

# 2025 Publications

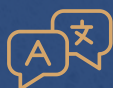


# February



## 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.



English

# 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

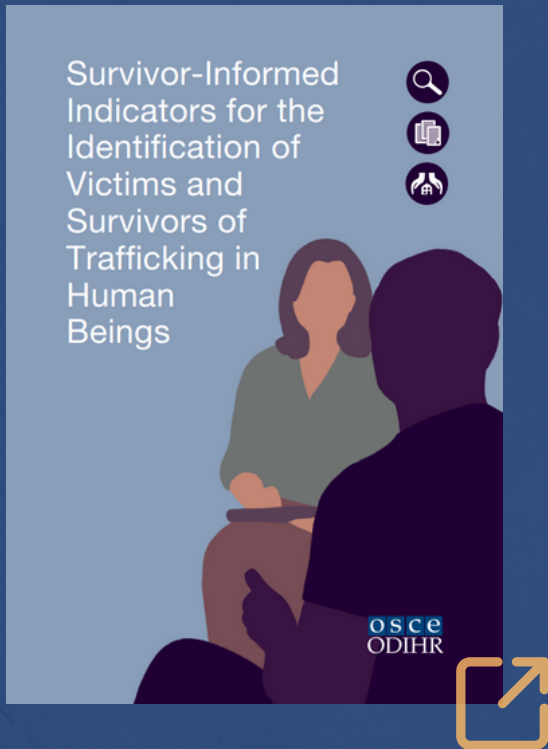
Launched in 2021, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) CHANGE project employs a transformative approach to promoting gender equality, women's human rights and safety. It integrates a broad range of elements from across ODIHR's mandate to address obstacles to achieving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

# March



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

# March



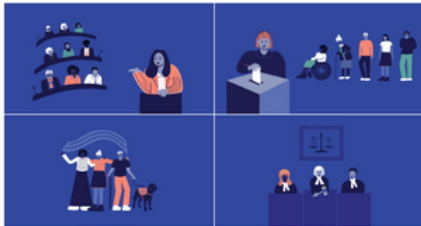
## Survivor-Informed Indicators for the Identification of Victims and Survivors of Trafficking in Human Beings

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.

 English

# April

## Stronger Democratic Institutions in Eastern Partnership Countries



### An ODIHR project supported and funded by the EU

Supporting and strengthening democratic institutions and processes is the objective of ODIHR's project Stronger Democratic Institutions in Eastern Partnership Countries; an ODIHR project supported and funded by the EU. The 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.

Democratic governance is vital to the principles on which the OSCE is based, ensuring that public institutions promote core principles and function through democratic processes, including political pluralism, institutional accountability and responsiveness, an active civil society, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and democratic elections.

Bringing together state representatives and civil society from across the OSCE, ODIHR will draw on its unique expertise in these fields. The Office has a comprehensive set of tools, including in-depth training, which support states in improving their systems of democratic governance and in making their institutions more representative and their political and decision-making processes more inclusive and participatory.

ODIHR's recommendations, as set out in published legal opinions, legislative assessments, monitoring and election observation reports and thematic guidelines, serve as benchmarks to assess and encourage progress.

ODIHR will also leverage its broad range of established partnerships including with international, regional and national organizations throughout this project to ensure joint ownership.

osce ODIHR



# Stronger Democratic Institutions in Eastern Partnership Countries

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English

# 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

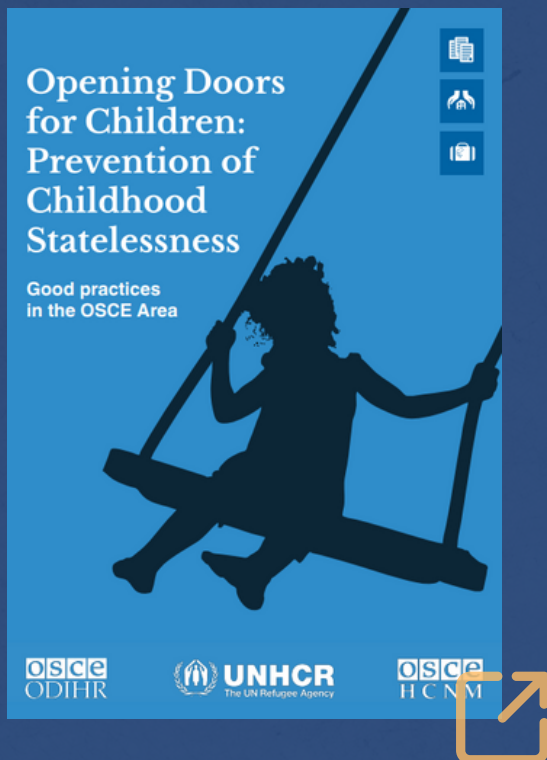


## ODIHR Election Observation to the 2025 Presidential Election in Poland

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.

 English

# July

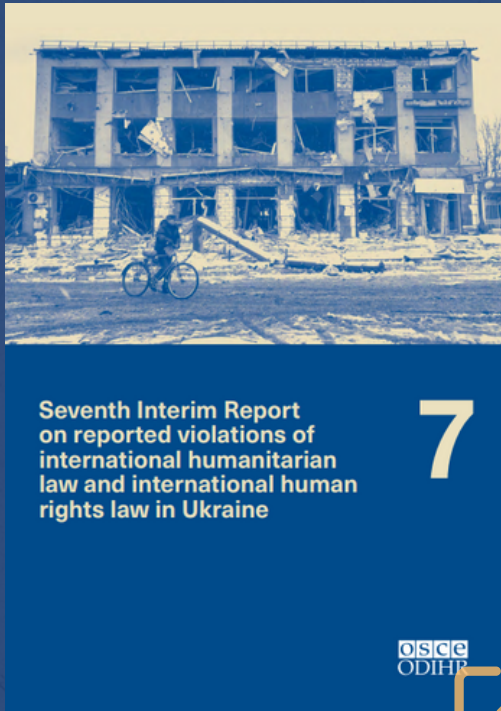


## Opening Doors for Children: Prevention of Childhood Statelessness - Good Practices in the OSCE Area

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

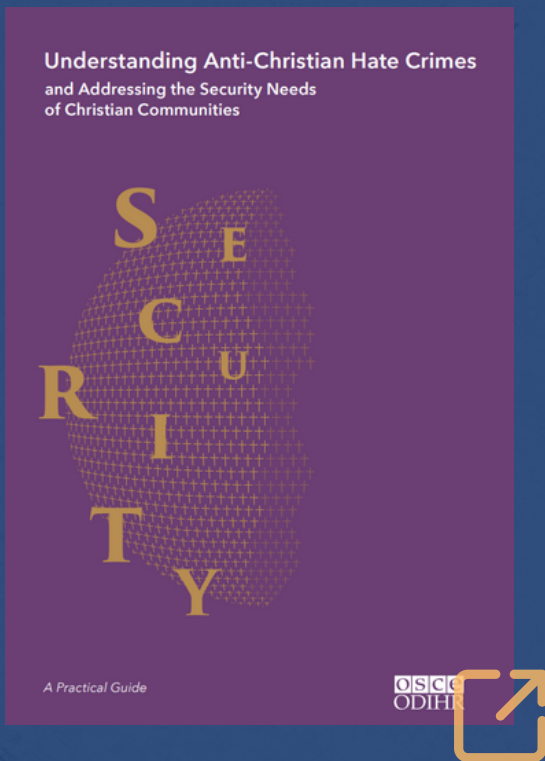


# Seventh Interim Report on reported violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine



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



### Strengthening migration management and integration across the OSCE region to protect migrant rights and promote social cohesion

Safeguarding the human rights of migrants and refugees is vital for the development of cohesive and stable democratic societies. ODIHR supports participating States (pSs) across the OSCE region both in protecting the human rights of migrants and refugees, and in working towards their integration in host countries. By fostering collaboration among governments, civil society and international organizations, ODIHR ensures that migration management and integration policies are effective and human rights-compliant, and strengthen social cohesion.

### Why is it important?

Migrant and refugee integration is, and will remain, both a significant challenge and valuable opportunity for host countries. Respect for human rights at international borders is an essential part of upholding the rule of law. The drivers and dynamics of migration are evolving rapidly and require States to be adaptable.

### Key OSCE commitments

- **Vienna 1993:** pSs reaffirm the right of individuals to freedom of movement within their own countries and the right to leave and return to their country, while committing to simplify visa and entry procedures. States also agree to facilitate family reunification.
- **Istanbul 1999:** pSs pledge to respect the right to seek asylum, ensure the international protection of refugees, uphold human rights in migration settings, combat human trafficking and support coordinated, inclusive strategies for managing migration.
- **Maastricht 2002:** links migration and mobility with human security, emphasizing the need to address the root causes of migration, enhance integration policies and prevent trafficking and migrant smuggling through cooperation.
- **Ljubljana 2005:** pSs commit to promote the dignified treatment of all individuals wanting to cross borders.
- **Hamburg 2016:** States acknowledge the growing challenges of large migration flows, reaffirm commitments to international protection standards and pledge to promote safe, orderly and responsible migration through international cooperation.
- **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Berlin Declaration (2018):** calls for upholding the rights of migrants and refugees, especially their freedom from arbitrary detention.

### How do we work?

ODIHR is uniquely placed to support national, regional and local authorities on migration and refugee integration, drawing on its wide-ranging expertise, the trust and credibility it has built with both civil society and human rights defenders, its long-standing partnerships with other international organizations and established coordination with OSCE field operations.

ODIHR supports participating States in fulfilling the commitments they have made on migration and displacement and helps civil society become stronger and more effective by:

- Identifying good practices and gaps in migration and integration policies and practices;
- Ensuring compliance with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments;
- Providing training, tailored guidelines and recommendations; and
- Developing peer networks and fostering the exchange of experiences among civil society organizations and national institutions.



# Migration and Human Rights at International Borders

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



English

# September



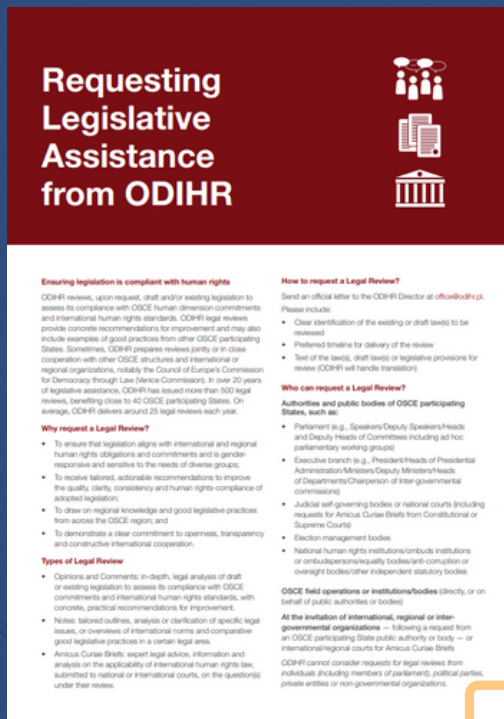
## ODIHR and the Rule of Law

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



English, Russian

# September



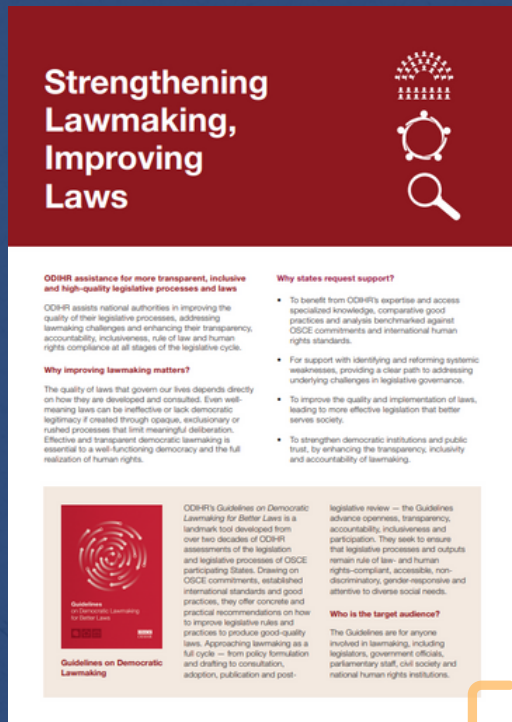
## Requesting Legislative Assistance from ODIHR

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 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 democratic lawmaking.



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 OSCE 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 (*forum internum*).

- **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 influences, 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 (*forum externum*).

- **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.



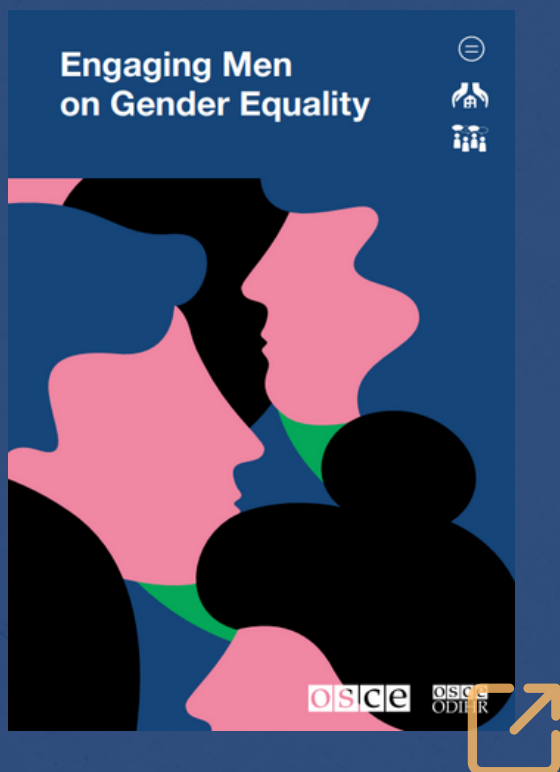
# Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief

A factsheet explaining the work of ODIHR on democratic lawmaking.



English

# September

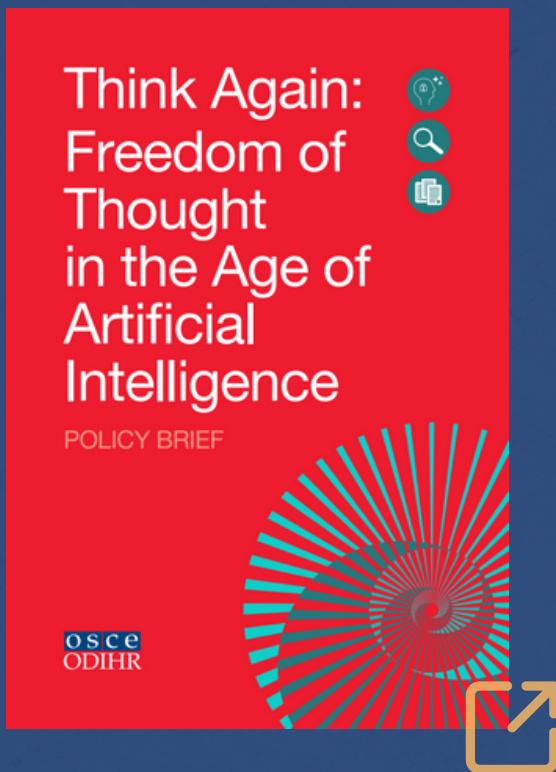


## Engaging Men on Gender Equality

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.



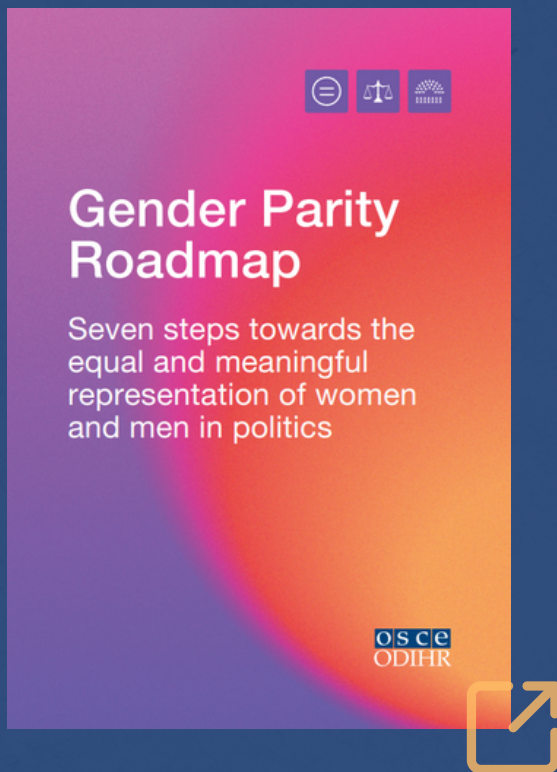
# October



## 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.

# 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**

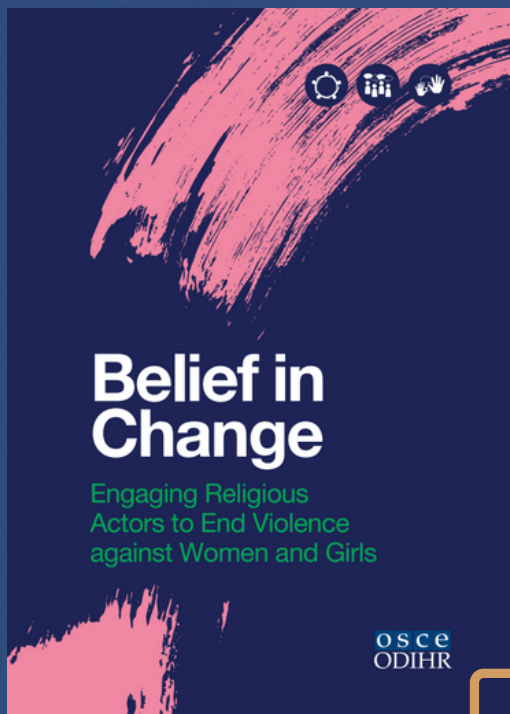
# November



## 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.

# December

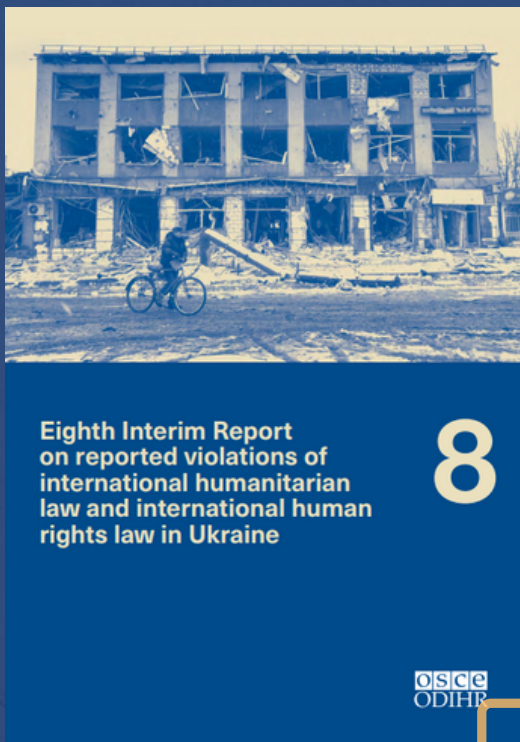


## **Belief in Change: Engaging Religious Actors to End Violence against Women and Girls**

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.

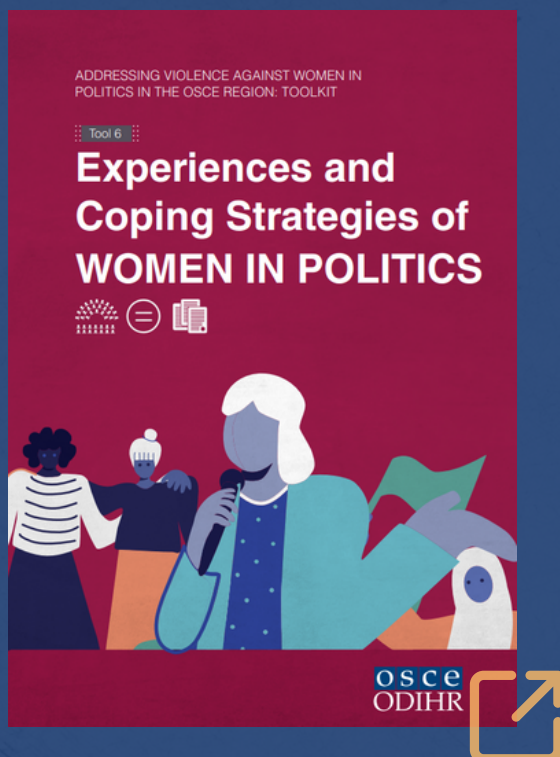
 **English**

# December



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

# 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.

# 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

## 1/4



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

## 2/4



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

## 3/4



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

## 4/4



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

Serbian