

Comprehensive Support for Hate Crime Victims — PHASE II



Strengthening Targeted Assistance and Response Structures for Hate Crime Victims in the OSCE Region (STARS II)

Addressing hate crimes requires both an effective criminal justice response and specialized support for victims. Both elements are necessary to secure justice for victims and address the harm caused by hate crimes.

ODIHR facilitates the exchange of good practices and standards, and conducts capacity-building activities to improve hate crime victim support structures and practices and strengthen the criminal justice response across the 27 countries, which are also part of the OSCE region.

ODIHR works with experts, criminal justice professionals and policymakers in OSCE participating States and internationally to increase understanding and implementation of OSCE commitments and EU laws on effective hate crime victim support and prosecution.

Building on this work, Phase II of ODIHR's STARS project (STARS II) will:

- Develop new capacity-building tools and resources on hate crime victim support;
- Train prosecutors to ensure effective legal qualification of criminal acts motivated by bias, including at the intersection of hate crime and criminalized 'hate speech'; and
- Create platforms for dialogue to strengthen and diversify the exchange of good practices.

Why is this important?

Victims of hate crimes suffer particular harm because they are targeted on the basis of characteristics fundamental to their identity. Offenders target an individual victim or property as representative of a group in order to send a message of rejection or perceived superiority over that group. As a result, the impact of hate crimes goes beyond their individual victims to all members of the community who share the same protected characteristic. It is important that this broader harm is recognized by the authorities. Justice can only be fully achieved when prosecutors properly account for bias motivation and when victims receive appropriate support and protection. Further details on the definition of hate crime, the bias motivations and protected characteristics can be found in ODIHR's publications below, [the annual ODIHR Hate Crime Report](#) and related ODIHR tools.

“STARS II will address long-standing challenges with innovative approaches. Through our new tools, we aim to equip victim support providers with the tools to assess the individual needs of victims effectively and to support prosecutors in strengthening their practice.”

Maria Telalian, ODIHR Director

Activities

ODIHR will develop a training module for victim support providers and train prosecutors across the 27 European Union countries, which are also part of the OSCE region.

Supporting first responders

- Hold consultations with hate crime victim support practitioners
- Draft a training module on individual needs assessment in hate crime cases

Training criminal justice system professionals

- Design and organize a course for prosecutors on qualifying criminal offences at the intersection of hate crime and criminalized 'hate speech'
- Train prosecutors via ODIHR's established Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT) programme

Networking and awareness-raising

- Manage the Network of Experts on Hate Crime Victim Support, which channels expertise to the Working Group on Hate Crime Victim Support under the European Union's High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime
- Build platforms for dialogue and exchange of experiences by organizing informal, online discussions, networking spaces and in-person events

The project is implemented in close cooperation with the European Commission and funded through the European Union's "Support to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) for knowledge sharing and standard setting on hate crime including hate crime victim support // Phase II (CERV-2025-IM-CRAC/RIGH/5)."

Resources

- [Hate Crime Victims in the Criminal Justice System](#)
- [Individual Needs Assessments of Hate Crime Victims: Model Guide](#)
- [Including the voices of hate crime victims in policymaking and policy implementation – a practical guide](#)
- [Implementing Restorative Justice for Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes – a Practical Guide](#)
- [Hate Crime Prosecution at the Intersection of Hate Crime and Criminalized 'Hate Speech': a Practical Guide](#)
- [Hate Crime Victim Support: Policy Brief](#)

For further resources and publications, see:

- [STARS: Comprehensive Support for Hate Crime Victims – project page](#)
- [Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support \(EStAR\) project page](#)

Partners

[Combating hate speech and hate crime – European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://europeancommission.europa.eu)



For invitations to expert webinars or for further information about the initiative, please visit: <https://projects.osce.org/odihr/stars> or contact ODIHR directly at hvictimsupport@odihr.pl

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