

# Comprehensive Support for Hate Crime Victims



## **Strengthening Targeted Assistance and Response Structures for Hate Crime Victims in the OSCE Region (STARS).**

Protecting and supporting hate crime victims is an essential part of a comprehensive response to hate crimes and is often overlooked. The criminal justice system often fails to uphold hate crime victims' rights and respond effectively to their specific needs. At the same time, the availability of specialist hate crime victim support remains limited.

ODIHR facilitates the exchange of good practices, standards and capacity-building activities to improve hate crime victim support across the 27 countries of the European Union, which are also part of the OSCE region.

ODIHR works with experts, criminal justice professionals and policymakers in OSCE participating States and internationally to:

- Enhance the support to hate crime victims across the region; and
- Increase understanding and implementation of OSCE standards and EU laws on effective hate crime victim support.

The STARS initiative builds on the success of ODIHR's earlier project, Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) and aims to achieve the following:

- Develop further policy guidance on hate crime victim support;
- Train first responders and support providers to meet hate crime victims' needs; and
- Build platforms for dialogue and facilitate the exchange of good practices.

OSCE participating States have committed to putting in place a range of measures to record, collect, report, investigate and prosecute hate crimes as well as to support victims. In parallel, European Union Member States have to comply with legislation that specifically identifies hate crime victims as needing enhanced protection and support and sets out minimum standards for the measures that should be made available.

ODIHR directly supports the implementation of these commitments and laws by sharing knowledge and good practices with organizations and professionals working in this field and by developing standards and capacities on hate crime and hate crime victim support.

**“The STARS initiative will contribute to improving existing standards on hate crime victim support. It will also enable criminal justice institutions, government representatives and civil society organizations to provide effective support to hate crime victims.”**

*Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR First Deputy Director*

## Activities

ODIHR will develop policy guidance and work closely with partners to deliver strengthened hate crime victim support across 27 European Union countries, which are part of the OSCE region.

### Policymaking

- Managing the Working Group on Hate Crime Victim Support under the European Union's High Level Group On Combating Hate Speech And Hate Crime
- Drafting two, new guidance documents on hate crime victim support

### Building capacity

- Organizing a workshop to address gaps in national approaches to hate crime victim support
- Training to ensure the sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims by law enforcement
- Training to improve the quality of the specialized hate crime victim support delivered by civil society organizations

### Raising awareness

- Building platforms for dialogue and exchange of experiences by organizing informal, online discussions, networking spaces and in-person events
- Organizing two public webinars featuring leading experts and practitioners in the field of hate crime victim support

The STARS initiative is implemented in close cooperation with the European Commission and funded through the European Union initiative: “Support to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) for knowledge sharing and standard setting on hate crime including hate crime victim support” (CERV-2023-IM-CRAC/RIGH/2), with additional funding provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

### Resources

For tools, policy briefs and training courses, please visit the [Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support \(ESTAR\)](#) project webpage:

- Hate Crime Victims in the Criminal Justice System
- Understanding the Needs of Hate Crime Victims
- Hate Crime Victim Support: Policy Brief
- Diagnostic Tool for National Hate Crime Victim Support Systems
- Hate Crime Victim Support Building Blocks
- Sensitive and Respectful Treatment of Hate Crime Victims: Training Course for Criminal Justice Professionals
- The Sensitive and Respectful Treatment of Hate Crime Victims
- Quality Specialist Support Services for Hate Crime Victims: Training Course

### Partners

[Combating hate speech and hate crime – European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



For invitations to expert webinars or for further information about the initiative, please visit: [www.osce.org/odihr/stars](http://www.osce.org/odihr/stars) or contact ODIHR directly at [hcvictimsupport@odihr.pl](mailto:hcvictimsupport@odihr.pl)



**OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

Ul. Miodowa 10  
00-251 Warsaw  
Poland

Office: +48 22 520 06 00  
Fax: +48 22 520 06 05  
[office@odihr.pl](mailto:office@odihr.pl)  
[www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr)



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