



ROADMAP ON THE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF TORTURE

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We are also grateful to the OSCE participating States and OSCE institutions and structures, in particular ODIHR, as well as to international and regional organisations, civil society organisations, experts and practitioners who contributed to the drafting and consultation process. The third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of the Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship, held on 29–30 June 2026 under the title “Preventing Torture and Ill-Treatment – Strengthening Co-operation and Implementation”, provided an important forum for exchanging experiences and perspectives and helped shape the Roadmap. The Roadmap is the result of this broad process of dialogue and cooperation.

Foreword

The prohibition of torture is rooted in a simple principle: respect for human dignity. When a person is deprived of liberty and placed in the hands of public authorities, the responsibility of the State is particularly great. The absolute prohibition of torture therefore protects not only the individual; it is also a measure of the strength of the rule of law.

This principle is firmly anchored in international law and in our common commitments. Yet torture and other forms of ill-treatment persist. The challenge today is not to create more rules, but to make the rules we already have work.

This goes to the heart of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Lasting security depends on respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. At a time when our common security is under pressure, preserving this link is essential. This is why strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights is one of the priorities of Switzerland's OSCE Chairpersonship in 2026.

But principles make a difference only when they translate into practice. Effective safeguards, professional training, independent monitoring and accountability can turn the absolute prohibition of torture into concrete protection for individuals.

Switzerland has long promoted torture prevention within the OSCE. We did so during our 2014 Chairpersonship and supported the adoption by consensus of the 2020 Tirana Ministerial Council Decision. In 2026, we want to build on what participating States have already agreed and focus on implementation.



This is the purpose of this Roadmap. It brings together existing legal obligations and OSCE commitments and complements them with examples of good practice. It does not create new legal or political commitments. Nor are the good practices presented here new standards: they are examples intended to inspire, facilitate the exchange of experience and help participating States find practical ways to implement commitments they have already made.

This distinction matters. The credibility of the OSCE depends not on the number of norms we produce, but on our ability to give effect to those we have agreed.

I encourage participating States to use this Roadmap in that spirit: to exchange experience, learn from one another and strengthen the protection of every person against torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cassis'.

Ignazio Cassis
Federal Councillor
Head of the Federal Department
of Foreign Affairs Switzerland

Contents

Introduction	5
Purpose, Scope and Objectives of the Torture Prevention Roadmap	5

Chapter 1: Framework and Context	7
International Obligations and Standards	7
OSCE Commitments	7
The Tirana Ministerial Council Decision 7/20	7
Trends, Implementation Gaps and Challenges	8
The Role of the OSCE	9
Synergies with other Multilateral Institutions	10

Chapter 2: Implementation of OSCE Commitments	11
UPHOLD THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF ILL-TREATMENT	11
Action Point 1: Uphold the Absolute Prohibition of Torture	11
IMPLEMENT KEY PREVENTIVE MEASURES	12
Action Point 2: Eliminate Incommunicado and Secret Detention	12
Action Point 3: Ensure Lawful, Necessary and Proportionate Use of Force	12
Action Point 4: Introduce Non-Coercive Interrogation Methods	13
Action Point 5: Strengthen Fundamental Safeguards from the Outset of Deprivation of Liberty	14
Action Point 6: Exclude Evidence Obtained through Torture or Ill-Treatment	14
Action Point 7: Ensure the Security and Dignity of Persons Deprived of Liberty	15
FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY	16
Action Point 8: Criminalise Torture in Full Compliance with International Standards	16
Action Point 9: Ensure Accessible, Safe and Effective Complaint Mechanisms	17
Action Point 10: Investigate Allegations of Torture Promptly, Independently and Effectively	17
Action Point 11: Ensure no Complainant Suffers Reprisals	18
Action Point 12: Bring Perpetrators to Justice and Ensure Victim-centred justice	18
INVEST IN OVERSIGHT AND TRAINING	19
Action Point 13: Provide Comprehensive Operational Training	19
Action Point 14: Strengthen Independent and Effective Oversight of Places of Detention	20
PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND REDRESS	21
Action Point 15: Provide Redress for Victims and Survivors	21
Action Point 16: Improve Victim-Centred Rehabilitation	21
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP	22
Action Point 17: Support the Implementation of the Roadmap by OSCE Institutions and Structures	22
Action Point 18: Promote and Support the Implementation of the Roadmap by Participating States	23

Introduction

The prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (hereafter ‘other forms of ill-treatment’) is absolute under international law and applies in all circumstances and to all territories and places under a state’s jurisdiction or effective control. It is a peremptory norm (*ius cogens*) from which no derogation is permitted, whether in situations of armed conflict, public emergency, political instability or national security concerns.

Beyond the legal prohibition of torture, its prevention is intrinsically linked to the effective functioning of democratic institutions and the rule of law, respect for human dignity and human security. The effective prevention of torture strengthens the legitimacy of and trust in those democratic institutions, as authorities are subject to effective safeguards, independent oversight and judicial scrutiny. The rule of law hinges upon the guarantee of due process, access to legal remedy and the accountability of the authorities in cases of abuse.

From a human security perspective, torture prevention not only protects the physical integrity and psychological well-being of individuals – particularly those in situations of vulnerability, including persons deprived of liberty, migrants, women, persons with disabilities and minorities – but also helps to strengthen security, safety and justice.

For these reasons, the issue of torture and other forms of ill-treatment cannot be separated from the OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security, which recognises the interdependence of its three dimensions of security: the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human dimension. Preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment is an imperative reflected in the core commitments of the Helsinki Final Act, notably respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the principle that lasting security is inseparable from respect for human dignity, justice, and the rule of law.

Purpose, Scope and Objectives of the Torture Prevention Roadmap

This Roadmap consolidates existing international obligations, OSCE commitments and recognised good practices into an implementation-oriented reference document. It does not create new commitments or legal obligations. The examples of national implementation measures and good practices contained in the Roadmap are illustrative and non-prescriptive. They are intended to share practical experience and possible approaches to implementation and should not be understood as establishing additional legal or political commitments for participating States. It is intended to support participating States in translating existing commitments into action, in particular the Ministerial Council Decision 7/20 on the Prevention and Eradication of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by consensus in Tirana on 4 December 2020 (hereafter ‘the Tirana decision’).

The Tirana decision mentions the persistence of torture globally and in the OSCE region due, *inter alia*, to the ‘incomplete implementation of relevant obligations under international law and OSCE commitments’. The Roadmap seeks to address these gaps by identifying practical pathways for preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, strengthening accountability, and ensuring effective redress for victims and survivors.

While torture and other forms of ill-treatment take place in a range of contexts, the Roadmap focuses mainly on the criminal justice system. The Tirana decision 7/20 also calls upon participating States to fully implement, where applicable, ‘their obligations under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)’ (paragraph 3) and ‘under the 1949 Geneva Conventions with respect to the prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman, humiliating and degrading treatment in the context of armed conflict’ (paragraph 4). These obligations form an integral part of the broader framework for the prevention and eradication of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Given their breadth and complexity, however, a comprehensive treatment would considerably broaden the scope of the Roadmap. The Roadmap prioritises practical measures across the criminal justice system, while its guidance applies, as relevant, in situations of international and non-international armed conflict and occupation. Enforced disappearance is reflected in relevant measures, including safeguards against

incommunicado and secret detention, but is not addressed as a separate thematic area. Participating States' obligation to respect and ensure respect for the absolute prohibition of torture during armed conflict is highlighted in a separate box.

The objectives of the Roadmap are to:

- mobilise participating States towards the effective implementation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment;
- support the translation of existing legal obligations and political commitments into legislative and operational practices;
- encourage the exchange of good practices and synergies among multilateral and national actors involved in preventing and eradicating torture; and
- serve as a practical reference for national review, reform, and capacity-strengthening efforts.

Torture in the United Nations Convention against Torture

Article 1: Definition

"...the term 'torture' means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such a pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity..."

Article 2: Prevention and absolute prohibition

"1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.

2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture."

Chapter 1: Framework and Context

International Obligations and Standards

Since 2006, all 57 OSCE participating States have been party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights (ICCPR) and to the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT), which set binding standards for the prohibition and prevention of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.^{1,2} Additionally, 44 participating States are party to the Optional Protocol to UNCAT (OPCAT), which establishes a dual system of visits to places of deprivation of liberty. All of these OSCE participating States have a national preventive mechanism (NPM).

Of the 57 OSCE participating States, 46 are members of the Council of Europe (CoE) and have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.³

In addition, many participating States have subscribed to complementary soft-law standards, such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules), the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol, 2022 edition), and the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (Méndez Principles).

OSCE Commitments

In OSCE documents, declarations, and decisions of the Ministerial Council, OSCE participating States have

repeatedly and explicitly committed to upholding the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment and to taking measures to prevent and punish such practices:

- Copenhagen 1990, paragraph 16
- Moscow 1991, paragraph 23.1
- Budapest 1994, paragraph 20
- Istanbul 1999, paragraph 21
- Ljubljana 2005, decision 12/05 on Upholding Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Criminal Justice Systems
- Brussels 2006, declaration on the Criminal Justice System
- Helsinki 2008, decision 7/08 on Further Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area
- Athens 2009, Ministerial declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Tirana Ministerial Council Decision 7/20

The Tirana Ministerial Council decision 7/20 marked an important milestone within the OSCE. It is the most recent Ministerial Council decision on torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and the only OSCE decision focusing on such practices as a stand-alone issue. The Tirana decision tense: reaffirms the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. It tense: highlights specific areas in which participating States and OSCE executive structures might strengthen implementation. Its value lies in its operational focus, building on existing obligations under the UNCAT and drawing on standards set and work done by UN and regional bodies.

1 Andorra was the last OSCE participating State to ratify the ICCPR, in September 2006.

2 San Marino was the last OSCE participating State to ratify the UNCAT, in November 2006.

3 The Russian Federation was excluded from the Council of Europe on 16 March 2022 and is no longer (since 16 September 2022) party to the European Convention on Human Rights. The Russian Federation gave notification of its denunciation of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture in October 2025. In conformity with Article 22.2 of the Convention, the denunciation enters into force on 1 November 2026.

Trends, Implementation Gaps and Challenges

Despite its absolute prohibition and the repeated commitment of participating States to their eradication, torture and other forms of ill-treatment are still practised across the OSCE region. Armed conflicts, including Russia's war against Ukraine, have highlighted the severe use of torture, including sexual torture, other forms of ill-treatment, and the arbitrary detention of civilians and prisoners of war in situations of conflict and occupation (see box).

Among the risks of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, those related to detention conditions and treatment continue to raise serious concerns. Overall, the prison population has decreased since 2000 in the OSCE region, although situations differ between participating States. Three OSCE participating States rank among the ten highest prison population and female prison population rates in the world.⁴ While women represent a small minority of the prison population in the OSCE region (6% on average), the continued growth of the female prison population observed in the majority of participating States is a worrying trend, especially as many detention facilities do not adequately respond to their specific needs.⁵

Conditions in pre-trial detention remain a concern. According to the CoE-Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE), pre-trial detainees account for around 30% of the average prison population, with substantial disparities between participating States.⁶ Overcrowding remains a challenge in many states, as it affects not only living conditions, but also access to activities and to health care. The cumulative effect on treatment and conditions may amount to torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

Monitoring treatment and conditions in prisons and in other places of detention is essential to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment. It is therefore positive that prison oversight is improving across the OSCE region. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) regularly visits all 46 CoE member states that are also OSCE participating States. In participating States that have ratified the OPCAT, NPMs have access to all places of deprivation of liberty. Some participating States that have not yet ratified the OPCAT have introduced prison ombudspersons or other forms of oversight.

Risks of torture and other forms of ill-treatment are heightened during the first hours of deprivation of liberty. Excessive use of force during arrest, apprehension, and ill-treatment during police custody and questioning remain of concern. Effective legal and procedural safeguards, including those that ensure contact with the outside world, can help reduce these risks. In many states, further operational measures are needed to bridge the gap between legal safeguards and their implementation in practice. The CPT has recommended a greater emphasis on interview methods in line with the Méndez Principles. The Principles' translation, dissemination and use in training support their implementation in several participating States.

The excessive use of force by law enforcement during demonstrations, including in the context of increasing militarisation and the use of less-lethal weapons for crowd control, continues to present challenges. This has resulted in injuries and, in some cases, death during public protests. Practical tools have been developed to help law enforcement to facilitate peaceful assemblies, providing a framework for respecting the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment while ensuring public safety.⁷

Impunity remains a serious concern. Victims and survivors may be reluctant to lodge complaints because of a lack of trust in institutions, or a fear of reprisals. When complaints are filed, investigations may lack effectiveness and independence, contributing to low levels of prosecution and conviction. Reliable data on complaints is scarce, which further impedes the pursuit of accountability.

Access to rehabilitation for victims and survivors, particularly medical services, is improving in some participating States, but social and legal support is often lacking. Rehabilitation services are still provided largely by non-governmental organisations. The Committee Against Torture's general comment no. 3 (2012) on article 14 UNCAT provides a comprehensive framework for states to implement their obligations in this regard. The Charter of Rights for Victims and Survivors of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment for Punishment, presented by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture in March 2026, also serves as an important reference.⁸

4 World Prison Brief; www.prisonstudies.org; [Highest to lowest - prison population rate, Highest to lowest - female prisoners \(percentage of prison population\)](#) 12.06.2026.

5 World Prison Brief; [World_female_imprisonment_list_6th_edition.pdf](#)

6 Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP); [SPACE: Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics](#); the SPACE website is operated by the University of Lausanne.

7 UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly (ed.), 2024: Model protocol for law enforcement officials to promote and protect human rights in the context of peaceful protests and accompanying toolkit; OSCE/ODIHR (2020): Handbook on monitoring freedom of public assembly, second edition; UN Human Rights Committee general comment 37 (2020) on the right of peaceful assembly (article 21 ICCPR).

8 Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Alice Jill Edwards (2026): [Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: Charter of Rights of Victims and Survivors](#).

The Role of the OSCE

The OSCE is well positioned to contribute to the prevention and eradication of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in its capacity as a platform for political dialogue and through its comprehensive security framework, extensive field presence and operational focus on implementation.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is the main OSCE institution supporting participating States in the prevention and eradication of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Within ODIHR, this work is led by the Human Rights department and supported by a dedicated adviser on torture prevention. Other thematic portfolios – such as those on gender and security, human rights and anti-terrorism, and freedom of peaceful assembly – also cover aspects related to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. ODIHR's work is practical and geared towards implementation. It focuses on assisting participating States in fulfilling their obligations and OSCE commitments. This support is delivered through publications and guidance tools and the organisation of regional meetings of NPMs, sometimes in cooperation with the CoE and other partners.⁹

ODIHR also supports national stakeholders through capacity-building and technical assistance on the prevention and eradication of torture, often in cooperation with OSCE field operations and other executive structures. This work includes public assemblies, and is conducted alongside the judiciary, law enforcement, correctional institutions and other relevant national authorities.¹⁰

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) also works with security sector, law enforcement and other relevant criminal justice actors on transnational threats, while promoting the rule of law and full respect for human rights. This includes the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. The TNTD Action against Terrorism Unit and the TNTD Strategic Police Matters Unit provide policy advice and technical assistance, and cooperate with the ODIHR on strategies, events and publications.¹¹

Torture in Armed Conflict

Torture and other forms of ill-treatment are prohibited under international humanitarian law in both international and non-international armed conflicts, including under the four Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law.

The Tirana decision reaffirms this protection and calls on participating States to implement their obligations under the Geneva Conventions (para. 4). The Tirana decision also calls on participating States to 'fully cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in conformity with the participating States' obligations under international humanitarian law' (para. 13), in particular by allowing the ICRC access to all protected persons.

Participating States' obligations to respect and ensure respect for the absolute prohibition of torture include humane treatment and conditions of detention for prisoners of war, civilian internees and all persons hors de combat. This entails adequate food, water and medical care, specific protection for women and children, prompt registration of persons deprived of liberty and notification of their families, and prompt and impartial investigation of alleged grave breaches and other serious violations.

Where torture constitutes a war crime or crime against humanity, international criminal justice mechanisms may also apply, including, where applicable, through the exercise of universal jurisdiction under UNCAT and proceedings before competent international criminal courts and tribunals.

Within the OSCE, the 1994 Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security complements this framework through commitments on instruction in international humanitarian law, individual accountability for violations committed or ordered, and orders contrary to international humanitarian law and applicable international norms. Within their respective mandates and available resources, OSCE executive structures should integrate risks arising in situations of armed conflict and occupation into their torture-prevention work and take due account of relevant findings and recommendations of OSCE Moscow Mechanism reports, ODIHR monitoring as well as relevant monitoring by other credible actors.

9 ODIHR/Convention against Torture Initiative (2018): Providing rehabilitation to victims of torture and other ill-treatment; ODIHR/Fair Trials (2020): Eliminating incentives for torture in the OSCE region: baseline study and practical guidance; ODIHR/Penal Reform International (2023): Introduction to the Nelson Mandela Rules international training programme: Trainer's manual.

10 See, for example, the following OSCE ODIHR web pages: [A gender-responsive security sector](#); [Protecting human rights while countering terrorism](#); [Quick guide on preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence in places of deprivation of liberty](#) (see also box); [Protecting human rights in prisons while preventing radicalisation leading to terrorism or violence](#).

11 ODIHR-TNTD (2014): [Preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism: a community policing approach](#); TNTD (2020): [Non-custodial rehabilitation and reintegration in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism](#).

Synergies with other Multilateral Institutions

Participating States have repeatedly recognised the importance of cooperation between the OSCE and other international organisations, including the UN and the CoE.

The UN, the CoE and the OSCE all contribute to the prevention and eradication of torture and other ill-treatment through their respective mandates. Together, they support the development and interpretation of international standards, preventive monitoring, technical cooperation, capacity-building and assistance with national reforms. While their mandates and methods differ, they pursue the common objective of strengthening national systems that are capable of preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, protecting persons deprived of liberty, and ensuring accountability where violations occur.

Within this broader architecture, the OSCE plays its part through its comprehensive concept of security and its implementation-oriented approach. Torture prevention is closely linked to a range of issues that are addressed across the OSCE's three dimensions, including democratic governance, policing, criminal justice, detention management, the rule of law and human

rights. Through ODIHR and, where appropriate, its field operations, the OSCE supports participating States in fulfilling existing international obligations and OSCE commitments. Its instruments here are policy dialogue, technical assistance, practical guidance and good practice-sharing.

The OSCE also provides a platform to bring together policymakers and practitioners involved in the prevention of torture. These include representatives of government ministries, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, prison administrations, national preventive mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society and international organisations. These exchanges enable practical experience to be shared, strengthen professional networks, and help to identify implementation-oriented solutions throughout the criminal justice chain.

The work of the OSCE complements, rather than duplicates, the activities of the UN and the CoE. Cooperation between the three organisations has already demonstrated the value of this complementarity in areas such as support for national preventive mechanisms, detention monitoring, prison reform, professional training and the implementation of international standards.

Chapter 2: Implementation of OSCE Commitments

UPHOLD THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF ILL-TREATMENT

Action Point 1: Uphold the Absolute Prohibition of Torture

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"Uphold the absolute prohibition of all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment..." (paragraph 1);

"Fully implement their obligations under the UNCAT's Optional Protocol (OPCAT), if applicable ..." (paragraph 2);

Other OSCE commitments

- Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990)
- Ljubljana 2005 (decision no. 12/05 on Upholding Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Criminal Justice Systems)
- Athens 2009 (Ministerial declaration on the Occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UNCAT)

Legal obligations

- Obligations under the UNCAT
- Article 7 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Article 37 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Article 15 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment is guaranteed in the constitution or legislation.
- Ensure a whole-of-state approach and responsibility to ensure respect for the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.
- Reaffirm publicly at the highest political and institutional levels that torture and other forms of ill-treatment are unlawful and unacceptable, and that perpetrators will be held accountable.
- Adopt codes of ethics for law enforcement and correctional services that include the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as respect for human dignity and integrity.
- Cooperate with the relevant UN anti-torture bodies. This includes the submission of timely reports to the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee, and extending invitations for country visits to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other relevant special procedures.
- Support and engage with civil society organisations combating and preventing torture.

IMPLEMENT KEY PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Action Point 2: Eliminate Incommunicado and Secret Detention

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"... ensure that prolonged incommunicado detention and secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished, with the understanding that such detention can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment" (paragraph 7).

Legal obligations

- Article 10 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Soft law

- Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 43 to 45
- Bangkok Rules, rule 22

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that detention and interviews take place only in officially recognised and listed places; make the list of places of detention accessible upon request.
- Register any detained person immediately upon arrival at the place of detention, stating names and personal information, the exact timing of arrival and departure, and the names of persons involved in the arrest.
- Prohibit incommunicado detention and ensure that any restriction on contact with the outside world is exceptional, provided for by law and subject to review.
- Prohibit solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure for children and for pregnant women, women with infants and breastfeeding women.

- Limit solitary confinement (defined by the Nelson Mandela Rules as "the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact") to exceptional circumstances as a measure of last resort for as short a time as possible, and never for more than 15 consecutive days.
- Limit the use of solitary confinement for persons with mental and physical disabilities where it may exacerbate their condition.
- Ensure safeguards for persons held in high-security detention, including regular monitoring by medical personnel, access to legal counsel and family contact.

Action Point 3: Ensure Lawful, Necessary and Proportionate Use of Force

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"Incorporate education and information on the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment ... including, as appropriate, on the proportionate use of force ..." (paragraph 10); and

"Take appropriate effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and prohibit the production, trade, export, import and use of equipment that has no practical use other than for the purpose of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" (paragraph 21).

Other OSCE commitments

- Moscow 1991, paragraph 21.2
- Maastricht 2003, paragraph 27
- Brussels 2006, declaration on Criminal Justice 2006

Legal obligations

- Article 2 UNCAT Article 2

Soft law

- UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement
- UN Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and precaution, as well as non-discrimination, govern the use of force, particularly during arrest and apprehension and in the policing of public assemblies.
- Ensure that force is not used against persons who are already under the effective control of law enforcement officials.
- Include practical and operational training on the use of force and de-escalation in law enforcement training curricula, and provide ongoing refreshers including practical exercises.
- Prohibit dangerous techniques, including choking and methods capable of causing positional asphyxia.
- Impose strict regulations for the use of firearms and less-lethal weapons, including detailed standard operating procedures, and ensure accountability for that use.
- Prohibit the trade, procurement and use of equipment that has no practical purpose other than for torture and other forms of ill-treatment or for those that are inherently inhuman or degrading, as set out in the list published by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture.¹²
- Use restraints such as handcuffs only when strictly necessary and for the shortest time possible. Prohibit the use of restraints during labour, childbirth and immediately thereafter.
- Document every instance of the use of force and collect and publish data to facilitate oversight.

¹² Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2023): A/78/324: [Thematic study on the global trade in weapons, equipment and devices used by law enforcement and other public authorities that are capable of inflicting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment](#).

Action Point 4: Introduce Non-Coercive Interrogation Methods

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Abandon and refrain from the use of interrogation techniques that constitute torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including to obtain information and confession;” (paragraph 5).

Other OSCE commitments

- Copenhagen 1990, paragraph 16.5
- Moscow 1991, paragraph 23.1

Legal obligations

- Article 11 UNCAT
- Article 7 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Soft law

- Principles on effective interviewing for investigations and information gathering (Méndez Principles)

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Review interrogation methods, rules, instructions and practices with a view to preventing any cases of torture as required by article 11 UNCAT.
- Remind all personnel involved in questioning about the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.
- Translate the principles on effective interviewing for investigations and information gathering (Méndez Principles) into national languages.
- Integrate the Méndez Principles into the instructions, standard operating practices and initial and specialised training of law enforcement personnel and ensure regular supervision.
- Prohibit manipulative or deceptive practices that create a risk of false confessions or miscarriages of justice.

- Promote the systematic audio-visual recording of interviewees and adopt clear standard operating procedures on the use, storage, retention periods for and access to recordings, in conformity with legislation on data protection.
- Promote cooperation between law enforcement training and academia for research on good practices and challenges on non-coercive interviewing methods.

Action Point 5: Strengthen Fundamental Safeguards from the Outset of Deprivation of Liberty

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"Implement effective legal and procedural safeguards throughout all stages of detention, including early stages of police custody" (paragraph 6).

Other OSCE commitments

- Copenhagen 1990, paragraphs 5.15 to 5.19
- Moscow 1991, paragraphs i to vi
- Ljubljana decision 12/05 on upholding human rights and the rule of law in criminal justice systems

Legal obligations

- Articles 9 and 14 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Enact or strengthen legislative safeguards from the outset of deprivation of liberty, especially access to a lawyer and medical doctor, and ensure that relatives are notified.
- Inform the arrested person immediately, clearly and in a language they can understand of the reasons for their arrest, applicable safeguards and their rights, including the presumption of innocence, the right to remain silent and the right not to incriminate themselves.

- Ensure that relatives or a third party are notified immediately about the arrest and detention.
- Ensure the right to meet with a legal counsel prior to the interview and to have the lawyer present during the interview; this might apply to all interviewees, regardless of status; establish clear standard operating procedures detailing the notification of lawyers, the acceptable period to wait before they arrive, and waiver procedures, as relevant.
- Ensure that the presence of a lawyer and a trusted person is mandatory for interviews with children.
- Establish an accessible system of legal aid for persons who cannot afford legal counsel.
- Ensure access to a confidential medical examination upon request during police custody, with a view to preventing torture and other ill-treatment.
- Ensure that the arrested person is brought promptly before a judge, ideally within 24 hours of arrest.
- Where necessary ensure access to an interpreter, free of charge, and ensure that detainees of a foreign nationality can communicate with their consular authorities.
- Ensure that persons in situations of vulnerability are identified early in the process and that they benefit from additional safeguards from the outset of deprivation of liberty.

Action Point 6: Exclude Evidence Obtained through Torture or Ill-Treatment

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"... prohibit the use of information or a confession obtained through torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as evidence in any proceedings except against a person accused of torture as evidence that this offence took place" (paragraph 8).

Legal obligations

- Article 15 UNCAT
- Article 14 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that the exclusionary rule is established in legislation and applied in practice.
- Ensure that judges proactively ask questions about treatment received during arrest, custody or detention, and check that all statements have been made freely and without any form of coercion; in case of doubt request an investigation.
- Ensure that judges and prosecutors refuse to use evidence reasonably believed to have been obtained through torture or ill-treatment, and take appropriate steps to launch an investigation into how the evidence was obtained.
- Ensure that judges and prosecutors receive training on their obligation to exclude evidence obtained through torture or other forms of ill-treatment, and on identifying signs that torture or other forms of ill-treatment may have occurred.
- Ensure any circumstantial evidence deriving directly from a statement obtained through torture, ill-treatment or coercion is also excluded from the proceedings.
- Establish clear guidelines about what evidence must be produced by the prosecutor to prove that there was no torture or ill-treatment (burden of proof on the state).

Action Point 7: Ensure the Security and Dignity of Persons Deprived of Liberty

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"Respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person ..." (paragraph 7).

Other OSCE commitments

- Vienna 1989, paragraphs 23.2 and 23.3
- Moscow 1991, paragraphs i and ii

Legal obligations

- Article 10 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Soft law

- Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 1 and 1

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that prison regulations prohibit torture and other forms of ill-treatment and guarantee respect for human dignity, non-discrimination, the separation of categories of detainees and respect for the specific needs of women, children and persons in situations of vulnerability.
- Integrate human rights into the training curricula of prison staff at all levels; provide theoretical, practical and experiential lessons related to their duties and tasks to ensure the humane treatment of detainees while maintaining security and good order.
- Ensure that pre-trial detention is used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest time possible.
- Collect and publish disaggregated data on pre-trial detention, prison populations and overcrowding.
- Promote alternatives to pre-trial detention and , for the execution of sentences, non-custodial measures.
- Draw up a comprehensive strategy to deal with prison overcrowding that does not rely only constructing new facilities.

- Regularly organise national symposia on incarceration and detention with all relevant stakeholders to review laws, policies and practices.

Torture and Gender-Based Violence in Places of Deprivation of Liberty

Women and girls are at particular risk of torture and ill-treatment when deprived of liberty, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In closed facilities, SGBV can take many forms including, but not limited to, rape and sexual abuse as well as other sexually exploitative, humiliating acts. SGBV can also be used against men to humiliate, degrade or control them. Preventing and addressing SGBV in places of detention is an important component of torture prevention. The OSCE/ODIHR has published two important guides to assist states and monitoring bodies with this task.¹³

FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

Action Point 8: Criminalise Torture in Full Compliance with International Standards

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Make all acts of torture, attempts to commit torture, and acts of complicity or participation in torture offences, under domestic law, incorporating the definition pursuant to Article 1 of UNCAT and providing for appropriate penalties reflecting their grave nature ...” (paragraph 8).

Other OSCE commitments

- Budapest Decisions 1994, VIII The Human Dimension

Legal obligations

- Article 4 UNCAT

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that torture is a specific offence in national legislation, as required by article 4 UNCAT, and in full compliance with the definition in article 1 UNCAT and CAT jurisprudence.
- Ensure that the offence of torture is not subject to a statute of limitations and that orders from a superior may not be invoked as a defence.
- Review the penalties provided for under domestic law to ensure adequacy with CAT recommendations and jurisprudence.
- Ensure specific training and practical guidance for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials on the criminal offence of torture, including its definition, constituent elements and applicable penalties under national law.

¹³ OSCE/ODIHR (2024): [Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Places of Deprivation of Liberty – Quick Guide](#); ODIHR (2019): [Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Places of Deprivation of Liberty](#).

Action Point 9: Ensure Accessible, Safe and Effective Complaint Mechanisms

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Ensure that any detained or imprisoned person or their counsel have the right to make a request or complaint regarding the detained or imprisoned person’s treatment to relevant authorities, in particular when torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment may have been applied, and ensure that such request or complaint will be promptly dealt with and replied to without undue delay ...” (paragraph 9).

Other OSCE commitments

- Moscow 1991, paragraph 23.1. (ix and x)

Legal obligations

- Article 13 UNCAT

Soft law

- Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 56 and 57
- Bangkok Rules, rule 25.1

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that legislation guarantees an effective right to complain, as required by article 13 UNCAT.
- Inform the detained person clearly and in a language they understand about the right to complain, for example by displaying posters in places of detention.
- Provide an accessible internal procedure for detained persons to present a request or a complaint to the prison governor that is not filtered by other staff.
- Put in place a system for detainees to make complaints externally; the system should be accessible daily and be confidential, such as complaint boxes in places of detention.
- Remind prison personnel about the right of detainees to complain, and that there must be no reprisals.

- Entrust an independent body such as a national human rights institution with receiving and investigating allegations, or establish a separate independent mechanism.
- Collect and publish disaggregated data on complaints, including by institution, geographical areas, sex and age of complainants.

Action Point 10: Investigate Allegations of Torture Promptly, Independently and Effectively

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Ensure that all allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as wherever there are reasonable grounds to believe that such an act has been committed, are investigated promptly, effectively, thoroughly, and impartially by competent and independent national authorities ...” (paragraph 14).

Other OSCE commitments

- Moscow 1991, paragraph 23.1.

Legal obligations

- Article 12 UNCAT

Soft law

- Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 57.3 and 71
- Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol)

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure investigations both criminal and disciplinary are conducted automatically in cases of visible signs of abuse or injury, unusual circumstances or death in custody.

- Ensure the body responsible for the investigation is not institutionally or hierarchically connected to the alleged perpetrators, and has the necessary investigatory power to question complainants and alleged perpetrators, conduct forensic medical examinations, obtain information and summon witnesses.
- Ensure that investigations are initiated without delay where there are reasonable grounds to believe that torture or other forms of ill-treatment may have occurred; ensure that an independent medico-legal examination is conducted promptly, based on the Istanbul Protocol.
- Ensure that all relevant evidence, such as custody records, medical records and other material evidence, is promptly secured and preserved.
- Ensure that allegations of sexual and gender-based violence are investigated promptly.
- Introduce a trauma-informed and victim-centred approach to investigative processes, including interviews.
- Ensure that victims are informed about the initiation and progress of investigations.
- Make the outcome of the investigation public, where appropriate and while respecting the rights and privacy of victims, witnesses and other persons concerned.
- Consider establishing a national system for collecting data on complaints, investigations and sanctions, with appropriate safeguards for personal data.

Action Point 11: Ensure no Complainant Suffers Reprisals

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Ensure that ... neither the detained or imprisoned person nor any complainant or witness will suffer any prejudice or reprisal as a consequence of their request, complaint or any evidence given” (paragraph 9); and

“... ensure that complainants and witnesses are protected against ill-treatment and intimidation as a consequence of their complaint or evidence given” (paragraph 14).

Other OSCE commitments

- Moscow 1991, paragraph 23.1. (x)

Legal obligations

- Article 13 UNCAT
- Article 21 OPCAT

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Adopt legal and practical measures to protect complainants and witnesses against threats, intimidation, bribery and other reprisals or retaliatory measures.
- Ensure that complainants and victims are interviewed safely and respectfully, without coercion.
- Ensure that appropriate disciplinary or criminal measures are taken in cases of reprisals.
- Closely monitor the use of counter-complaints by law enforcement and other institutions following a complaint.
- Closely follow up the situations of persons deprived of liberty who have filed complaints, in order to protect them against reprisals such as a deterioration in their detention conditions, placements in other facilities, the withholding of medical care or harassment.
- Take measures to protect people, victims, witnesses at risk of reprisals, including persons in contact with NPMs, national human rights institutions and other oversight bodies.

Action Point 12: Bring Perpetrators to Justice and Ensure Victim-Centred Justice

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Ensure that those who encourage, instigate, order, tolerate, acquiesce in, consent to or perpetrate acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment are held responsible, brought to justice and punished in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence, including the officials in charge of a place of detention or other place in which persons are deprived of their liberty where the prohibited act is found to have been committed” (paragraph 15).

Other OSCE commitments

- Copenhagen 1990
- Budapest 1994, VIII The Human Dimension
- Brussels 2006 declaration on Criminal Justice System
- Brussels decision no. 5/06 on Organised Crime, paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13

Legal obligations

- Articles 5 to 7 UNCAT

Soft law

- Updated UN set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity (2005)

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ensure that prosecutors and courts prioritise torture cases, including fast-track procedures for serious cases.
- Ensure that findings of torture or other ill-treatment lead to prompt prosecution and disciplinary action.
- Address institutional barriers to justice, including a lack of judicial independence, corruption and other obstacles to effective investigation and prosecution.
- Refrain from adopting or applying amnesties, pardons or similar measures that would prevent the investigation and prosecution of acts of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, or undermine victims' rights to an effective remedy.
- Ensure accountability, in accordance with applicable law, also for superiors who order, instigate, consent to or acquiesce in acts of torture.
- Ensure that victims and survivors, and where applicable their legal representatives, are able to participate effectively in investigative proceedings and are kept informed about the progress of the case.
- Ensure that victims and survivors of torture and other ill-treatment have access to due civil process, regardless of any criminal proceedings.
- Make information on the outcome of proceedings public; collect and publish statistics on the number of cases lodged and prosecuted and the penalties imposed, while ensuring that personal data is protected.

- Implement the jurisdictional and extradition obligations under Articles 5 to 8 under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including by establishing jurisdiction where required and, where an alleged perpetrator is present in the national territory and is not extradited, submitting the case to the competent authorities for prosecution.

INVEST IN OVERSIGHT AND TRAINING

Action Point 13: Provide Comprehensive Operational Training

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

"Incorporate education and information regarding the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the training of law enforcement personnel, civil, military and medical personnel, public officials and other persons who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment ..." (paragraph 10).

Other OSCE commitments

- Copenhagen 1990, paragraph 16.4
- Budapest 1994, VIII The Human Dimension
- Bucharest 2001, paragraph 1

Legal obligations

- Article 10 UNCAT

Soft law

- Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 75 and 76
- Bangkok Rules, rules 31 to 33

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- In initial and ongoing training curricula, include mandatory lessons on the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, on respect for human dignity and the corresponding duties of staff, including the obligation to report instances of torture to superiors, as required by article 10 UNCAT.
- Focus on skills and attitudes to prevent torture and other ill-treatment in operational situations such as arrest, the use of force, the use of restraints, crisis situations, or when dealing with persons in situations of vulnerability.
- Integrate learning on ethical behaviours and integrity into torture prevention training.
- Promote curricula based on key competences such as communication and interpersonal skills, safety management including dynamic security and de-escalation techniques, medical confidentiality, suicide prevention, first aid, individual risk assessments and the use of weapons and firearms.
- Promote cooperation between police and prison training institutions and relevant external actors, including universities, research institutions, civil society organisations and independent monitoring bodies.
- In the development and delivery of training ensure that training teams combine professional trainers with relevant practitioners and external experts; offer a blend of theoretical instruction and practical and experiential learning, including simulations, case studies, role-playing, videos, on-site training and mentoring.

Action Point 14: Strengthen Independent and Effective Oversight of Places of Detention

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Support the efforts of relevant national actors, such as national preventive mechanisms, national human rights institutions or other national bodies or mechanisms, active in preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and for those, who have ratified the OPCAT, to fulfil their obligation to designate or establish national preventive mechanisms that are independent, adequately resourced and effective” (paragraph 11).

“Ensure full and ongoing government cooperation, in line with their respective obligations under international law, with applicable international preventive bodies or mechanisms ... and with relevant national bodies, such as national human rights institutions, including by allowing unrestricted access to places of detention if such access is an obligation for a participating State under the international law” (paragraph 12).

Other OSCE commitments

- Ljubljana 2005, decision no. 12/05 on Upholding Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Criminal Justice Systems
- Athens 2009, Ministerial declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Adoption of UNCAT

Legal obligations

- Article 2 UNCAT
- OPCAT

Soft law

- Nelson Mandela Rules, rules 83 to 85
- Bangkok Rules, rule 25.3

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Ratify and implement OPCAT and ensure regular monitoring of all places of deprivation of liberty by independent national monitoring bodies.
- Ensure that national monitoring bodies, including NPMs, have the necessary legal basis, independence, resources and multidisciplinary expertise to carry out their mandate effectively, with due regard to gender balance and the inclusion of health professionals.
- Ensure that monitoring bodies can conduct unannounced visits, freely select places to visit and persons to interview confidentially, and have access to all relevant information and records concerning treatment and conditions of detention.
- Follow up to monitoring bodies' reports and recommendations including through dialogue between monitoring bodies and relevant authorities on the implementation of recommendations, and, where appropriate, interministerial coordination.

- For states parties to the OPCAT and/or the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT): cooperate fully with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and/or CPT before, during and after visits, facilitate direct engagement with national monitoring bodies, and give due consideration to the publication and implementation of their reports and recommendations.
- Promote regular dialogue and exchange among national authorities, NPMs, national human rights institutions, international monitoring bodies and civil society on challenges and good practices in detention monitoring.
- Promote the transparency and accountability of national monitoring mechanisms, including regular public reporting and engagement with parliaments and other relevant national stakeholders.

PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND REDRESS

Action Point 15: Provide Redress for Victims and Survivors

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Provide redress for the victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, encompassing effective remedy and adequate, effective and prompt reparation, which should include restitution, fair and adequate compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, taking into full account the specific needs of the victim” (paragraph 16).

Legal obligations

- Article 14 UNCAT

Soft law

- UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Enact legislation enabling redress for victims of torture and other ill-treatment, as required by article 14 UNCAT and in line with the definition and elements of the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy, i.e. restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantee of non-repetition.
- Include, at a minimum, elements of acknowledgment of wrongdoing and measures to prevent similar violations from happening in the future.
- Raise public awareness about redress legislation and reparation mechanisms.
- Ensure that victims and survivors have access to free, qualified legal advice.
- Ensure that victims and survivors can seek reparations through civil proceedings independently of criminal proceedings.
- Ensure judgments are executed promptly, including compensation payments.
- Ensure victims and survivors can express their views, and that these views are taken into account in determining forms of reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Action Point 16: Improve Victim-Centred Rehabilitation

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Ensure that appropriate rehabilitation services are promptly available without discrimination to all victims and take effective measures for ensuring a safe and enabling environment for accessing and providing rehabilitation services to victims of torture” (paragraph 17);

“Consider developing measures to support all persons affected by torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including victims’ children and other immediate family members” (paragraph 18); and

“Promote dissemination of information for victims about the availability of rehabilitation services and ensure that the procedures for obtaining rehabilitation are transparent” (paragraph 19).

Legal obligations

- Article 14 UNCAT

Soft law

- UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
- Charter of Rights of Victims and Survivors of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2026

Examples of National Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Provide accessible rehabilitation services through national health and social systems and/or financial support to non-governmental rehabilitation services.
- Disseminate information about available medical, psychological and legal services that can support victims and survivors of torture.
- Ensure that rehabilitation services guarantee the safety and personal integrity of the victims and survivors, their families and communities, and are trauma-informed and confidential.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and viability of rehabilitation services with input from victims and survivors.
- Ensure that access to rehabilitation services is prompt and is not conditional on the pursuit of a judicial remedy.
- Ensure that service providers, including civil society organisations, receive sufficient support to assist victims, survivors and their families effectively.
- Encourage peer-to-peer support and the development of survivor networks as part of comprehensive rehabilitation services.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP

Action Point 17: Support the Implementation of the Roadmap by OSCE Institutions and Structures

Examples of Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Mainstream torture prevention, where relevant, across OSCE dimensions and areas of work, and strengthen cooperation and knowledge-sharing among relevant OSCE autonomous institutions and structures, including ODIHR and TNTD.
- Promote awareness and use of the Roadmap in relevant OSCE activities, guidance, training and capacity-building, and through relevant communication channels.
- Facilitate dialogue, peer exchange and the sharing of good practices for the implementation of the Roadmap among participating States, national authorities, NPMs and practitioners.
- Upon request and subject to available resources, provide expertise and technical assistance to participating States and support NPMs, national human rights institutions and other independent oversight bodies, including training and expert-level exchange.
- Cooperate with relevant international and regional organisations and human rights mechanisms, in particular the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, to share expertise and promote complementarity.
- Engage civil society, victims and survivors and other relevant stakeholders in activities related to the Roadmap, integrate victims' and survivors' perspectives, and take appropriate steps to prevent and address intimidation or reprisals against persons engaging with OSCE institutions.

Engaging with civil society organisations and victims and survivors of torture and other forms of ill-treatment

The Tirana decision states: “Support the efforts of civil society organisations working to prevent and combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enable their active contribution, as appropriate and make use of information provided by them in alleged cases of torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;” (paragraph 20).

Independent civil society organisations are important actors in the prevention and eradication of torture. They are part of advocacy for policymaking and reform, accountability, and redress and rehabilitation for victims and survivors. They can also support implementation through training, monitoring, and working with national human rights institutions as well as NPMs. They can play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Roadmap.

Victims and survivors should be engaged as stakeholders, independently or through civil society, in efforts to prevent and eradicate torture. The Charter of Rights of Victims and Survivors of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment provides a reference framework for their involvement.

Action Point 18: Promote and Support the Implementation of the Roadmap by Participating States

Tirana decision

Participating States are called upon to:

“Continue to make use of, or consider drawing on, ODIHR’s advice, expertise and technical assistance in the field of preventing and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” (paragraph 22).

Examples of Implementation Measures and Good Practices

- Use the Roadmap as a practical reference for reviewing and strengthening national laws, policies and practices, and consider an appropriate national approach to implementation that involves relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- Share experience and good practices on the implementation of the Roadmap, including through relevant OSCE meetings and voluntary peer exchanges, and report voluntarily on implementation measures in relevant OSCE fora.
- Keep torture prevention on the OSCE agenda, including under future OSCE chairpersonships.
- Support the capacity of ODIHR to provide expertise over the long term on the prevention of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including through the secondment of a dedicated advisor.
- Promote the dissemination and practical use of relevant standards and tools referenced in the Roadmap, including the Méndez Principles.
- Engage civil society, independent oversight bodies, victims and survivors, and relevant professional organisations in the implementation of the Roadmap.
- Cooperate with relevant international and regional mechanisms for the prevention and eradication of torture, and promote complementarity between their work and the Roadmap.
- Where appropriate, draw on the Roadmap and information on its implementation in the Universal Periodic Review and other relevant human rights processes.



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