



Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2026

Warsaw Poland, 5 - 15 October 2026

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

Organized by The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 5 October

Time:	17:30-18:30
Venue:	Meeting Room 1 – Belweder
Title:	Domestic War Crimes Adjudication in Ukraine: A Driver of International Law and Justice
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: As accountability for atrocity crimes increasingly shifts to national courts, international justice observers have posited that “the future of war crimes is domestic.” OSCE participating States’ efforts to fill voids left by international tribunals and mechanisms presents new and emerging legal issues before their courts. This is particularly true in Ukraine. Since 2022, Ukraine has registered over 250,000 potential cases of international crimes and issued more than 150 judgments. With the increased caseloads has come increased responsibility to uphold obligations under international law, as well as

OSCE participating States' commitments to hold individuals "personally accountable for war crimes and acts in violation of international humanitarian law" (Stockholm, 1992) and guarantee a fair trial through the provision of competent counsel (Ljubljana 2005). This side event will examine linkages between the domestic adjudication of war crimes and international law, including the principle of complementarity; the importance of the appropriate qualification and documentation of violations; and the application of norms of international criminal law, humanitarian, and human rights law. It will reflect on increasing interest in Ukraine's national jurisprudence as a driver of enforcement and advancement of international humanitarian law and international criminal law. To this end, panelists will reflect on the types of international crime cases before Ukraine's domestic courts. The side event is convened by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its Ukraine Project, titled "Supporting the Human Dimension of Security in Ukraine in Times of Crisis." Under its auspices, ODIHR has developed "The Benchbook on Practitioner's Guidance in the Adjudication of International Crimes Cases" in partnership with Ukraine's Supreme Court, which aims to support Ukrainian judges in the qualification of international crimes, the application of relevant sources of international law, as well as consideration of international norms and standards of fair trial at the domestic level.

Tuesday, 6 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: The Role of Police in Preventing Torture and Death Penalty: investigative safeguards, coerced confessions, reliability of evidence and the irreversible consequences of miscarriages of justice
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The discussion will address safeguards during arrest, police custody and interviewing; professional training and accountability of investigators; reliability of evidence; and practical approaches to implementing non-coercive investigative interviewing. The event will also consider the particular importance of these safeguards in cases involving the death penalty, where coerced confessions, unreliable evidence and miscarriages of justice may have irreversible consequences. Bringing together experienced law enforcement practitioners and international human rights experts, the event will focus on practical approaches that can strengthen both the effectiveness of criminal investigations and the protection of fundamental rights.

Speakers:
Dr Susan Kerr Head of the Human Rights Department,
Elina Steinerte (Chair of the Board CDJI, member of SPT)
Ales Bialiatski. (via video), Founder and President of the Ales Bialiatski Foundation, President of HRC Viasna
Azamat Shambilov (President of CDJI organisation)
Gavin Seeley and Neil Rawlinson (UK MET Police)

Wednesday, 7 October

Time: **09:00-10:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**

Title: Surveillance and civic space: protecting peaceful assembly and human rights defenders
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Digital technologies are transforming how authorities facilitate assemblies, while also expanding their ability to monitor human rights defenders and civic activity. AI, advanced image analysis, and automated data processing allow law enforcement to track, observe and identify individuals involved in public or online activities on an unprecedented scale. Remote identification tools are also reshaping relations between police and the public, influencing how suspicion is formed and reducing the possibility of remaining anonymous in public. These developments have significant implications for the right to peaceful assembly, the safety and work of human rights defenders, and civic space more broadly, as surveillance can deter participation, expose activists and organisations to greater scrutiny, and create a chilling effect on advocacy, association and public debate. The side event will shed light to different forms of surveillance used during protests and to monitor human rights defenders, and will explore how the growing use of surveillance affects democracy and civic space, including by discouraging participation, limiting public scrutiny, and constraining activism. The discussion will also focus on what public authorities, national human rights institutions, independent monitors, and civil society can do to ensure that surveillance is used in line with international human rights standards, and is transparent, subject to public oversight and accountability. It will explore positive legislative initiatives in the OSCE participating States, reflect on work of NRHIs to ensure oversight over surveillance practices and note successful practices from civil society organizations. During the side event, ODIHR will launch its publication, Surveillance of peaceful assemblies in the OSCE region: human rights implications and strategies for independent monitoring.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: Immersive Experience: How technology shapes our society? Step inside the Toxic Triangle
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: How much of my online experience is actually mine? Who, what, or whose interests are shaping it? In partnership with Tactical Tech, ODIHR invites you to step into the answers. This immersive experience puts you directly inside the dynamics of the digital environment. Not just to hear about them but to feel them. Then, we will unpack what we saw and experienced and discuss how different stakeholders can help address emerging challenges and shape a safer online environment. This experience is part of the Toxic Triangle project, helping decision-makers and civil society understand how AI, social media, and commercial incentives shape young people's online experiences. Through six real-world scenarios, participants step into the shoes of a young social media user — from scrolling through AI-shaped content and deepfakes to navigating other harmful online environments. By stepping inside the “toxic triangle”, participants will gain a behind-the-scenes look at the technologies, business models, and systems that drive it, followed by a facilitated discussion on how these systems operate, generate profit, and affect young people's lives. This is not a briefing; it is an experience. We are moving past “What did we hear?” to “What did we see, feel and live?” That shift matters: understanding AI's impact on human rights and democracy is a shared responsibility and not something we can simply observe from the sidelines. It is also a chance to reflect on what this means for human rights defenders working at the intersection of human rights and technology, and to push for spaces where young people are not just discussed, but heard in shaping the policies that govern their digital lives. Bring your laptop

or e-tablet and earphones. A limited number of e-tablets will be available in the room for your use. Refreshment provided.

Speakers:

Dominika Knoblochová, Tactical Tech,

Marine Constant, Human Rights Adviser, Capacity Building Co-ordinator ODIHR,

Adelisa Sejtanic, OSCE Pool of Young Experts

Thursday, 8 October

Time: **16:00-17:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**

Title: ODIHR's practical guidance on intersectional approach to addressing hate crime and providing hate crime victim support

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English

Summary: While hate incidents based on multiple bias motives are documented in ODIHR's Hate Crime Report, most national and international institutions remain insufficiently equipped to effectively address the intersectional nature of hate crimes. Further strengthening is often needed to ensure that legislation protects those positioned at the intersection of protected groups, hate crime data effectively covers intersectional grounds, investigations consider different nuances of harm, and support to victims take into account their multiple individual characteristics. To assist OSCE pSs in meeting their commitments and ensuring better hate crime victim support, as well as to encourage more positive interactions between law enforcement professionals and victims of hate crimes, ODIHR is producing a guidance document exploring the practical ways to address intersectionality in hate crime and hate crime victim support work. The document will provide clear guidance on intersectionality in hate crime, developing a practitioner-friendly definition, explaining the concepts of intersectional targeting and intersectional impact, collecting good practices in applying the principles of intersectionality, and recommending concrete measures to strengthen institutional policies. This work is a result of ODIHR's partnership with EEA and Norway Grants, which supports efforts to strengthen human rights, democracy and the rule of law across OSCE pSs. The purpose of the side event is to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of intersectional approaches in addressing hate crime.
- Present the upcoming guide and its practical steps that governments, in cooperation with civil society, can undertake to better address the needs of individuals affected by hate crime.
- Share good practices and insights from OSCE pSs.

Friday, 9 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**

Title: Can Parliaments Win Back Public Trust?: From Codes of Conduct to a Culture of Integrity

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English (with interpretation to Romanian and Ukrainian)

Summary: Across the OSCE region, declining public confidence in democratic institutions remains a significant challenge to democratic governance. Public confidence in parliaments is closely linked to

the conduct of elected representatives and the ability of parliamentary institutions to uphold integrity and accountability.

Parliamentary Codes of Conduct and related ethical standards can establish clear expectations for Members of Parliament, help prevent and manage conflicts of interest and other integrity risks, and contribute to corruption prevention. Yet adopting a Code of Conduct is only the first step. Its effectiveness depends on how it is implemented and overseen, how breaches are addressed and whether there is sustained political commitment to upholding its standards.

What makes a parliamentary Code of Conduct work in practice? How should parliaments respond when ethical standards are breached? And what role should political parties play in promoting integrity among candidates and elected representatives?

Drawing on experiences from Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, the discussion will explore these questions and consider how Codes of Conduct can become part of a broader culture of integrity, and whether this can help parliaments win back public trust.

The event is organized within the framework of “Stronger Democratic Institutions in Eastern Partnership Countries” – an ODIHR project supported and funded by the European Union, with support from France, Norway, Italy and Switzerland.

Opening remarks: Tea Jaliashvili – First Deputy Director, ODIHR

Keynote speaker:

Marcin Walecki – Independent Expert, University of Oxford

Panel:

Arusyak Julhakyan – Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee on State and Legal Affairs, National Assembly of Armenia

Igor Chiriac – Member of Parliament, Deputy Chair of the Legal Committee on Appointments and Immunities, Parliament of Moldova

Viktoriya Podgorna – Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Digital Transformation and Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Issues of Digital Society Development, Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the European Union Acquis, and Fulfilment of Ukraine’s International Legal Obligations in the Field of European Integration, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Liliana Palihovici – Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Former Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

Giorgi Burjanadze – Legal Advisor, Civil Society Foundation, Georgia.

Moderator: Oleksandra Garshyna – Associate Project Officer, ODIHR

Time: **15:30-16:30**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**

Title: Ensuring Judicial Independence and Accountability: Judicial vetting and other extraordinary reform measures in the OSCE Region

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English

Summary: An independent and accountable judiciary is a critical pillar of a functional democracy. ODIHR has noted increasing debate regarding and use in practice of judicial vetting and other extraordinary reform measures to address systemic challenges in within the OSCE region. While there may be legitimate grounds for implementing extraordinary reform measures, when vetting is used instead of established constitutional mechanisms, there appears a risk of undue interference in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. International standards regarding the irremovability of judges and their due process rights may also be jeopardized. Other challenges include severe staff shortages, backlogs, the risk of politicization of the process, disbalance of power between the branches of government, and democratic destabilization when “cleaning house” upon change of government

becomes normalized within political culture. This event will discuss the experiences regarding judicial vetting and other extraordinary reform measures within the OSCE region, map obstacles to addressing systemic challenges in judiciaries through the use of ordinary constitutional mechanisms, and grounds for resorting to extraordinary measures, such as vetting. The event will build on knowledge accumulated through the monitoring of integrity evaluation (vetting) and legal analysis of the experiences of participating States such as Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, Poland and Hungary. It will also aim to explore how the OSCE and other stakeholders can help support judicial reforms while ensuring that they comply with international standards and good practices.

Monday, 12 October

Time: **09:00-10:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: “Advancing disability-inclusive parliaments: an assessment methodology and insights from the OSCE region” - publication launch
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Working language: English

Summary: Parliaments play a central role in representative democracies as institutions responsible for law-making, oversight and representation. Yet across the OSCE region, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers to full and effective participation in these institutions, despite widespread ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recent data shows that representation of persons with disabilities in national parliaments remains low. Drawing on the gaps identified through a 2024 ODIHR/OSCE PA survey of national parliaments across the region, ODIHR has developed a comprehensive methodology for assessing disability inclusion in parliaments. Going beyond accessibility alone, the methodology addresses law-making, oversight and representation, offering parliaments a practical tool to identify barriers and take targeted, actionable steps towards reform. ODIHR and OSCE PAs new publication “Advancing disability-inclusive parliaments: an assessment methodology and insights from the OSCE region” presents this methodology alongside the survey findings, including good practices from across the OSCE region. This side event will launch the publication, present the methodology, and discuss its findings and practical application. Participants who require reasonable accommodations to participate in the event are kindly requested to contact disability-inclusion@odihr.pl by 28 September 2026.

Opening remarks: Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, ODIHR (TBC), Farah Karimi, Head of Delegation, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, OSCE PA (The Netherlands)

Speakers:

Zaruhi Batoyan, Member of Parliament at the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

Dastan Bekeshev, Member of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic

Ainura Usupbekova, Director of Public Foundation “Civic Platform”, Kyrgyzstan

Presenter: Lisa Jacobsen, Associate Democratic Governance Officer, Democratization Department,

Moderator: Yulia Netesova, Chief, Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, Democratization Department, ODIHR

Tuesday, 13 October

Time: **09:00-10:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: Hate Crime Targeting Migrants
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Xenophobic, racist and intersectional hate crimes targeting migrants continue to pose a serious concern across the OSCE region. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers may be subjected to a wide range of bias-motivated crimes, including physical assaults, threats, harassment, property attacks and degrading treatment. Such incidents occur against a broader backdrop of heightened societal polarization and the spread of anti-migrant narratives, including online. By targeting individuals because of characteristics such as their actual or perceived ethnic origin, nationality, language, religion or migration status, these crimes inflict lasting harm on victims and can send a wider message of exclusion and intimidation. They undermine social cohesion, deepen social divisions and pose a broader security concern. Addressing such crimes requires effective measures to prevent incidents, encourage reporting, ensure appropriate recording and investigation and provide victims with access to justice and support. Effective responses require co-operation among governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations and affected communities. In particular, this side event will raise awareness of the nature, drivers and impact of hate crimes targeting migrants across the OSCE region; reflect on ODIHR findings and trends concerning hate crimes targeting migrants, including incidents occurring at international borders, in transit contexts and in countries of reception and examine challenges related to identifying, reporting, recording and responding to hate crimes targeting migrants, including barriers faced by victims in accessing justice and support.

Remarks: Ambassador Evren Dağdelen Akgün, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims;
Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, ODIHR

Panelists:

Christine Chemutai Yegon, Board Member, Black Justice Poland
Myroslava Keryk, President, Ukrainian House
Doros Polycarpou, Executive Director, KISA
Mariliza Deftou, Assistant Coordinator, Racist Violence Recording Network

Moderators: Ella Dodd, Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser, Democratization Department, ODIHR; Mikaela Christiansson, Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR.

Wednesday, 14 October

Time: **09:00-10:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: Launching event: Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Participation of Roma and Sinti in Electoral Processes
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Roma and Sinti continue to face significant barriers to equal and meaningful participation in electoral processes across the OSCE region. ODIHR election observation activities have documented

challenges ranging from discriminatory and anti-Roma rhetoric during election campaigns, intimidation, pressure and vote-buying, to obstacles related to voter registration and identification documents. Roma and Sinti also remain significantly under-represented as candidates and elected representatives, while women and youth may face additional and intersecting barriers to participation. In response to these persistent challenges, ODIHR has developed the Handbook on Observing and Promoting the Participation of Roma and Sinti in Electoral Processes. Drawing on ODIHR's established election observation methodology, its longstanding work on Roma and Sinti participation, and consultations with election and Roma and Sinti experts, the Handbook provides practical guidance for assessing barriers to electoral participation and identifying opportunities to promote more inclusive electoral processes. It aims to inform ODIHR Election Observation Activities, as well as civil society organizations invested in observing or advancing the participation of Roma and Sinti. This side event will formally launch the Handbook and present its main objectives, methodology and practical applications. The discussion will highlight key challenges affecting Roma and Sinti participation as voters, candidates and political actors, as well as the importance of systematically examining these issues. The event will also provide an opportunity to discuss how the Handbook can be translated into practical action beyond its launch, including through election observation, civil society monitoring, voter education, advocacy and follow-up to electoral recommendations. Participants will be invited to reflect on how Roma and Sinti civil society, election observers, participating States, political actors, and other actors can use the Handbook to strengthen meaningful participation, support rights-based electoral engagement and ensure that the specific experiences and concerns of Roma and Sinti are more effectively reflected in efforts to promote democratic and inclusive elections across the OSCE region.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: Strengthening the Responsive Capacity of Roma and pro-Roma Human Rights Defenders in Ukraine
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: A key area of ODIHR's intervention in Ukraine includes fortifying the potential of Roma and pro-Roma human rights defenders (HRDs) to respond to emerging human rights concerns facing Roma. In this respect, the Office, within the framework of the Programme on Support for and Engagement in Ukraine, has established a capacity development framework delivering specialised training and structured mentorship programmes for Roma HRDs. These initiatives focus on core thematic areas such as human rights monitoring, advocacy, gender empowerment, digital safety and security, and well-being. Crucially, ODIHR bridges theoretical training with practical application through dedicated follow-up measures. Such approach ensures that knowledge translates into tangible skills thus enabling Roma HRDs to effectively advocate for protection of the human rights of Roma. The event will discuss the experiences and perspectives of Roma rights activists in the context of the ongoing war following the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, focusing on both the challenges they face and opportunities to strengthen their work. Speakers will navigate the dangers confronting Roma and pro-Roma human rights defenders during this inter-state conflict and strategies to respond to these concerns. Discussions will also focus on activists' current efforts to combat discrimination against Roma and advocate for robust redress measures. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding activists' needs and elaborating targeted measures to support their essential work on the ground.

Thursday, 15 October

Time: **09:00-10:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: Women's Power Breakfast: Women and Men Working Together for Gender Equality in Politics
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Over the past two decades, the Women's Power Breakfast has become a regular space for dialogue on gender equality and women's political participation within the OSCE human dimension community. Marking its 20th edition in 2026, this year's Breakfast takes place at a time of both progress and persistent challenges. Women now hold 32 per cent of seats in national parliaments across the OSCE region, yet progress towards gender parity remains uneven. Decision-making positions across parliaments, political parties and governments continue to be held predominantly by men. Stereotypes, discriminatory social norms and gendered political cultures also continue to limit women's political participation and leadership. Achieving gender parity requires addressing the additional barriers faced by women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, who remain among the most under-represented. Under the theme "Women and Men Working Together for Gender Equality in Politics," the 2026 Women's Power Breakfast will bring together women and men political leaders, civil society, practitioners and diplomats to explore how to accelerate progress towards equal participation and leadership. Building on ODIHR's work on inclusive governance and its Sarajevo Tool for Engaging Male Politicians in Achieving Gender Equality in Politics, the discussion will focus on moving from commitment to action. It will examine how more men can become active allies and champions for gender equality, and how women and men can share responsibility for transforming political institutions and cultures. The event will highlight practical approaches to accelerating progress towards gender parity. RSVP/confirm your participation by registering at this link: <https://forms.gle/LJ9rc7k93Bm4SUCc9>

Time: **10:30-11:30**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 – Belweder**
Title: Understanding the Inequalities of Roma and Sinti Women Through an Intersectional Lens
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Intersectionality can provide as a valuable framework for understanding and recognising the lived experiences of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality, including racism, sexism, misogyny, classism and systemic marginalization simultaneously. Applying this lens to Roma and Sinti women explains how overlapping forms of inequalities and oppression compound one another and why single-issue approaches fall short. Through its Fourth Status Report, ODIHR emphasised that intersectional discrimination facing Roma women should be both responded to at the policy level and integrated into broader equality and anti-discrimination frameworks. This event will provide a platform to discuss the strategies devised by Roma and Sinti women advocates to combat intersectional discrimination while promoting equal rights and equitable opportunities. Panellists will employ an intersectional lens to examine how gender-based vulnerabilities among Roma are deepened by emerging concerns, including growing societal polarization, armed conflicts, and digital threats. A central focus of these discussions will be the narratives surrounding gender-based violence, often oversimplified through a single analytical lens and mischaracterised as a 'cultural behaviour'. Particular attention will be paid to technology-facilitated gender-based violence and its impact on Roma and Sinti women.