

The Dynamic **CHANGE** Update

1 April - 30 June 2025

EMBRACE
CHANGE
FOR GENDER EQUALITY



In line with the consensual 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, the OSCE works to promote equality between men and women, boys and girls.

Good day to all supporters of gender equality and the **CHANGE** project!

We bring you five key updates for the second quarter of 2025:

- 1. CHANGE Impact Story presented at the Marketplace of OSCE Impact Stories during the Chairpersonship Conference on Gender Equality – Building Resilience Through Inclusion and Empowerment - Vienna, 7 May 2025**
- 2. Two online consultation meetings with CHANGE Transnational Network to Prevent, Address and Reverse Backsliding on Gender Equality - 22 May and 25 June, 2025**
- 3. Collaborative Planning Workshop- collective action for increased and meaningful participation of Roma women in the public sphere - Warsaw 26 May 2025 and Skopje 28 June 2025**
- 4. Strategic Planning Workshop: Institutional Responses to Violence Against Women in Politics in Poland, Warsaw 16 June 2025**
- 5. ODIHR Contributed to Final Conference of Polish EU Council Presidency “Equality Europe!” in Poznań, 23 June 2025**

CHANGE Impact Story presented at the Marketplace of OSCE Impact Stories during the Chairpersonship Conference on Gender Equality – Building Resilience Through Inclusion and Empowerment Vienna, 7 May 2025

The Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship provided a platform for presenting the CHANGE impact story on the sidelines of the Conference on Gender Equality in Vienna. In collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Skopje and CHANGE Transnational Network member Salija Bekir Halim, the CHANGE "market stand" engaged conference participants and raised awareness about key initiatives. Alongside personal impact stories being shared, information on ongoing initiatives such as the consultative development of data collection approaches to monitor backsliding on gender equality, the integration of intersectional approaches within the Network's work, and the strong cooperation between ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Skopje were presented.



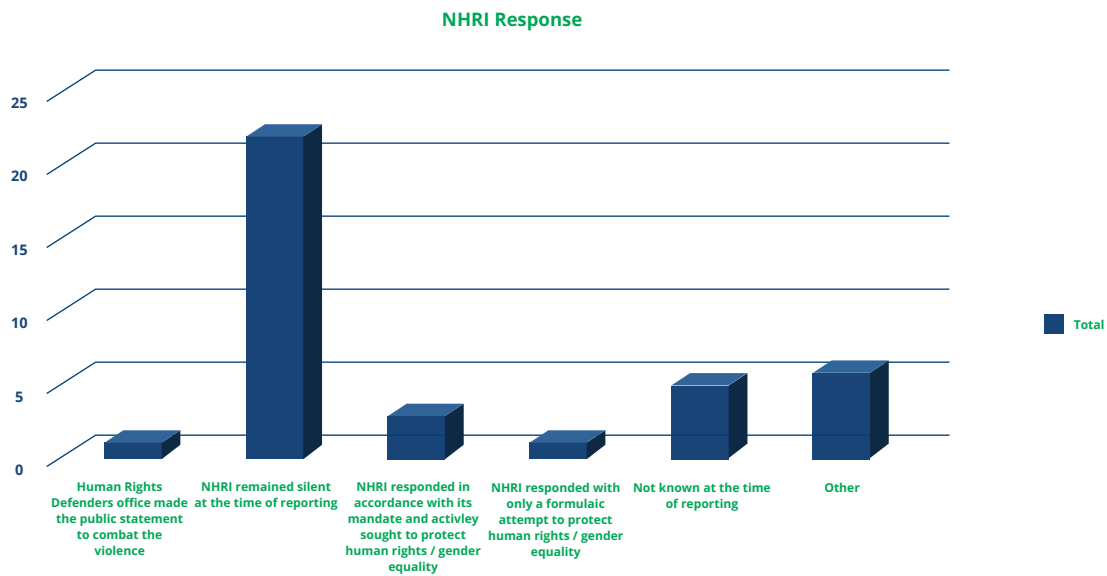
Photo 1, from left to right (LR): Sanja Nikolin, CHANGE Project Officer, Beata Bislim Olahova Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, Tea Jalishvili, First Deputy Director, ODIHR, Saša Gavrić, Associate Gender Officer, and Salija Bekir Halim, Change Network Member, Women's Initiative Shuto Orizari; North Macedonia

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Two online consultation meetings with CHANGE Transnational Network to Prevent, Address and Reverse Backsliding on Gender Equality 22 May and 25 June, 2025

The CHANGE Transnational Network to Prevent, Address and Reverse Backsliding on Gender Equality convened 35 women members from Georgia, North Macedonia, and Poland in two online meetings. These discussions focused on preliminary findings from the pilot data collection on backsliding on gender equality, and on planning the consultation and review process to enhance the future Tool on Monitoring Backsliding on Gender Equality's effectiveness in supporting both state and non-state actors across the OSCE region.

The preliminary data analysis revealed valuable insights, particularly highlighting a mismatch between the mechanisms used to initiate backsliding on gender equality and the efforts by civil society, state institutions, and independent bodies to counter or reverse these trends. Civil society organizations and human rights defenders within the CHANGE Network reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing transnational cooperation and dialogue. Lessons learned identified and discussed form a crucial component in the consultative development of the future tool, aimed at proposing an approach for how to more effectively monitoring the challenges of backsliding on gender equality across the OSCE region and how to use data to inform strategies to address these challenges in a collective manner.



Graph 1, Illustrative example of National Human Rights Institutions' responses to backsliding on gender equality in the pilot data sample for 2024

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Collaborative Planning Workshop - collective action for increased and meaningful participation of Roma women in the public sphere, Warsaw 26 May 2025 and Skopje 28 June 2025

Recognizing the broad consensus across the OSCE region that women's participation in public and political life is essential to a functioning democracy, the CHANGE project explored both the opportunities and barriers faced by diverse Roma women in Poland and North Macedonia by bringing together 34 Roma women in two planning workshops. The participants shared their experiences, exchanged ideas, and expressed strong interest in collective action and together identified key entry points to enhance Roma women's participation in public and political life in both countries. CHANGE enabled

the women to explore how they can claim public space and contribute meaningfully to politics and decision-making. The workshops also helped raise awareness of the platforms, opportunities, and institutional mechanisms available to support Roma women's voices in public life. Priorities identified have informed the planning for the upcoming Conference for Collective Action by Roma Women from across the OSCE region, which will be organized in December 2025.



Photo 2: Group photo of participants of the Skopje workshop; Photo 3 (LR): Beata Bislim Olahova, Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, ODIHR and Neda Chalovska Dimeska, member of the CHANGE Transnational Network



Photo 4: Elzbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz, Jaw Dikh Foundation; Agnieszka Caban; Home of the Borderland Foundation

Photo 5: Justyna Zalewska, CHANGE Administrative Assistant, Marzena Fraś, Sawore Association Sylwia Szczurba and Edyta Jaśkowiak Jududoro Association

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Strategic Planning Workshop: Institutional Responses to Violence Against Women in Politics in Poland; Warsaw 16 June 2025

Through the workshop, ODIHR fostered a shared understanding of Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWIP), showcased good practices and institutional solutions from across the OSCE region. By bringing together members of the Polish Parliament, government officials, civil society representatives, and independent experts they jointly were enabled and given space to identify practical steps that Polish institutions can take to prevent and address such violence. The diversity of participants enabled a rich dialogue and valuable cross-sectoral exchange.



Photo 6 (LR): Saša Gavrić, Associate Gender Officer, ODIHR, Minister for Equality (now Secretary of State) Kataryna Kotula, Tea Jalishvili, First Deputy Director, ODIHR, and Sanja Nikolin, CHANGE Project Officer

Photo 7: participants of the Strategic Planning Workshop: Institutional Responses to Violence Against Women in Politics in Poland

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ODIHR Contributed to Final Conference of Polish EU Council Presidency "Equality Europe!" in Poznań, 23 June 2025

ODIHR's efforts through initiatives such as the CHANGE project, which support increased representation of women and progress toward gender parity in line with the recommendation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) were presented at the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union concluded with the conference "Equality, Europe!". In particular ODIHR's First Deputy Director spoke on the "Hope in the Dark: Building a Strong and Resilient EU" panel. Emphasis was given to the importance of ensuring the full and equal participation of women and men from diverse backgrounds in all areas of life and at every level of governance. ODIHR's participation reinforced the importance of international cooperation and shared commitment to building a more resilient, democratic, and equitable Europe. Taking into account ODIHR's longstanding work to strengthen policy and institutional frameworks, support women's movements, engage men as allies in achieving gender equality, and foster inclusive dialogue and consensus-building processes.



Photo 8 (LR): Agnieszka Filipak, Forbes Women, Antonina Lewandowska, National Advocacy Coordinator, FEDERA, Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart, Vice-President Congress of Polish Women and CHANGE Transnational Network member, Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR's First Deputy Director, Sandra Lengwiler, Vice Chair of Gender Equality Bureau, Council of Europe, MEP Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus; and Lenita Freidenvall, Director General, Head of Division for Gender Equality, Swedish Ministry of Employment

GET IN TOUCH

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