

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE OSCE/ODIHR PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assists OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments, including on the right to freedom of religion or belief. In this work, it has been assisted by a Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, first established in 1997, and whose importance has been confirmed in a number of OSCE Ministerial Decisions, including 4/03 (Maastricht), 10/05 (Ljubljana) and 13/06 (Brussels).

The membership of the Panel for its new three-year term commencing June 2016 is in the process of being renewed, and ODIHR hereby invites applications from suitably qualified individuals living within the OSCE region who wish to be considered for service on this body. Interested individuals are requested to provide a two page resume summarizing their experience in the area of freedom of religion or belief, a list of key publications, conference papers and other presentations in this area, and a cover letter setting out their motivation for applying for Panel membership and the particular expertise, skills and capacities they feel they can bring to this important role.

Applications will be considered in the strictest confidence and should be submitted no later than 1800hrs CET on Friday 13 May 2016 to forbpanel@odihr.pl.

A brief description of the work of the Panel, including qualifications and requirements of membership, is provided below. For further information about the role and the application process, please contact Kishan Manocha, Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE/ODIHR, on +48-22-5200757 or by email at Kishan.Manocha@odihr.pl.

OSCE/ODIHR PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

The role of the Panel is to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to ODIHR, and through ODIHR to OSCE participating States, on matters pertaining to the freedom of religion or belief for all, including on (draft) legislation, policies and state practices in this area; the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments; research, drafting and/or reviewing of material related to the international normative framework in the area of freedom of religion or belief; and educational and capacity-building efforts undertaken by ODIHR in the implementation of its efforts to advance freedom of religion or belief for all in the OSCE region.

The Panel is also expected to contribute to ODIHR's efforts to mainstream gender in all its activities pertaining to freedom of religion or belief by fulfilling its functions and tasks in a gender-sensitive manner and in line with the OSCE's 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and OSCE commitments and regulations on ensuring equality of men and women in all spheres of life.

Meetings of the Panel take place in Warsaw at least once a year; additionally, meetings of the full Panel or a group of its members may be called, as and when necessary.

The 12 Panel members, appointed by the ODIHR Director, will be selected on the basis of their high level of expertise in the area of freedom of religion or belief, including legislation on religion or belief and international human rights standards in the area of freedom of religion or belief. Expertise in related areas such as religion and global affairs, education about religion and belief, and the interrelationship between freedom of religion or belief and security is considered desirable.

Members of the Panel are expected to make every effort to attend meetings and to fulfil their tasks in an independent and impartial manner.

Panel members are not remunerated for their service, but all travel, accommodation and subsistence costs in connection with participation in meetings and other activities as requested by ODIHR will be covered.