Law.



English, Russian



September



Requesting Legislative Assistance from ODIHR

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR on Legislative Assistance and how to request it.



English, Russian



September



Strengthening Lawmaking, Improving Laws

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR on democratic lawmaking.



English, Russian



September

Supporting and Promoting the Protection of Human Rights Defenders



Human rights defenders play a vital role in democracies, but they often face serious risks and challenges due to their important and legitimate work. The **right to defend human rights** is universally recognized, and OSCE participating States have all committed to providing those who do so with effective protection and support.

Who are human rights defenders?

Anyone who promotes human rights and strives for their protection and realization is a human rights defender, regardless of their profession, age or other status.

They may work alone or with others, as part of an informal group or a non-governmental organization, as a volunteer or professionally. Human rights defenders may be lawyers, trade unionists, staff of national human rights institutions (NHRI), journalists, medical professionals, public servants, students, assembly monitors, whistleblowers or any member of the public, as long as they act through peaceful means and accept the universality of human rights.

The work of a human rights defender can include monitoring the situation of human rights, uncovering, documenting and speaking up about abuses, campaigning for justice and equal rights, litigating at courts or supporting victims of violations.

Risks and challenges

Human rights defenders are frequently targeted for their work. They face verbal attacks, smear campaigns, stigmatization, intimidation, physical violence, surveillance, judicial harassment and criminalization, arbitrary arrest, detention and imprisonment. The psychological risks and emotional toll can affect both their well-being and their ability to continue defending human rights.



ODIHR's Starlight Stadium is a learning game for human rights defenders.

Shrinking civic space, growing restrictions on the freedoms of expression, assembly and association, and problems with access to funding are making human rights work increasingly difficult. Human rights defenders often lack opportunities for meaningful participation in public affairs, or are actively blocked from it, and face reprisals for engaging with the international community and human rights forums. In recent years, the securitization and polarization of politics and society, alongside backsliding on human rights, democracy and gender equality, has increased the pressure on human rights defenders across the OSCE region.

Certain groups of defenders are particularly at risk: those in exile face specific challenges, including in light of growing transnational repression. Environmentalists and those uncovering abuses of power and corruption are frequently targeted by state and non-state actors. Women human rights defenders, people working for the equal rights of sexual minorities, racial or religious minorities, refugees and migrants, people with disabilities or other discriminated groups, and defenders working in conflict settings face additional risks.

Supporting and Promoting the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR on supporting and protecting human rights defenders.



English



September

Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief



Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief (often shortened to FoTB) is enshrined in international and regional human rights frameworks, including Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and numerous OGCs commitments, starting with its foundational document, the Helsinki Final Act. Respect for FoTB, alongside other human rights and functioning democratic institutions, is essential to comprehensive and lasting security.

This right protects everyone, and is one of several freedoms that foster pluralism and coexistence in diverse societies and contribute to democratic participation, including the ability to challenge injustice. It enables individuals to live with dignity and integrity and guarantees respect for personal autonomy while fostering more peaceful societies. Restrictions on this right often signal a broader threat to rights, especially to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

What is FoTB?

Thought and conscience are often called the **internal** parts of the right (from internal).

- **Freedom of thought** is the right of each individual to hold and form their own beliefs, opinions and ideas without coercion or interference. It includes the ability to think independently, question norms and develop personal views, e.g., on religion, politics and morality.
- **Freedom of conscience** empowers each individual to follow their inner sense of right and wrong in matters of belief, ethics and morality. It protects their ability to hold moral or ethical convictions, independent of external influence, coercion or punishment, including objection to actions that

violate deeply-held moral principles, such as conscientious objection to military service.

Religion or belief have more visible, external components (from external).

- **Freedom of religion or belief** is everyone's right to choose, hold, change or reject religious or non-religious beliefs, without coercion or discrimination. It is a right for people, not religions, and protects their choice to remain within, convert to, or leave a religion or belief, to be religious or an atheist, skeptic, or someone indifferent to such matters.

The external component concerns the freedom to practice, worship, teach and observe religious or belief customs, individually or in community with others. These cover wide-ranging forms of religious or belief expression, including meeting to worship, language, dress, rituals, observing days of rest or specific holidays, and public preaching.

States should guarantee the communal aspect of FoTB as individuals gather together. States should not require that religious or belief communities obtain legal personality to operate, but they should make it easy for any community to obtain legal status to perform basic community needs (e.g., opening a bank account or buying and maintaining a place of worship).

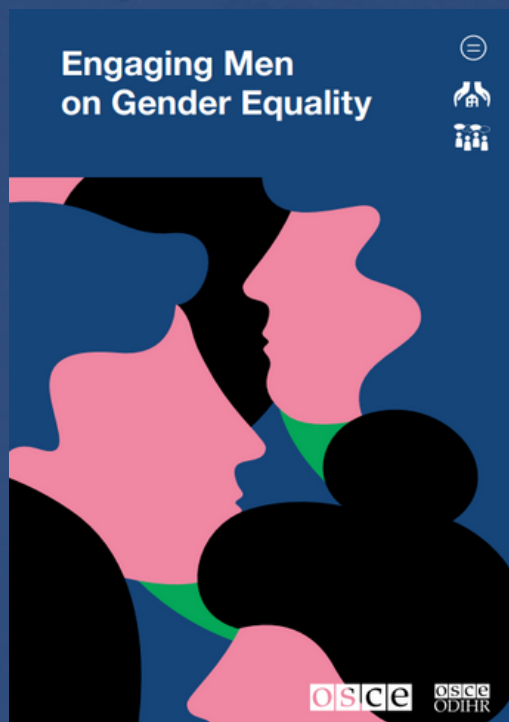
Importantly, the internal and external elements of FoTB are interdependent. The right also overlaps and is deeply interconnected with other rights, such as the freedoms of expression and opinion, assembly and association, or the right to privacy.

Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR in promoting the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.



September



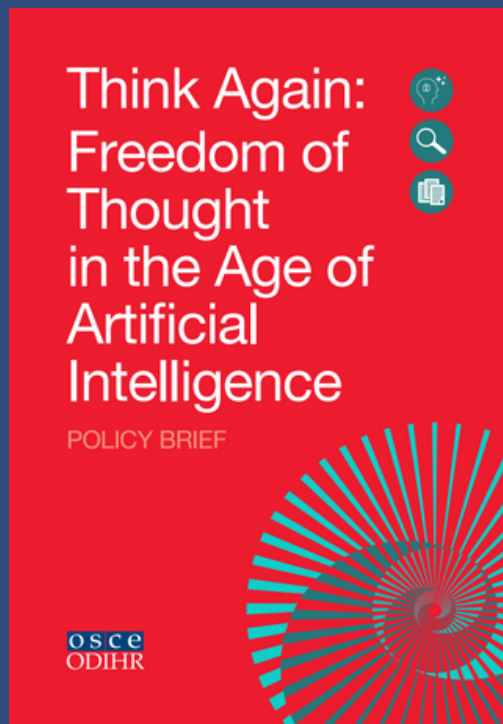
Engaging Men on Gender Equality

This publication presents nine policy and good practice recommendations to support diverse audiences in their work to include men in building a more gender-equal, peaceful, prosperous and democratic world.

 English



October



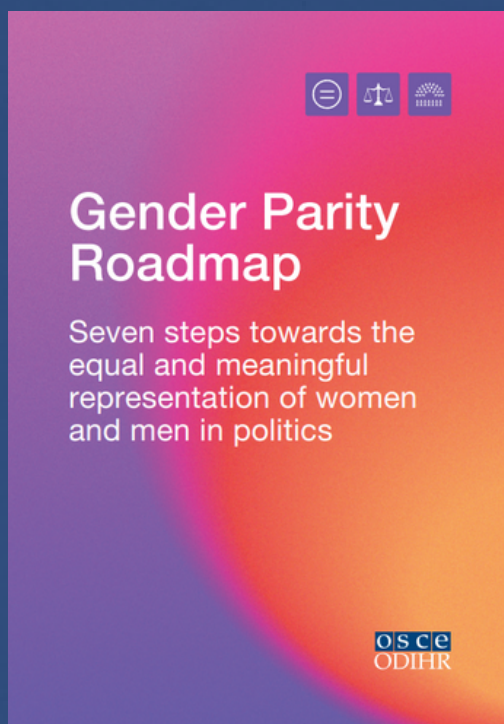
Think Again: Freedom of Thought in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

This brief examines the implications for freedom of thought of the new information ecosystem, the potential impacts of AI-based neurotechnologies and outlines recommendations for states to consider in upholding freedom of thought in the digital age.

 English

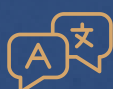


October



Gender Parity Roadmap: Seven steps towards the equal and meaningful representation of women and men in politics

This publication presents a seven-step roadmap for OSCE participating States to work towards achieving gender parity.



English, Russian



November



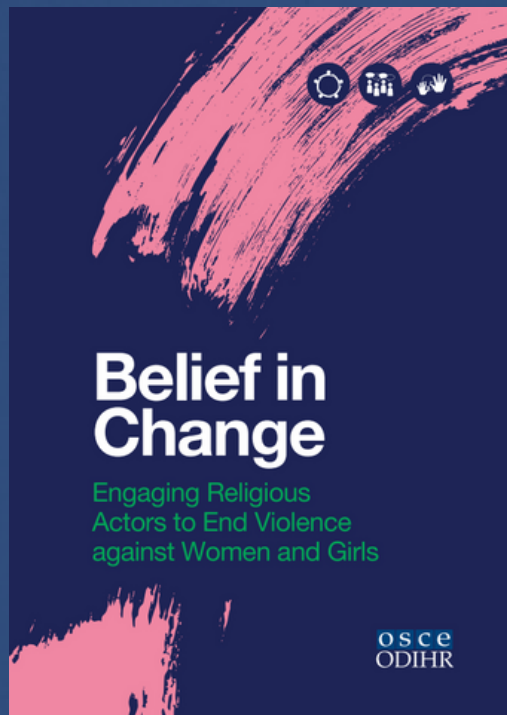
Implementing Restorative Justice for Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes - a Practical Guide

This guide helps practitioners navigate the complexities of restorative justice in hate crime and hate incident cases, while addressing the limitations and risks of such practices.

 English



December



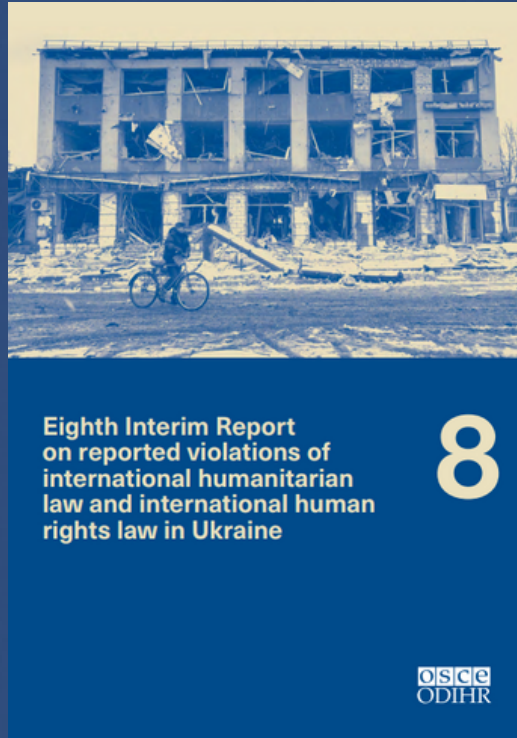
Belief in Change: Engaging Religious Actors to End Violence against Women and Girls

This publication explores the different roles and contributions of religious actors in addressing VAWG. It includes examples of how religious actors are already engaged in fighting VAWG and outlines some ideas for constructive cooperation.

 **English**



December

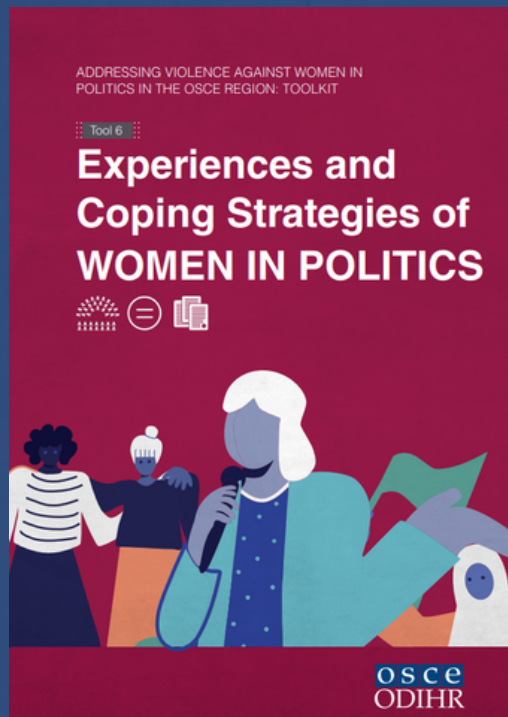


Eighth Interim Report on reported violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine

 English



December



Experiences and Coping Strategies of Women in Politics - Tool 6

Complementing the previous five tools in the Addressing Violence against Women in Politics in the OSCE Region Toolkit, this tool presents the experiences of individual women politicians and their strategies for responding to and coping with violence.

 English



December



Disability Quotas for Parliamentary Elections

Disability quotas have emerged as a mechanism for increasing the representation of people with disabilities in national parliaments. This guide examines the three types of quotas used for parliamentary elections: reserved seats, legislative quotas, and party quotas.



Translations of earlier publications



Sixth Interim Report on reported violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine



Russian, Ukrainian

Anti-Muslim Hate Crime factsheet



Bosnian

Belief, Dialogue and Security — Fostering dialogue and joint action across religious and belief boundaries



Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Italian, Russian, Ukrainian

Parliamentary bodies for gender equality — Overview and recommendations — Tool 3

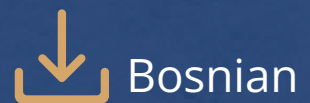


Russian

Translations of earlier publications



Employment: The Right to
Freedom of Thought,
Conscience, Religion or Belief
of Women at Work



Bosnian

NSTAC Guidance on
establishing and maintaining
National Survivors of
Trafficking Advisory Councils
(NSTACs)



Russian

Anti-Roma Hate Crime
factsheet



Spanish

Anti-Indigenous Hate Crime
Factsheet



Spanish

Translations of earlier publications



Recommendations on Judicial
Independence and
Accountability (Warsaw
Recommendations), 2023



Albanian,
Russian,
Ukrainian

The Right to Monitor
Assemblies in the OSCE
Region: Experiences from the
Field



Russian

Understanding Anti-Roma
Hate Crimes and Addressing
the Security Needs of Roma
and Sinti Communities: A
Practical Guide



Spanish

Translations of earlier publications



Introduction to the Nelson Mandela Rules International Training Programme, Trainer's Manual



Albanian

Hate Crime Prosecution at the Intersection of Hate Crime and Criminalized 'Hate Speech': a Practical Guide



Bosnian, Spanish, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Polish, Romanian, Serbian Cyrillic

The Sensitive and Respectful Treatment of Hate Crime Victims



Lithuanian

**See also our 2020-
2024 publications**

