Press release

Embargo:
3 December 2014, 2:00pm

Civil society of the OSCE region calls for more efforts against torture and discrimination

Basel/Bern: 2/3 December 2014

About 120 participants from over 30 countries in the OSCE region call on their foreign ministers to take further action against torture and discrimination. These recommendations will be given to the OSCE Chairperson-in-office, Swiss President Didier Burkhalter, at the end of the two-day OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference, which is taking place in Basel from 2 to 3 December.

Civil society representatives from the OSCE region have formulated recommendations for the attention of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The series of recommendations are accompanied by the Basel Declaration on Rising Intolerance, Discrimination and Hate Crimes. Civil society organizations are therein appealing to OSCE participating States and institutions to intensify their efforts regarding tolerance and non-discrimination, including the fight against hate speeches and crimes. The parallel conference also features dealing with the past after violent conflicts and the scope of action for civil society actors.

In 2014, Switzerland chairs the OSCE. Thus, the annual OSCE Ministerial Council meeting of participating States will take place in Basel from 4 to 5 December. Civil society organizations from the OSCE region traditionally organize a parallel conference ahead of the ministerial conference to formulate recommendations from civil society for the attention of the government representatives. This year’s OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference is organized by the Civic Solidarity Platform in cooperation with swisspeace and with the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

The recommendations of the civil society organizations will be presented at the media conference with the OSCE Chairperson-in-office Didier Burkhalter. It will be streamed on 3 December from 5:00 to 5:30 pm on the webpage www.swisspeace.ch, live from the media center of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel.

Further information

swisspeace
Lukas Krienbuehl
Head of Communications
+41 31 330 12 07
+41 79 245 11 65
lukas.krienbuehl@swisspeace.ch

www.swisspeace.ch
www.civicsolidarity.org