

# Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness & Resources for

## Hate Crime **VICTIM SUPPORT**



Developing practical tools for criminal justice system practitioners, victim support specialists and policymakers to:

- **Improve structures for hate crime victim support** by strengthening co-operation and integrating the efforts of state and civil society;
- **Build the capacity of criminal justice systems** to protect, engage with and assist hate crime victims; and
- **Strengthen specialist support services** for hate crime victims.

Through its victim-centred approach, the two-year project Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) aims to improve protection and support services for victims of hate crime across 41 OSCE participating States in Europe. A partnership between the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Association of Counseling Centers for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence in Germany (VBRG), EStAR is funded by the European Union and the German government.

Hate crime victim support is an essential and often overlooked element of a comprehensive response to hate crimes.

OSCE participating States have committed to ensuring that victims of hate crimes are protected, as well as having access to justice and the support they need. When states do not meet these commitments, victims of hate crimes are often left vulnerable and unprotected. This makes it important to increase the capacity and awareness of the

police as well as civil society organizations. Civil society and community organizations play an important role in providing support to hate crime victims. Adequate funding as well as communication and co-ordination between government and civil society are therefore key to ensuring that victims receive the support they need.

“The EStAR project will help states to create the structures and tools essential to ensuring that victims of hate crimes are protected, have full access to justice and receive the specialist support they need.”

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir  
Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

## Project activities

The project includes the development of several practical tools and a number of activities, tested and piloted during study visits, regional workshops and webinars. It will also share good practices and lessons learned at two conferences.

### Pillar 1: Support structures for hate crime victims:

- Compendium of good practices on co-operation between civil society and states;
- Four national diagnostic workshops;
- Regional workshop on the implementation of the EU Victims' Rights Directive;
- Regional workshop on creative ways to improve hate crime victim support systems; and
- Policy brief on structural arrangements, including recommendations.

### Pillar 2: Hate crime victims in the criminal justice system:

- Webinar for criminal justice practitioners on models of victim involvement in criminal proceedings;
- Compendium of good practices on conducting individual assessments of victims' needs;
- Guidance on conducting individual needs assessments;
- Model guidance on the sensitive and respectful treatment of victims;
- Training materials on the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims; and
- Webinar on alternative outcomes of criminal proceedings, including mediation and restorative justice.

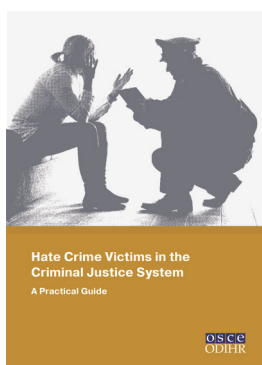
### Pillar 3: Specialist support services for hate crime victims:

- Model quality standards for specialist services for hate crime victims;
- Training materials for specialist support providers;
- Two regional pilot training workshops for support providers; and
- Policy brief on specialist support, including recommendations.

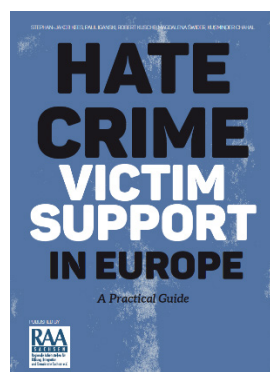
## Cross-cutting tools:

- A network of experts on hate crime victim support, made up of government and civil society representatives from 41 OSCE participating States;
- An overview of the needs of hate crime victims for policymakers, criminal justice and victim support staff;
- A baseline report on the status of victim support in project countries, highlighting good practices; and
- A diagnostic tool for states to assess shortcomings and strengths in national hate crime victim support structures and services.

Related ODIHR resource:



Related project partner resource:



### Contact details

For more information about the project, please visit <http://www.osce.org/odihr/hate-crime-victim-support> or contact [EstAR@odihr.pl](mailto:EstAR@odihr.pl)

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This factsheet was funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014–2020).