One of the main roles of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) is to protect individuals from human rights violations, and this includes protecting women and men, girls and boys. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) has prepared a *Handbook for NHRIs on Protecting and Promoting Women's Rights and Gender Equality*, aiming to support NHRIs work on women’s rights and gender equality specifically. Based on a survey of NHRIs and extensive consultations held across the OSCE region, the Handbook offers examples and questions for consideration to guide NHRIs in strengthening their institutional capacity as well as their practical work on women’s rights.

The Lunch Event will discuss the main findings of the Handbook as well as practical strategies for NHRIs to advance women’s rights and gender equality.

**Agenda**

13.15 – 13.25  
**Welcome and opening remarks**  
- Signe Poulsen, Human Rights Adviser, OSCE/ODIHR

13.25 – 13.45  
**Presentation of the Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Protecting and Promoting Women's Rights and Gender Equality**  
- Ajla van Heel, Gender Officer, OSCE/ODIHR  
- Monette Maillet, Director General, Canadian Human Rights Commission  
- A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Policy Adviser and Regional Project Manager – Rule of Law, Human Rights and Justice, UNDP Europe and CIS

13.45 – 14.25  
**Discussion of practical strategies for NHRIs to advance women’s rights and gender equality**  
- Moderator: Signe Poulsen, Human Rights Adviser, OSCE/ODIHR

14.25 – 14.30  
**Conclusions and closing remarks**  
- Ajla van Heel, Gender Officer, OSCE/ODIHR