BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

On 25 September, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) organised an event on addressing hate crimes and victims’ needs through effective cooperation with civil society, to discuss the experiences of various groups affected by hate crime, in order to understand their support needs, and to present the practical tools for Participating States and civil society organisations to be developed by ODIHR’s Enhancing Stakeholder Awareness and Resources for Hate Crime Victim Support (EStAR) project.

On 17 October, ODIHR, in conjunction with the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings (HDIM), hosted an expert roundtable on intersectionality and hate crimes, bringing together civil society, academics, practitioners, law enforcement representatives, religious leaders, and institutions. Including a SOGIESC perspective, the roundtable sought to identify good practices and challenges in data collection and investigating and prosecuting hate crimes based on multiple motives.

In November, ODIHR published its hate crime data for 2018. All 57 Participating States submitted information to ODIHR, but only nine of these provided statistics on the number of recorded hate crimes targeting LGBT people – down from 18 states for 2017. Civil society organisations and other non-state groups provided information about 812 homophobic, biphobic and transphobic incidents in 27 countries. ODIHR observes that transgender people are particularly at risk, and that serious physical assaults carried out by groups, especially around Pride events, are also common features of hate crimes against LGBT people. ODIHR also notes that underreporting and other gaps in recording mean that this data does not fully reflect the prevalence of hate crimes in the OSCE region.