

# TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS BELONGING TO MINORITIES, INCLUDING NATIONAL MINORITIES

WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE  
SIDE EVENT



3 October 2024  
08:30-09:30 CET



Warsaw, Sofitel  
Meeting room 5 - Belweder

## AGENDA

### Introductory remarks:

- **Dr. Tea Jaliashvili**, ODIHR First Deputy Director / Director's Alternate
- **Dr. Kari Johnstone**, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB)

**Brief research presentation** by **Ms. Catherine Barnshaw**, Assistant Officer, OSR/CTHB

### Panel discussion:

- **Ms. Itohan Okundaye**, Member, International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)
- **Ms. Mariaam Bhatti**, ISTAC Member
- **Dr. Joanna Talewicz**, President of the Towards Dialogue Foundation from Warsaw
- **Ms. Beata Bislim Olahova**, Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, ODIHR

Moderated by: **Ms. Alessia Vedano**, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, ODIHR

## BACKGROUND

The nexus between trafficking in human beings (THB) and discrimination based on race and ethnicity in the OSCE region has rarely been extensively investigated or addressed, despite indications which suggest that minority groups, including national minorities, face a higher risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

The enduring impact of deep-rooted racial and ethnic discrimination, combined with inadequate representation in decision-making processes – that hinders the ability of these groups to advocate for their specific needs – ultimately compound to heighten the vulnerability to human trafficking of individuals from minority groups as well as barriers to access services and justice.

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) recently published a joint research paper that aims to strengthen the evidence base of the specific issues faced by minorities as victims of trafficking and provide an overview of a highly complex and nuanced issue. This side event will be an opportunity to present and discuss the findings.

