



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna, 2- 3 July 2018

Countering Violence against Women – Everyone’s Responsibility

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing meetings on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR, for language but not for content. Responsibility, for the content, remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 2 July

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 533**
Title: Combating violence against women in conflict settings
Convenors: OSCE Gender Section and ODIHR
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Conflicts exacerbate existing gender inequalities, placing women at a heightened risk of various forms of gender-based violence. For most women in post-conflict environments, the violence does not stop with the official ceasefire or the signing of the peace agreement and often increases in the post-conflict setting.

The OSCE Gender Section and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organize a side event to discuss good practices and challenges to combating violence against women in conflict

settings. The event will include the screening of a clip from the upcoming documentary film ‘The Prosecutors’.

The objectives of the side event are to:

- Raise awareness and initiate a discussion among participants on the importance of legal recourse and prosecution of gender-based violence committed in conflict settings
- Discuss how addressing impunity and increasing accountability can lead to more effective prevention of gender-based violence in conflict settings, and what role the OSCE can play to strengthen these efforts

Snacks and refreshments will be served in the Ratsaal foyer

Tuesday, 3 July

Time: **13:00-14:30**

Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**

Title: Tracking Gender-based violence and discrimination in the North Caucasus through legal protection and empowerment of women and girls

Convenor: Stichting Justice Initiative

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: This side-event will discuss gender-based violence and discrimination in the North Caucasus region, where women are particularly vulnerable and may become victims of harmful traditional practices, such as honour killings and female genital mutilation, and where gender stereotypes are particularly entrenched. All forms of gender-based violence are systemic and often justified as a part of the local way of life and indeed commendable. For many years the local court system remained the single most underused mechanism for addressing violations of women’s rights, which is now beginning to change as more and more women seek legal protection—although not without pushback from some regional authorities. An examination of the results of a multi-republic empowerment program for women and girls implemented throughout the North Caucasus region also provides unique insights into the lives of thousands of girls and young women striving to fulfil their full human potential, sometimes against enormous odds.