



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**  
***Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect***  
***and Understanding***  
**Vienna, 2-3 July 2015**

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**EU Recommendations**

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**To participating States:**

1. When addressing human rights violations, participating States, OSCE Institutions and field operations should not discriminate against or in favour of any belief.
2. Facilitate groups, associations and communities, existing on the basis of religious or non-religious beliefs, to peacefully operate and publicly manifest their beliefs, according to their legal status with respect for their autonomy.
3. If state registration exists as an option within a participating State, states should assess these measures against the OSCE/ODIHR “Guidelines on the legal personality of religious or belief communities,” and ensure that such measures do not infringe upon OSCE commitments and international human rights standards.
4. Support citizens and groups in challenging prejudices, stereotypes, denigration and hate speech expressed against all persons and communities, whatever their religious or non-religious beliefs. In this context, particular attention should be paid to the public discourse of political leaders and state officials, public training and educational programs, as well as to the media.
5. Recognise the positive role that free and independent media can have on preventing the increase of bias and prejudice and in promoting mutual respect and understanding, including through specific educational and awareness-raising programmes.



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6. Political leaders, elected and state officials and civil society should denounce any public manifestations of religious intolerance with a loud and clear voice and in a timely manner.
7. Promote opportunities for open dialogue between religious and non-religious groups within society and also with policy makers, on all relevant aspects of public life.
8. Draw upon the expertise of the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, particularly its legal expertise when developing legislation in the area
9. Ensure the Advisory Panel is sufficiently resourced

### **To ODIHR:**

10. Give due attention to the interplay between fundamental human rights, as well as between freedom of religion or belief and tolerance and non-discrimination issues when developing relevant OSCE events and activities.
11. Consider how to improve the visibility and accessibility and of the work of the Advisory Panel.