



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

## **Addressing Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia: Challenges and Opportunities**

8 June 2021, 14:00–17:15 CET, online event

Intolerance and discrimination continue to be a concern across the region of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Racism and xenophobia negatively affect the lives of many members of different ethnic, religious or other groups. The impact is especially detrimental upon those who are also subject to intersectional aspects of discrimination when one or more protected characteristics intersects with gender.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) continuously receives information on various potential hate crimes motivated by, inter alia, anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. Additionally, as the ODIHR publication on [State responses to the COVID-19 pandemic](#) noted, many sources indicate numerous instances of intolerant discourse and hate-motivated attacks across the OSCE region against Asians and people of Asian descent, and particularly so in the early phase of the pandemic.

This online conference will be an opportunity for representatives of state institutions, civil society organizations and the general public to discuss challenges and opportunities in addressing anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. It will also provide a platform to elaborate on promising practices with regards to tackling manifestations of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia facing women, men and others. Furthermore, the meeting will enable discussions on current key concerns, trends and developments in this area.

Attendees will also explore how OSCE participating states and civil society organizations can amplify the voices of affected communities and leverage their critical role in addressing anti-Asian racism and xenophobia.

The conference would take place on Zoom, in English. Interpretation into Russian and International Sign Language (ISL) will be provided. To participate, please register here by 8 June, 2021 at 11:59 CET:

[https://odihr-pl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HmofmNfNShqJJfrypCotlg](https://odihr-pl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmofmNfNShqJJfrypCotlg)

For further inquiries, contact: Tatjana Perić, Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, OSCE/ODIHR at [tatjana.peric@odihr.pl](mailto:tatjana.peric@odihr.pl).

## **Addressing Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia: Challenges and Opportunities**

8 June 2021, all times in Central European Time (CET)

### **14:00–14:15 Opening statements**

Ms. Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Dr. Regina Polak, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

### **14:15–15:30 Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia: An Overview of the Situation in the OSCE Region**

*Moderator: Ms. Christie J. Edwards, JD, LL.M., Deputy Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE/ODIHR*

Lord Mayor of Dublin Hazel Chu, Ireland

Dr. Arjun Singh Sethi, civil and political rights writer and human rights lawyer, United States

Mr. Suresh Grover, Co-Director, The Monitoring Group, United Kingdom

Dr. Felix B. Chang, Professor of Law, College of Law, University of Cincinnati, United States

### **15:30–15:35 Break**

### **15:35–17:05 Addressing Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia: Examples of Inspiring Practice**

*Moderator: Ms. Tatjana Perić, Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, OSCE/ODIHR*

Mr. Adil Kaukenov, Director, Center for Chinese Studies "China Center," Kazakhstan

Ms. Jo-Ann Yoo, Executive Director, Asian American Federation, United States

Dr. Yeow Poon, Volunteer Core Team, COVID-19 Anti-Racism Group (CARG), United Kingdom

Dr. Elżbieta Kuzborska-Pacha, Senior Legal Adviser, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

### **17:05–17:15 Concluding statement**

*Ms. Christie J. Edwards, JD, LL.M., Deputy Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE/ODIHR*