



**BUDAPEST CENTRE**  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE  
AND MASS ATROCITIES



## **Governance, tolerance, and protection of minorities** **The human dimension of RtoP**

**Side Event to the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings**  
**Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**  
**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

18:00-20:00  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Meeting Room 3  
Sofitel Victoria Warsaw  
Królewska 11, 00-065  
Warszawa, Poland

The ODIHR defines human rights, rule of law, and democracy as the “human dimension” of the OSCE security strategy. Promotion of this human dimension is indeed a key element in the consolidation of international peace and security. In the context of the Responsibility to Protect, the human dimension can be considered an umbrella category encompassing all medium- to long-term strategies for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. Historical events and current crisis have proven that no country is immune from mass atrocity risk, and therefore long-term preventive strategies should be implemented in all contexts at all time. This is especially the case for those countries hosting large minority groups that to some extent face overt or cover forms of discrimination. Policies to build inter-group dialogue, foster tolerance, and ultimately protect the rights of minority members are central to the construction of resilient societies and to the dissipation of mass atrocity risk.

In light of the above, and by marking the 10th anniversary of the creation of the normative principle, the Budapest Centre wishes to discuss the “human dimension” component of the Responsibility to Protect in the context of the ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. In particular, the Budapest Centre wishes to highlight the importance of applying a mass atrocity lens to policy actions taking place in situations where the risk is low, yet constantly present, such as most OSCE member states. A panel of three experts, respectively from civil society, academia, and diplomacy, will engage in a discussion on best practices, lessons learned, and future challenges in the implementation of the human dimension of RtoP. A Budapest Centre in-house expert will moderate the discussion.