

**Supplemental Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief  
Roundtable for Civil Society**

**Recommendations by Civil Society Representatives  
9 July 2009**

From 2006 onwards, the OSCE human dimension events related to tolerance and non-discrimination have been preceded by civil society meetings where participants formulated recommendations to the OSCE participating States and to the OSCE institutions. These meetings have given civil society the opportunity to discuss the current issues and priorities related to the topics of the OSCE conferences, to inform governments of the results of their activities, to share best practices and to engage in coalitions and networks across the region. Since the meetings have resulted in pertinent and constructive recommendations, and since the OSCE has committed to strengthen the involvement of civil society at policy level, the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief was also preceded by a Roundtable for civil society.

The side event was attended by around 100 representatives of non-governmental organisations.

Recommendations generated by participants during the Roundtable can be found below:

1. Freedom of religion or belief should be mainstreamed in the work of ODIHR;
2. Participating States are encouraged to implement existing commitments on freedom of religion or belief according to international human rights standards. Participating States are encouraged to make use of the assistance available from ODIHR;
3. The rule of law should be recognized as an essential prerequisite for full and proper enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief;
4. Participating States are encouraged to actively create an atmosphere in the public space within which freedom of religion or belief can best flourish and in which religious and belief communities can engage in full and fruitful dialogue. This space should be open to all, and the public media can play an important role in the creation of this space.