

ODIHR Update

December 21 2016 No. 6



Protection of human rights defenders is vital to realize OSCE human rights commitments, says OSCE/ODIHR Director Link



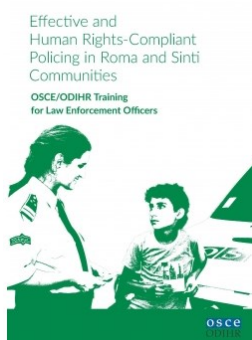
ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)

The protection of human rights defenders is essential for OSCE participating States to realize their human dimension commitments in practice, OSCE/ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link [said](#) at the close of the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council, in advance of international Human Rights Day on 10 December. “Human rights defenders are often the focus of threats, attacks and legal harassment

simply for trying to protect the rights of society’s most vulnerable people, without discrimination,” Director Link said. “I encourage OSCE participating States to seriously consider the Hamburg Declaration, which outlines many important actions to safeguard human rights defenders from restrictions contrary to OSCE commitments.”

Effective and human-rights compliant policing in Roma and Sinti communities: OSCE/ODIHR training for law enforcement officers

This year, ODIHR developed and piloted an interactive two-day training on Effective and Human Rights Compliant Policing in Roma and Sinti Communities. It provides effective policing strategies in Roma communities that are fair and responsive to the needs of



people they serve, while engaging in practices that comply with human rights standards and are gender sensitive. A new informative brochure on the training was released in early December and is available in English and Russian at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/280556>

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Security needs, effective responses to intolerance and hate crimes against Christians discussed at OSCE/ODIHR event in Vienna



Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, and Cristina Finch, head of ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department, at the OSCE/ODIHR Conference on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Vienna, 14 December 2016. (OSCE/Micky Kroell)

The [Conference on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians](#) was organized by the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE/ODIHR in Vienna on 14 December 2016. Representatives of civil society, governments and international organizations took part in the event.

"Numerous tragic events this year are sad evidence to the fact that no OSCE participating State is immune to hate-motivated crimes and incidents. Bias and prejudice exist in one form or another everywhere. It is our responsibility to prevent and

respond to all manifestations of intolerance, including against Christians," said Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council.

"Identifying specific security needs through dialogue with Christian communities is a necessary first step in effectively addressing intolerance," said Cristina Finch, Head of ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Procurement and Contracting Co-ordinator

Location: Warsaw

Grade: G7

Closing date: 27 January 2017

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Intern, Human Rights Department

Location: Warsaw

Closing date: 26 December 2016

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

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