

August 18th, 2020

Dear Colleague,

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is pleased to announce its forthcoming **Online Dialogue on Preventing and Addressing Harassment, Violence and Abuse within Armed Forces in the OSCE Region**, to be held between 7 - 18 September.

During the two weeks OSCE-ODIHR aims to bring together relevant stakeholders from across the OSCE region for an asynchronous discussion online - meaning that participation will not require availability at a specific hour. Time commitment expected from each participant is approximately one hour per day over the two-week period and will accommodate the interest and ability of each participant to engage in the discussions.

Some of the stakeholders encouraged to join are, among others:

- Personnel from conduct and discipline units
- Military gender advisers
- Medical and legal personnel providing victim counselling and support
- Any other personnel having a key function in preventing and addressing harassment, violence and abuse within the armed forces.

In addition, ODIHR will invite the participation of general inspectors or ombuds institutions for the armed forces, NHRIs working to support human rights compliance within the armed forces, representatives of international organizations and other key stakeholders working on human rights within armed forces.

The dialogues will be moderated by ODIHR and will feature topics including, but not limited to: training, policies and codes of conduct; survivor and witness protection; institutional mechanisms in support of duty of care and systems for sanctions and perpetrator accountability. Concept Note is attached for further information.

Participants are requested to register by Monday 31 August via google forms:

<https://forms.gle/UWVFSVVQhrL2of88A>

The annotated agenda and logistical details will be shared with the registered participants closer to the event.

Thank you in advance for your interest and support for this timely initiative.

Yours Sincerely,

Jonna Naumanen,

Human Rights Officer – Gender and Security

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights