

Freedom of Religion or Belief
and Security
Policy Guidance

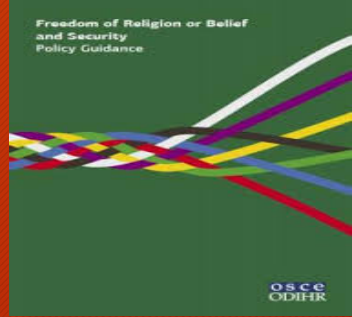


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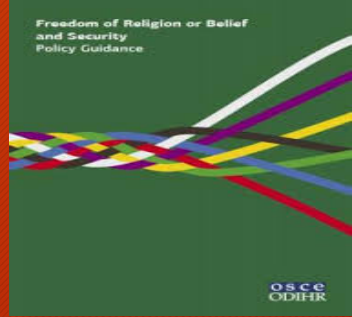
Are FoRB and security really irreconcilable?



- The context
- The OSCE notion of comprehensive security
- Guiding principles for reconciling FoRB and security
- Guiding principle in action: examples

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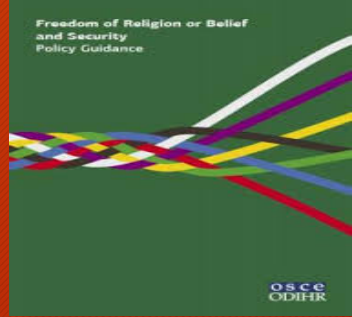
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- The securitization of religion as global trend, affecting also democratic countries
- Examples
- Need to avoid clashes between FoRB and security

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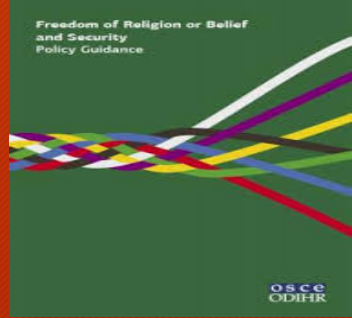


FoRB as human right

- Internal and external dimensions
- Individual and collective dimensions
- Legitimate restrictions

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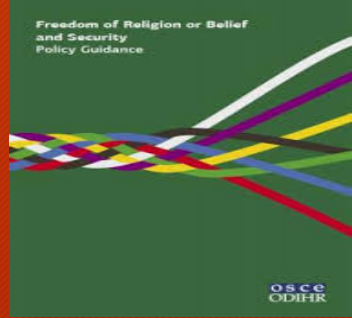


Is security a human right?

- The traditional approach: security as a limitation of FoRB
- Alternative approaches: security as a meta-right; human security
- The polysemous nature of security
- *Personal security* as a human right that States have the obligation to protect (art. 12 SA constitution). National security, State security, international security, etc. as tool to attain this goal.

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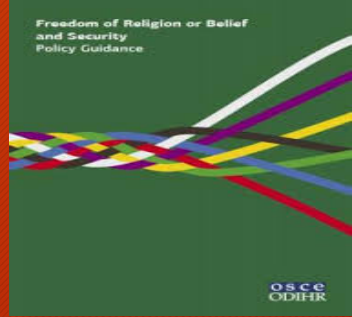


Art. 12 of the South African constitution: “Everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right [...] to be free from all forms of violence from other public or private sources”

Personal security as a human right that States have the obligation to protect. National security, State security, international security, etc. as tool to attain this goal.

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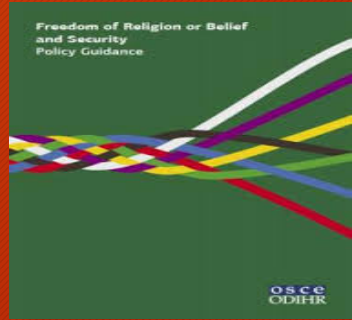


Hotspots

- Registration of religious organizations
- Religious extremism
- Places of worship
- Conversion

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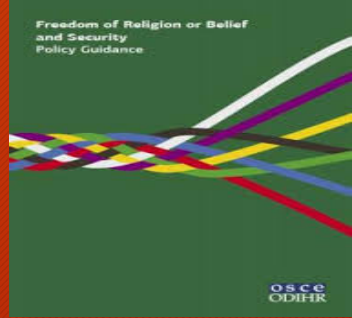


Conversion

- Right to convert (myself): unlimited
- Right to convert (others): limitations
- Coercive forms of persuasion (violence, abuse, enticement, etc.) as violation of personal security

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Registration of religious communities

- Access to legal personality as a component of collective FoRB
- What about “extremist” religious groups?
- Distinguishing extremism from violent extremism
- Extremist views do not threaten personal security as long as they are not translated into violent acts or incitement to violence

N.B. And, in any case, is denial of legal personality the most effective way to combat violent extremism?