



Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2023

Warsaw Poland, 2 - 13 October 2023

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

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.

Tuesday, 3 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: Presentation of the ODIHR Handbook for the Observation of Election Administration
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: As tasked by the OSCE participating States (MC 19/06), ODIHR continuously strives to maintain its professionalism and further improve its methodology by developing handbooks on specialized aspects of elections. In 2023, ODIHR has finalized the development of the Handbook for the Observation of Election Administration, which will be presented at this side event. The handbook further enhances election observation methodology in this area and gives primary reference material for all types of ODIHR observation activities for assessing election administration in a comprehensive, systematic and consistent manner. The Handbook also defines key principles that are integral to the proper work of election management bodies and should form a basis for international observers to

thoroughly assess the election administration and its work, specifically principles of integrity, legality, effectiveness, independence, impartiality, transparency, accountability and inclusivity.

Panellists:

Matteo Mecacci, ODIHR Director

Alexey Gromov, ODIHR Senior Election Adviser

Carla Luis, Member of the Central Election Commission of Portugal

David Kankiia, Board member, Movement for Defence of Voters' Rights Golos

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**

Title: A chief threat to women's voice in democratic institutions: violence against women in politics

Convenor: UN Women

Working language: English

Summary: The adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women is widely celebrated for its progressive global commitments. Yet, the hard-won gains on women's rights are currently under attack. Recognized as a chief threat to women's political rights, the scourge of violence against women in politics has captured global attention. But until now, there have been few studies and tools focused on the Europe and Central Asia region. Violence against women in politics is a serious problem which transcends political and legal systems, cultures, and societies. It appears to be increasing globally, along with hate speech and an overall backlash against women's rights. Women politicians, rights defenders, journalists, and civil society leaders are targeted in person and online, with online abuse and cyberbullying becoming increasingly common. Women from underrepresented groups experience violence at disproportionate levels. It perpetuates the exclusion of women from public life and decision-making in democratic institutions. Violence against women in political and public life is a distinct form of gender-based violence that is intended to stop women from accessing power and silence their voices in decision-making within democratic institutions. Furthermore, violence against known women leaders can have a symbolic effect which further suppresses other women from seeking to enter public discourse or politics for fear of becoming a target themselves. States bear the duty to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women in politics, regardless of the perpetrator. Hosted by the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, this side event will provide a platform for panelists to individually and collectively discuss the latest research and tools to measure and combat violence against women in politics in the Europe and Central Asia Region. The event aligns with the UN Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda" which includes placing women and girls at the center.

Panelists:

Liliana Palihovici, President of "Institutum Virtutes Civilis" Moldova, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, former Member of Parliament, Republic of Moldova

Rachel Weston Eschenbacher, UN Women

Saša Gavrić, OSCE ODIHR

Marina Csikós, Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**

Title: Protecting and expanding civic space in the OSCE region

Convenor: Human Rights House Foundation

Working language: English

Summary: Civil society is a critical partner and playing a crucial role in the promotion of democracy and human rights across the OSCE region. During its 53rd session, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a biennial resolution which reiterated this importance of this role and noted with grave concern rising threats against civil society organisations and human rights defenders. In the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Caucasus, attacks on civil society organisations and human rights defenders, coupled with the implementation of legislation to curtail the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, are reducing civic space. Civic space is the environment which enables civil society to participate meaningfully in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of their communities. Civic space at the multilateral level is crucial for independent civil society to engage in the formulation of meaningful human rights norms, standards, and mechanisms and to raise local, national, and regional human rights issues. Like-minded States must work closely with independent civil society to preserve and expand civic space at the national and multilateral levels. This side event brings together representatives from the Network of Human Rights Houses to explore the role of civil society and highlight recommendations to States for increasing and expanding civic space. A panel of experts from civil society in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Caucasus will speak about ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life. The panel will focus on the following key questions: - What steps can participating States take to protect and expand civic space across the OSCE region? - How can participating States strengthen opportunities for meaningful civil society engagement in the work of the OSCE?

Panelists:

Varser Karapetyan, Human Rights House Yerevan

Ratko Pilipovic, Center for Environment, Human Rights House Banja Luka

Maryia Sliaptsova, Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House

Moderator:

Dave Elseroad, Human Rights House Foundation (moderator)

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**

Title: Shrinking space for democratic institutions in Azerbaijan

Convenor: Institute for Human Rights

Working language: English

Summary: In the context of an extremely shrinking democratic space in Azerbaijan, Institute for Human Rights would like to host a side event to highlight a deteriorating trend on persecution of political opposition and crackdown on activists in the country. Opposition figures continuously face legal challenges, including arrests and imprisonment, that are being widely condemned by an international community. One of the most outrageous cases is a politically motivated detention of Gubad Ibadoglu – a visiting professor at the London School of Economics, outspoken critic of kleptocracy and a leader of the opposition “Azerbaijan Party of Democracy and Welfare”, that happened on July 23 2023 in Baku, three weeks after his return from the UK. The side event will particularly outline restrictions imposed by the Law on Political Parties signed into force on 11 January 2023, that widely limits the rights to freely and equally participate in the public and political life, as well as diminishes the possibility for political parties to operate in an extensive manner. The law has already received a broad criticism, and according to the Venice Commission’s decision “[...] new law has introduced a number of new highly problematic provisions which risk having further chilling effects on pluralism in the country”. The side event will also address challenges faced by the representatives of civil society while performing their activities in an over-restrictive environment created by the national legislation. Thus, this event aims to expose how Azerbaijani ruling regime hinders substantive democracy by undermining its key pillars – the rule of law, democratic elections and freedom of expression.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: Promoting Accountability in Belarus: The Role of OSCE and the International Community
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the OSCE in Vienna
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In March 2023, 38 OSCE participating States (pS) invoked the Moscow Mechanism to establish an expert mission to examine the dire and continuous deterioration of the human rights situation in Belarus. The subsequent report found that after the August 2020 fraudulent presidential election, Belarusian authorities engaged in large-scale politically motivated repression in order to destroy the pro-democracy movement that had spring up to oppose Lukashenka's rule. The situation in October 2023 remains dire. Human rights organizations count over 1,500 political prisoners, with individuals sentenced to long prison terms on the most spurious of charges. The legislative reforms have greatly limited the space for civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and even ordinary citizens to act, completely eliminating any opportunities for them demand accountability and show opposition to the regime. During this event, the convening delegations will announce the formation of a Group of Friends of Democratic Belarus, a structure that will allow pS to think creatively about how to support Belarusian activists and implement the recommendations of the Moscow Mechanism. Two prominent Belarusians – Svyatlana Tsikhanouskaya (Leader of the Democratic Opposition of Belarus) and Volha Harbunova (Representative for Social Issues in the Belarusian United Transitional Cabinet) – will discuss their work toward a democratic future for Belarus, with the international community. Panelists will also discuss the Moscow Mechanism recommendations to the OSCE and the international community and evaluate how various approaches to Belarus could succeed or fail.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Absence of Pluralism and Accountable Governance: Drivers of Instability in Central Asia
Convenor: Freedom Now
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Political systems remain closed and limitations on fundamental freedoms continue to grow in Central Asia despite numerous elections and referenda, announced broad reform programs, and pledges to prioritize complying with international human rights obligations in recent years. As limitations grow, so has public frustration with the fact that the changes promised are not materializing, leading to protests, and, after governments cracked down on protesters, violence. This event, co-sponsored by Freedom Now (US), PaperLab Research Center (KZ), Central Asia Due Diligence (UK), and the International Partnership for Human Rights (BE), will engage speakers and participants to consider how the absence of pluralism and impunity contribute to instability in the OSCE space, and to generate support for reforms to improve respect for human rights, human security, and stability.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: Promoting media freedom during elections – on the special responsibility of political actors
Convenor: Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Free and independent media play an essential role in every democratic society. They report on issues of public interest and exercise a watchdog function, holding those in power accountable to the public. In the context of elections, it is paramount that citizens can make informed decisions and familiarize themselves about the campaign activities of candidates and political parties running for office. A vibrant campaign and pluralistic media landscape representing different sides and layers of society is therefore vital to ensure a genuinely democratic process and fair competition. In this context, those that hold or aim for an elected position bear a particular responsibility to safeguard the important role of free and independent media in a democracy. However, at times political actors and candidates running for public office can infringe upon the basic principles of media freedom. In recent years, election observers noted growing incidence of online and offline hate speech, disinformation and dangerous rhetoric against the media, including by politicians and public officials, in particular during election campaigns. Some politicians use targeted smear campaigns against the media in a systematic way in order to promote their specific political agendas, which benefit from undermining the important function of independent media regarding accountability and transparency. In today's environment of rising populism and polarization, such targeted attacks against the media have the potential to undermine the public's trust in democratic institutions and the media, and to foment hatred and violence against journalists. At the same time, in some contexts authorities and political candidates have a firm grasp on (public service) media, leading to unfair treatment and unequal access for other political actors, depriving the public of a truly diverse insight into the political arena. This side event aims to highlight the fundamental importance of safeguarding media freedom and media pluralism in times of elections and the particular responsibility of political actors and candidates in this regard.

Panelists:

Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE RFOM

Maja Sever, President of the European Federation of Journalists

Giovanna Maiola, Media Election Expert

Moderator:

Meaghan Fitzgerald, Head of Elections Department

ODIHR Rapporteur: Daliborka Jankovic, Senior Advisor RFOM

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Ending Impunity in Belarus: High Time for International Action to Bring the Lukashenka Regime to Justice for Crimes against Humanity in Belarus and Complicity in the Aggression against Ukraine
Convenor: Prospect Foundation / iSANS – The International Strategic Action Network for Security
Working language: English

Summary: Continued impunity of the criminal Lukashenka regime remains a major barrier on the road to ending repression in Belarus, delivering justice for victims, achieving democratic transition in the country, restoring its sovereignty from the Russian occupation, and ensuring security in the region. Lack of accountability for crimes against humanity in Belarus has emboldened the dictator in Minsk to join

forces with the Putin regime in its aggression against Ukraine. Civil society groups, including iSANS and its partners, the UN Examination, the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, and the Belarusian democratic forces have accumulated large amount of documentation that can serve as evidence in international courts to bring members of the Lukashenka regime to justice on a number of charges. These include crimes against humanity in Belarus, complicity in the crime of aggression against Ukraine, incitement to genocide of Ukrainians, forced deportation of Ukrainian children, and complicity in war crimes in Ukraine. Concerned states should exercise responsibility and take action without further delay to bring members of the Lukashenka regime to account. Panellists will discuss obstacles to and prospects of bringing members of the Lukashenka regime to justice through various avenues, including the establishment of a Special Tribunal for Belarus, making a referral on crimes against humanity to the International Criminal Court, investigation by the ICC of incitement to genocide of Ukrainians and of forced deportation of Ukrainian children, and the application of the universal jurisdiction principle in national justice systems.

Panelists:

Yuri Dzhibladze — iSANS Head of Human Rights and Rule of Law Unit

Kristina Rikhter — Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya's Adviser on Legal Affairs

Victoria Fedorova – Chairperson, Legal Initiative; co-founder, International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus

Maria Kolesova-Hudzilina – Deputy Chair, Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers

Andrey Khalikh — iSANS analyst

Sergei Golubok — iSANS Legal Adviser

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**

Title: Deportation of Ukrainian Children Amidst Russia's War of Aggression: How to Ensure Accountability and Children's Return

Convenor: Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna; European Union Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna; United States Mission to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE, UN and International Organizations in Vienna; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Representation of Spain to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of Hungary to the OSCE, the UN and other International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE; Italian Delegation to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the OSCE; Embassy of Malta in Austria; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the OSCE in Vienna; Permanent Representation of Portugal to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Romania to the International Organizations; Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the OSCE

Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues unabated. It causes enormous human casualties, suffering and destruction to Ukraine and its people. Civilian population, and in particular children, remain among the first victims of the war crimes, crimes against humanity and other heinous violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by Russia, its political and military leadership, and armed forces. In the context of ensuring accountability, we welcome the progress towards the establishment of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression. Another important step was the decision to create the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. OSCE's monitoring and documentation of Russia's gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including in Crimea and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, makes its valuable contribution to the overall efforts in ensuring Russia's accountability. Acknowledging that children are among the most vulnerable in times of war and require special attention and protection, the 45 OSCE participating States and Ukraine initiated the OSCE Human Dimension Moscow Mechanism to address the issue of forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia. As a result, the independent mission of experts established in its report (4/5/2023) that a large number of Ukrainian children have been displaced to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and to the territory of the Russian Federation, which may amount to a crime against humanity of "deportation or forcible transfer of population". Moreover, the deported Ukrainian children are exposed to numerous human rights violations and abuses leading to their forced assimilation, re-education and erasing their Ukrainian identity. The extreme gravity of situation is proved by the International Criminal Court arrest warrants (17/3/2023) on the war crime of unlawful deportation of children and that of unlawful transfer of children from the temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine to the RF. According to Ukraine, Russia's actions may also be qualified as the forcible transfer of children from one human group to another, which falls under the UN Convention on the crime of genocide. Addressing the issue of deportation of Ukrainian children means to a) ensure children's safe return, b) collect all the necessary evidence to hold Russia, the Russian leadership and the Russian military accountable.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**
Title: Challenges and restrictions for campaigning and informing migrants-voters from Eastern Europe in a foreign electoral district
Convenor: Civil Network OPORA
Working language: English

Summary: The event is dedicated to the issues of ensuring transparency of campaigning and broad voter information in the foreign electoral district during the first post-war elections in Ukraine, with a focus on the requirements and limitations of European legislation and policies of digital platforms as the main platform for communication with Ukrainians abroad. Particular attention will be paid to the challenges of advocacy to digital platforms to take into account the local context of Eastern European countries that do not have local representation of big tech companies in the country.

Wednesday, 4 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**

Title: Anti-Extremism Laws at the Service of the Authoritarianism in Eurasia. A comparative analysis and discussion
Convenor: ARTICLE 19
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: As freedom of expression and democracy are in decline worldwide, political regimes in Eurasia continue a sweeping crackdown on independent media and dissent. Mass protests against autocrats, border conflicts and a full-scale aggressive war are the reality of today in the region. Scores of activists, journalists and bloggers have been prosecuted and handed down harsh prison sentences under the guise of countering extremism and enforcing indispensable war censorship. Freedom of expression is the first right autocrats attack to strengthen their power through controlling narratives. Repressive governments facilitate censorship by banning media outlets online and offline. The proposed side-event during the OSCE WHDC intends to take a closer comparative look at the ongoing erosion of fundamental human rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It discusses major alarming trend – misuse of anti-extremism laws to restrict fundamental civil liberties. The invited experts will offer country overviews to reveal the dire impact of growing authoritarianism on freedom of expression in the region and propose their recommendations to the international community.

Panelists:

Anara Ibrayeva, “Kadir Kassiyet” Kazakhstan
Maria Kravchenko, Sova Center, Russia
Tolekan Ismailova, “Bir Duino”, Kyrgyzstan
Pavel Sapelka, “Viasna”, Belarus
Yevgeniya Karushina, Article 19, Kazakhstan

Moderator:

Nedim Useinow, Article 19, Poland

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Russian chain of impunity: how the past affects present and future
Convenor: OVD-Info
Working language: English

Summary: Russia’s invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022, is the largest war in Europe since WWII. It was preceded by other armed conflicts in which Russia was openly engaged, as well as the years of systematic repressions inside the country. The past crimes that have remained unpunished spawned new ones, the past repressive practices and societal norms were not changed systematically but revived. This side-event focuses on reflecting on the past Russian war crimes and the attitude towards archives and historic memory, as well as on long-lasting repressions and their effect on the current situation, current repressive trends and constructing the future long and sustainable peace, which is unattainable without memory, justice and right to the truth.

Panelists:

Natalia Morozova, FIDH
Tamilla Imanova
Memorial Daria Korolenko, OVD-Info
Sergey Krivenko, Memorial

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: The Role of Public Service Media and Independent Media Regulators in Safeguarding the Public Interest and Democracy
Convenor: Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working language: English

Summary: Public service media's (PSM) contribution to society is more important than ever, acting as an independent, reliable, and trustworthy source of information in an increasingly saturated online information space, and as a vital antidote to mis- and disinformation. PSMs also play a crucial role in taking on the challenges of informing audiences during times of war, and focus on engaging the youth. Likewise, independent media regulatory authorities (MRA) contribute towards fostering a favourable environment for media pluralism, and increased visibility of public interest information. However, both PSMs and MRAs face various challenges, including government interference, political pressure, economic hardship, and a changing media landscape in which both PSMs and MRAs need to (re-)legitimize their role in an increasingly digital media environment that is predominantly controlled by large online platforms acting as gatekeepers of our online information space, and often falling outside the remit of media regulatory authorities. When confronting all these challenges, first and foremost, they must strive to maintain their independence, which is essential to preserving their crucial roles in society, for media freedom, democracy, and peace and security. To this end, states have an important role in respecting and safeguarding their independence. This side event seeks to reimagine the future role of PSM and MRA for a rapidly changing information society across the OSCE region, where common challenges to safeguarding media freedom become increasingly urgent to address, for the sake of protecting democracy and security.

Opening Remarks: Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE RFOM

Panelists:

Anastasiia Korinovska, Analyst, Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine

Klaus Unterberger, Head of Public Value at ORF, Austria's public service media

Philipp Schild, Managing Director funk, Germany's public service content network

Moderator:

Bettina Ruigies, Senior Advisor, OSCE RFOM

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Addressing the Issue of Political Prisoners and Endangered Lawyers in the OSCE Participating States
Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee; People in Need; Justice for Journalists Foundation
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Political repressions against dissent, suppression of freedom of the press, persecution of outspoken journalists and lawyers, and the existence of many political prisoners are a sad reality for several OSCE Participating States. In April 2023, the Russian authorities handed down a monstrous sentence to Vladimir Kara-Murza, a renowned human rights activist — a 25-year prison sentence. In Azerbaijan, authorities arrested a prominent scholar, Gubad Ibadoghlu, on bogus charges, in response to his criticism against the government. Over 1500 imprisoned activists in Belarus, including members of the rights group Viasna, face harassment from prison authorities, restrictions on visits and correspondence, and inadequate healthcare. Political prisoners languish behind bars in all five Central Asian republics, especially in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Russian authorities in Crimea persecute Crimean Tatars for their vocal opposition to Russia's occupation since it began in 2014, and arrested and forced many to exile, ensuring that those who choose to stay never feel safe to speak their mind. Some governments' concerted efforts have gotten rid of many independent lawyers in the OSCE region,

making it difficult for political prisoners to access any kind of legal defense. The event will feature remarks from experts, lawyers, and the family members of those imprisoned for speaking out the truth. Recent research findings on political imprisonments in Tajikistan will be presented. The event will also highlight the arbitrary circumstances that undermine defense lawyers' independence such as licensing, disciplinary, civil, and criminal procedure, and how those are used by the authorities to punish defense lawyers in the OSCE region. The speakers will also focus on proposing measures and ideas on how the OSCE and its participating states can deal with these problems and break the cycle of political prosecutions.

Panelists:

Maryia Kolesava-Hudzilina, President of Belarusian association of human rights lawyers

Marius Fossum, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Regional Representative in Central Asia

Nikita Protsenko, (Pen name: Yegor Skovoroda), Editor, Mediazona, media outlet

Ibad Bayramov, son of Azerbaijani political prisoner Gubad Ibadoghlu, renowned academic

Alina Krushynskaya, Press Club Belarus

Nemet Karimli, lawyer

Anton Naumlyuk, former editor-in-chief, Graty, a Ukrainian media outlet

Moderator:

Anna Zamejc, International Advocacy Officer, People In Need

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**

Title: Addressing Violence against Women and Girls in Ukraine

Convenor: OSCE Secretariat

Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: The outbreak of war increases the risks of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The OSCE thematic report on Conflict and Violence against Women (2020) provided evidence that the violence experienced by women directly affected by conflict can be more severe than violence experienced by women who are not conflict-affected. This is even more the case for women who are refugees/displaced or returnees. The war in Ukraine has exposed women and girls to high risks of violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. Ensuring the protection and well-being of survivors as well as access to justice remain essential. To address the issue the OSCE's Secretariat Gender Issues Programme (GIP) through the WIN Project (WIN for Women and Men – Strengthening Comprehensive Security through Innovating and Networking for Gender Equality) has been working closely with civil society organizations supporting survivors of VAWG. As part of the OSCE Networking Platform for Women's Leaders, including Peacebuilders and Mediators launched by the OSCE Secretary General in 2021, GIP has fostered exchanges between over 20 civil society activists from Ukraine and Bosnia-Herzegovina engaged in addressing the long-term consequences of violence perpetrated during conflict times. The side-event will present the conclusions of the OSCE facilitated exchanges between BiH and Ukrainian activists on GBV and discuss perspective of civil society on the dynamics of VAWG in conflict. It will aim to put forward recommendations of civil society for addressing protection needs and ensuring justice for survivors. The event is organized by the Gender Issues Programme, in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General and co-hosted by the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE, the Permanent delegation of Finland to the OSCE and United States Mission to the OSCE. The event will raise awareness and address the following questions: - How did the dynamics of violence against women changed with conflict? What are harms and violations women in Ukraine face today and how does this differ from pre-war situation? - What are the obstacles in access to justice for women survivors? - What are the needs of the civil society in addressing violence against women, and how do donor?

Panelists:

Marta Chumalo, Centre "Womens perspective"
Ulyana Holovenko, Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health
Elena Floriani, Women against Violence Europe
Marta Zbikowska, Feminoteka

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Transnational Repressions in OSCE Member States
Convenor: Rights and Freedoms of Turkmenistan Citizens
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Repression against activists in the OSCE region.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Follow-up to recommendations: possible ways of cooperation between international and citizen election observers
Convenor: European Exchange
Working language: English

Summary: Organized in cooperation with ODIHR, the side event will highlight the complementarity of the work of citizen and international observers at all stages of the electoral process. In particular, the side event will be focusing on how international and citizen observers can cooperate on the follow-up to recommendations. It will highlight the best practices in such co-operation for the benefit of the participating States. Participants will have a chance to explore and suggest possible ways to improve this co-operation further. Detailed description: In 2022, the communities of international and citizen observers launched a Joint Communiqué on Benefits of Co-operation between International and Non-Partisan Citizen Election Observers. It is premised on the recognition of the shared goals and complementarity of the roles of international and citizen observers at all stages of the electoral process. Follow-up to electoral recommendations is a crucial stage of the electoral cycle, as has been underscored in the methodological guides by both citizen and international organisations. The Joint Communiqué recognises the need of “systemic co-operation between the elections enhances monitoring of the implementation of recommendations by the authorities of the respective countries” and specifically mentions “advocacy for the purpose of bringing electoral legislation and practice closer in line with international standards and obligations.” This side event will explore concrete and practical ways in which international and citizen observers can co-operate between the elections in the context of the electoral reform. During the side event, possible methods of aligning the development of recommendations, tracking of their implementation and mutual support in advocacy efforts will be in focus. Speakers will present specific examples of productive co-operation, as well as highlight lessons learned for the future co-operation between the two communities.

Panelists:

Olha Kotsiuruba, Election Expert, OPORA, Ukraine
Zofia Lutkiewicz, President, Political Accountability Foundation, Poland
Adam Busuleanu, Senior Programme Officer, EPDE OSCE-ODIHR representative

Moderator:

Alexander Shlyk, International Election Expert

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: Countering Online Violence: New Guidelines for Monitoring Online Violence
Against Female Journalists
Convenor: Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working language: English

Summary: On the margins of the OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2023, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will host a side event to launch its new guidelines for monitoring online violence against female journalists. Event Description: Democratic participation at all levels is possible only when everyone has access to information and can discuss issues of public interest openly. Plurality only exists when all stakeholders – regardless of their gender – have a voice and all journalists are safe to do their work. According to a recent UNESCO Study, 73% of female journalists said they experienced online violence. Female journalists who belong to marginalised and/or minority communities are targeted even more disproportionately. They bear the burden of regularly facing the same patterns of attacks and threats online, all resulting in limited pluralism, which is fundamental for democracy. Gender-based online attacks can only be addressed if all stakeholders play an active role in countering such violence, with the ultimate goal ensuring women’s full and effective democratic participation. At this event, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) will launch its new Guidelines for Monitoring Online violence against Female Journalists, which will help identify key indicators and metrics signalling escalation of online violence against women journalists. Speakers will discuss concrete actions needed to empower women journalists and to ensure their safety in the online sphere.

Introduction by: Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Presentation of the Monitoring Guidelines by: Julie Posetti, Deputy Vice President and Global Director of Research at the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) Diana Maynard, Senior Research Fellow in the Natural Language Processing Group of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield, UK Nabeela Shabbir, Senior Research Associate, International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)

Case Examples by: Inga Springe, Journalist from Re:Baltica

Moderator:

Deniz Wagner, Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: Persecution of Journalists in Exile
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UN, OSCE and IOs in Vienna; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: This side event will address the safety risks and other related challenges faced by journalists and other media actors who fled or were forced to flee their countries. Increasing attacks on media, violence, political repressions, and prosecution of critical voices, in violation of international human rights law and OSCE commitments, have forced countless journalists and media actors into exile. However, even in exile, their safety is not guaranteed. Journalists, especially those who continue covering political developments in their home countries, often face threats of violence, harassment, and intimidation, including cyberattacks, surveillance, and disinformation campaigns. Many remain under constant pressure due to fear of reprisals against their relatives, fear of being extradited or even kidnapped or killed. Labelling journalists as “foreign agents” and media outlets as “undesirable organization”, initiating criminal proceeding against media actors - it’s just a few tactics used by repressive states to discredit the work of exiled journalists, coerce them into silence, or punish them for their work. This side event, organized by the informal OSCE Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists, which gathers 16 delegations: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, will provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges and risks faced by journalists in exile, especially due to continued threats from the authorities of countries they fled, as well as measures the OSCE participating States hosting exiled journalists can take to ensure their safety and possibilities to continue their journalistic work.

Opening remarks: Irina Schoulgin-Nyoni, Human rights ambassador of Sweden

Panelists:

Mark Feygin, a former Russian politician, lawyer, human rights activist, and blogger

Galina Arapova, media lawyer, Head of Mass Media Defence Centre, member of OSCE Advisory Group of Eminent Experts on Freedom of the Media

Tania Felgengauer, Russian journalist, former correspondent and deputy editor-in-chief at Ekho Moskvyy

Zmiciar Mickiewicz, a Belarussian journalist, Belsat TV

Moderator:

Nicole Chulick, Deputy Assistant Secretary, US State Department

Thursday, 5 October

ODIHR Women’s Power Breakfast: Challenges for Women, peace and security in Central Asia and across the OSCE

Thursday 5 October, 8.00 to 9.50 CET

Meeting Room 1 - **Belweder**

Working language: English, Russian

The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality recognizes that “equal rights of women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development, and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region”. Within the OSCE concept of comprehensive security and recognizing the importance of the realization of human rights to ensure peace and stability, ODIHR promotes gender-responsive and human rights compliant security throughout the OSCE. This year ODIHR’s annual Women’s Power Breakfast, on the margins of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (WHDC), will gather representatives of women’s groups, civil society organisations and representatives from institutions working to protect women’s rights in Central Asia.

The breakfast meeting will seek to provide participants with a platform to discuss the current state of affairs related to the women, peace and security agenda and the human rights of women. Challenges

faced by women human rights activists will also be discussed, seeking to raise awareness among OSCE participating States on such issues.

Speakers and participants will exchange on and identify challenges related to:

- o Women's rights, security and gender equality;
- o Gender-based violence, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence;
- o Challenges faced by women human rights defenders; and
- o Women's activism in the context of the shrinking space for civil society.

These topics will be covered primarily in the Central Asian context, with an opportunity to reflect on how these challenges manifest across the OSCE region, as well.

Introductory remarks:

- Mr. Matteo Mecacci, ODIHR Director
- Ms. Fatmire Isaki, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, North Macedonia

Moderator: Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR First Deputy Director

Provisional list of speakers:

- Ms. Tolekan Ismailova, Director of "Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan"
- Ms. Aiman Umarova, Defence attorney from Almaty City Bar Association
- Dr. Zhanar Sekerbayeva, Co-founder of the organization "Feminita"
- Ms. Nargis Azizova, Women Peace and Security Regional Policy Advisor, UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office

Closing remarks: Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Format:

The event will be held in English/Russian with simultaneous interpretation into Russian/English. Coffee, tea and light breakfast will be provided from 8.00 AM.

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Siski**

Title: Crisis of freedom of speech in Europe. Persecution of journalists and social activists in Europe in the light of the armed conflict in Ukraine

Convenor: Information Group on Crimes against the Person

Working language: English, German

Summary: In recent years, the situation with the implementation of the right to freedom of speech in Europe has been worrying. There are many statements that the freedom of the media in Europe, the basic right of citizens to freedom of access to information, is in crisis. This is the result of many years of ignoring the persecution of journalists, an obstacle to the work of the media in Eastern Europe. Under the justification of counteracting Russian propaganda, the basic, inalienable rights of citizens, including the right to freedom of information, are actually eliminated. There are facts of persecution of journalists, closure of mass media in all countries of the OSCE region. Unfortunately, in some of them, the process took on the character of the actual destruction of any manifestations of freedom of speech.

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**

Title: Civilian hostages: hidden behind bars. How I-DOC could help reveal patterns of crime and lead to perpetrators

Convenor: Media Initiative for Human Rights
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine started, Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) has diligently recorded the war crimes and other atrocities perpetrated by the Russian army in Ukraine, which are shocking in their scale and brutality. Among the most frequent offenses are the arbitrary detention and hostage-taking of civilians who are often held together with prisoners of war. As of May 2023, MIHR identified 1,168 civilian hostages held in the Russian Federation and occupied territories of Ukraine. The actual number might be at least 5-7 times higher. MIHR has been analyzing the unjustified detention, kidnapping, and hostage-taking of the Ukrainian civilian population on temporarily occupied territories. The analysis is based on the testimonies of released civilians and relatives of those who remain in Russian captivity, documented through the Investigation Documentation System, I-DOC. This is the first stage of MIHR's investigation, which should ultimately reveal the patterns of a crime against humanity and ideally lead to those responsible for the crimes. The cases documented in I-DOC will help MIHR build and submit them to the International Criminal Court. During the side-event, MIHR will present the analysis, raise awareness about the stalemate situation with civilian hostages, and share first-person accounts of civilian hostages.

Panelists:

Anastasia Pantielieieva, MIHR Investigative Journalist

Lyubov Smachylo, MIHR Analyst;

Olha Cherniak, former civilian hostage from Kherson oblast;

Tetiana Popovych, mother of a civilian hostage detained in Russia

Gunnar M. Ekeløve-Slydal, Deputy Secretary General of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: Addressing Anti-Religious Hate Crime in the OSCE Area

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Anti-religious intolerance and hate crimes continues to be a concern across the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region. Such manifestations of intolerance threaten both the security of individuals and societal cohesion, as discrimination and intolerant discourse often escalate into violence and wider scale conflict. At the same time, a comprehensive security regime is also needed to fully respect, protect and fulfil freedom of religion or belief, which is specifically acknowledged as one of the fundamental principles guiding mutual relations among OSCE participating States and an integral aspect of the OSCE's concept of security. Furthermore, participating States of the OSCE have agreed on a broad range of commitments to address racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including intolerance against Christians, Muslims, Jews, and members of other religions. This side event will present the current situation in the OSCE area with regards to anti-religious hate crime, including reporting and addressing it. It will also highlight ODIHR's recent and forthcoming tools, such as community security guides and factsheets. The discussion will also address gender-related aspects of anti-religious hate crime. The side event will be organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) with the support of the FoRB Roundtable Brussels-EU.

Panelists:

Eric Roux or Ivan Arjona, FoRB Roundtable Brussels-EU

Djermana Kuric, Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Representative of the Jewish Community in North Macedonia

Christine Mirre, CAP Freedom of Conscience

Moderator:
ODIHR

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: The effects of Russia's "Foreign Agents" Law and growing limitations on civil society groups in the OSCE Region
Convenor: People in Need (Člověk v tísní)
Working language: English

Summary: Smearing, intimidating, investigating, or even banning civil society is nothing new in many of the OSCE participating states. Human rights groups that often denounced as "national enemies", "fifth column" and like, are the targets of repressive laws that restrict the opportunities of NGOs to receive funding, obtain legal status, and operate in unimpeded ways. Several governments in the OSCE region are exploiting concerns about national security and stability to justify repressive measures against key sectors of civil society. Russia's "foreign agent" law of 2012 continue to serve as inspiration for other countries. Most recently in Georgia, where has been characterized by a more enabling environment for civil society than several other ex-soviet countries, tried to introduce Russian-style legislation to label NGOs that receive funding from outside of Georgia as "foreign agents". The bill that many see as dangerously close to similar Russian legislation, caused mass protests in capital Tbilisi, and forced the ruling party to withdraw the proposed law. Similar initiatives were made by governments in Central Asia, especially in Kirgizstan and Kazakhstan. Restrictive laws in Azerbaijan continue to severely impede NGOs from accessing to foreign funding and operating independently, while escalating repression and criminalization of civil society in Russia and Belarus has effectively paralyzed independent groups, with many civil society activists arrested and numerous groups forced into exile. This side event will give the floor to civil society representatives and experts, who will discuss current challenges to freedom of association, share their first-hand insights and assessments of the situation and suggest strategies and recommendations to counter threats to civil society in the OSCE region.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Unmasking the Horrors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ukraine
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Mounting evidence unequivocally exposes a distressing pattern of Russian aggression in Ukraine, marred by a substantial list of war crimes, including widespread conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Local and international civil society organizations have documented the recurring patterns of CRSV, revealing harrowing instances of rape and sexual violence perpetrated against women, men, and girls. These heinous acts vary in brutality, leaving victims to grapple with profound physical and emotional trauma. The repercussions of these atrocities extend far beyond the immediate victims, enveloping their families in a cloud of shame, fear, and intimidation, exacerbated by societal stigma that impedes their willingness to share their traumatic experiences. The UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has meticulously recorded numerous cases of CRSV, presenting a chilling spectrum of victims spanning from 4-year-olds to those well into their 80s. Perpetrators of these crimes demonstrated a blatant disregard for victims, committing their heinous acts in survivors' homes, often in the presence of close family members. These actions, often tantamount to torture and cruel treatment, left not only the victims but also their helpless relatives as witnesses to the horrors inflicted upon them. The path to justice is fraught with obstacles for the survivors. The prevailing security situation and mass

displacement create barriers to reporting these crimes, accessing vital healthcare psychological support services, and engaging with law enforcement. The complex nature of the crimes further complicates forensic documentation, leaving the majority of cases uninvestigated. This event brings together representatives of leading Ukrainian and international civil society organizations engaged in investigations of CRSV and providing psycho-social support to the survivors. The speakers will address how CSOs can promote victim-centered and trauma-informed documentation practices while giving agency to the survivors and seeking effective accountability avenues for these heinous crimes.

Time: 16:00-17:00
Venue: Meeting Room 5 - Plenary
Title: Advancing women's participation and leadership for inclusive, accountable and responsive security sector
Convenor: OSCE Secretariat, Conflict Prevention Centre Operations Service; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Human Rights Department
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Addressing discrimination and intolerance is key to building inclusive and accountable security sector institutions that are responsive to the security needs of the entire population. Within the broad spectrum of issues pertaining to the promotion of equality, tolerance and non-discrimination, advancing equal participation and leadership of women on all levels of security institutions is an integral part of OSCE commitments, which set out the need to create equal opportunities within the security services to allow for balanced recruitment, retention, and promotion of men and women. However, despite growing recognition of the importance of women's equal participation and leadership in the security sector, progress in this area is slow and not sufficient, especially with regard to ensuring women's meaningful and effective contribution to peace and security building efforts. Within this framework, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center (CPC) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) are organizing a side-event on Advancing women's participation and leadership for inclusive, accountable and responsive security sector. This event will bring together representatives from OSCE delegations, OSCE structures and field operations, civil society organizations, and security sector experts to identify good practices and challenges in addressing all forms of discrimination and intolerance in the security sector, with a particular emphasis on gender equality. Some of the questions to be addressed are:

- What are the persistent challenges and emerging threats affecting women's role in security sector and, in particular, in maintaining and promoting peace and security, and how can they be overcome?
- How can security sector institutions ensure greater representation and leadership of women through improved policies and capacity building promoting tolerance and non-discrimination?
- What are the mechanisms for internal and external oversight on tolerance and non-discrimination policies and practice in the security sector? How can partnership between governments, civil society and international organizations sustain and enhance the progress in this area, advancing, in particular, gender mainstreaming within the security sector? Moderation: Ms. Małgorzata Twardowska, Deputy Director for Operations Service, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre Guest speaker: Ms. Jane Gordon, Human Rights Lawyer

Time: 16:00-17:00
Venue: Meeting Room 1 - Belweder
Title: Addressing Online Hate in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Humanity is on the cusp of entering the era of AI. The application of software codes to teach computers how to understand, synthesize, and generate knowledge is already leading to AI augmentation of human intelligence. The opportunities and risks pertaining to this transformative technology are profound. Hateful AI-generated content has the potential to engulf the online space and create a zero-trust society where truth can no longer be discerned. Equally, it can assist users, particularly young people, to promote prosocial messaging and tackle intolerance and hate in an unprecedented way.

The purpose of this side event is to:

- Explain the application of generative AI in relation to online content.
- Unpack the risks and opportunities pertaining to AI in relation to issues of intolerance and hate online.
- Highlight strategies that civil society actors employ to help young people address intolerance and hate in the online space, in light of the opportunities and risks posed by generative AI.

Panelists (online):

Cameran Ashraf, Head of Human Rights, Wikimedia Foundation, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, Central European University

Melissa Mott, Director of Antisemitism, Holocaust, and Genocide Education, ADL

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**

Title: Legal Guarantees for Multifaith Tolerance in Türkiye: Focus on the Christian Minority

Convenor: ADF International

Working language: English

Summary: The side event will be dedicated to multifaith tolerance in Türkiye in light of the OSCE commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination, with a focus on the discrimination of the Christian minority. It will specifically highlight the problem of the use of immigration laws and regulations as a means to ban foreigners based on their religion. The speakers will include Ms. Tatjana Peric, OSCE Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia (including intolerance against Christians), and Mrs. Pamela Wilson, who personally experienced expulsion from Türkiye because of her missionary work. We would also like to cast a spotlight on the functioning of the judiciary in Türkiye, specifically the handling of cases involving (foreign) Christians, and the prospects of their complaints at the European Court of Human Rights. For that purpose, we have invited a former judge from Türkiye, Mr. Adil Yusuf, who can report on the situation based on his personal experience. Further speakers: Dr. Lidia Rieder, Legal Officer, ADF International, and Dr. Felix Boellmann, Director of European Advocacy at ADF International (moderator). The event will end with a Q&A session.

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**

Title: Norwegian violations of private and family rights. The current state and testimonies of the repressed

Convenor: Pantarey Foundation

Working language: English

Summary: Norway has been accused of disproportionate interference in privacy and family life for many years. Norway was repeatedly convicted in the European Court of Human Rights for violation of Art. 8 section 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Since then, it has introduced apparent systemic changes and activities improving its image in the international community. In fact, it still violates the rights of parents and children to live in their biological family and criminalizes individuals who help the

injured. During the seminar, we will present the current state of violations and present examples of repression based on the testimonies of victims.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**
Title: Xenophobia, minority rights and radicalisation in the OSCE area 2020-22.
Presentation of the official Report of ECDD.
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development; International Council for
Diplomacy and Dialogue
Working language: English

Summary: The European Center of Democracy Development (Latvia) offers yet another analytical report by an international team of leading experts on minority rights and manifestations of hatred, this time from 2020-22. The study covers 13 OSCE countries, including the United States and Canada. Of course, this set of monitoring countries does not cover all states that are members of this international organisation, but it allows us to trace general trends in lawmaking, law enforcement practice, and other areas of government and public life that affects the situation with extremism. The paper analyses the factors influencing the formation of public demand for radicalism, manifestations of xenophobia and racism, provides statistics on hate crimes, and analyses the activities of radical and extremist organisations. The analysis is based on the examples of the UK, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Poland, and France, as well as the USA, Canada, Russia, and Ukraine.

Panelists:

Valery Engel, ECDD President and Prof. Stephen Eric Bronner, Co-Director of the International Council for Diplomacy and Dialogue, Board of Governors Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science of the Rutgers University (USA)

Igor Kotler, Director at Museum of Human Rights (NJ, USA)

Friday, 6 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Reviving the OSCE commitments: how can the Helsinki process start to deliver again for rights defenders in the OSCE?
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working language: English

Summary: Amidst growing global pressure on multilateral fora that promote and protect rule of law and human rights, the OSCE's commitment to its obligations with regard to Human Dimension is also under threat. OSCE participating States who fail to uphold their OSCE commitments get away with it without serious consequences. Meanwhile, rights defenders who promote and protect these commitments are facing major challenges. The Helsinki process was instrumental for strengthening the political commitments to human rights and their defenders during the Cold War and thereafter. Sadly, today important observations, guidelines and recommendations by the OSCE human dimension bodies are not followed up with actions by participating States. Take for example the lack of effective action that followed after the Moscow Mechanism reports for the Russian Federation and Belarus. On top of that, in the face of the rapid decline of rule of law in a number of EU member states, the OSCE has also failed to speak out and provide an effective platform for rights defenders from the EU to voice their concerns.

This raises the question of how serious the participating States still take the OSCE. That is why in this event we ask ourselves: (how) can the OSCE still deliver for defenders in the participating States today? We will discuss this with multiple human rights and democracy defenders from across the OSCE who will share their thoughts about the current trends and what could be done to make the OSCE more significant again for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Persecuted and Detained: Stories of Crimean Political Prisoners
Convenor: Public Organization CrimeaSOS
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Over the last 9 years, more than 180 citizens of Ukraine have become victims of political persecution in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea. Among them are human rights defenders, religious groups, media workers, and activists; both ethnic Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar. The first deputy of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Nariman Dzhelial, human rights defender Iryna Danylovyh, journalist Amet Suleimanov, social media manager Leniie Umerova are held behind bars – a diversity of backgrounds and profiles, all targeted for their proactive position and resistance to the arbitrariness of the occupation regime. Moreover, human rights defenders and activists victims of enforced disappearance in the newly occupied territories, like Iryna Horobstova, reappear under detention in Crimea. In an attempt to intimidate the population and stifle freedom of speech, individuals are accused of involvement in terrorist and extremist organizations, illegal armed groups, as well as possession of explosives or preparation of terrorist attacks or sabotage in places where the accused were not even present. At the same time, criminal charges are mostly based on planted explosives or books and testimony of witnesses who cooperate with the FSB. During the show “tribunal-reprisals” that follow, fair trial rights are trampled, and basic necessities of those detained, such as access to medical assistance, are not addressed. The lawlessness and impunity of representatives of the occupation authorities led to the deaths of two political prisoners, Dzhemil Hafarov and Kostiantyn Shyring in early 2023. Dozens of illegally detained and convicted individuals who need urgent medical assistance remain at mortal risk. Ukrainian citizens deprived of their freedom by the Russian Federation for political reasons suffer from torture, a systematic denial of access to adequate medical aid and poor conditions of detention. The arbitrary actions of the Russians in the temporarily occupied Crimea, who have been cynically violating fundamental human rights and international humanitarian law in the peninsula since 2014, should be meaningfully addressed by the international community.

Panelists:

Sabina Ilias, CrimeaSOS
Viktoria Nesterenko, Human Rights Center ZMINA
Anastasiia Moskovychova, Front Line Defenders
Yuliya Gorbunova, Human Rights Watch
Aziz Umerov, brother of political prisoner Leniie Umerova
Bronislav Danylovyh, father of political prisoner Iryna Danylovyh (video).

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Sasaki**
Title: Tajikistan: Severe Crackdown on Political Opposition at Home and Abroad
Convenor: Forum der Tadschikischen Demokratischen Freidender- Forum of Tajik Democratic Freethinkers (FTDF); Buzurgmehr Foundation; Tajik Center for Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Tajik government is arresting, imprisoning, and torturing members of the country's peaceful political opposition. The government is also targeting perceived critics abroad, seeking their detention and extradition back to Tajikistan, and has forcibly disappeared critics abroad only to have them reappear in Tajik custody. Tajikistan's deteriorating human rights situation worsened dramatically since 2015. "Tajikistan is in the midst of the worst political and religious crackdown since the end of the country's civil war, with hundreds of people landing behind bars for no other reason than their peaceful political work"; The authoritarian regime of President Emomali Rahmon, who has ruled since 1992, severely restricts political rights and civil liberties. The political opposition and independent media have been devastated by a sustained campaign of repression, and the government exerts tight control over religious expression and activity. Wealth and authority are concentrated in the hands of Rahmon and his family. The government controls most printing presses, newsprint supplies, and broadcasting facilities, and denies independent media access to these resources. The state shuts out independent outlets and encourages self-censorship. Independent journalists face harassment and intimidation. Civil libel charges have been used to cripple outlets that criticize the government. Authorities routinely block critical websites, news portals, and social media platforms, while using periodic wholesale blackouts of internet and messaging services to suppress criticism.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: Human Rights Defenders in Exile
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The legitimate and important role that human rights defenders play in our societies makes it essential that they can operate in a free and safe environment. This is also true in cases when the environment they operate in is not their home country. Amid the ongoing crackdown against the civil society in various parts of the OSCE region and beyond it, the number of human rights defenders seeking safety outside their home countries has dramatically increased. These human rights defenders are trying to continue their work, while navigating personal, legal and organizational challenges that came with (often urgent) relocation. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) follows the situation of human rights defenders who are unable to safely operate from their home countries. ODIHR conducted a needs assessment of Belarusian human rights defenders operating from Lithuania, Georgia and Poland and identified good practices in all three countries, related to the ease of access, assistance in relocation or ability to establish new non-governmental organizations. ODIHR also proposed recommendations to the authorities of the three countries on further improvement of the protection of Belarusian human rights defenders, who stressed their need for a stable land long term status with the ability to travel for their work and form associations and open organizational bank accounts – essential to their enjoyment of freedom of association. Dedicated civil society organizations and other actors across the world are working to improve the condition of relocated human rights defenders. International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR) have produced a set of evidence-based recommendations to stimulate a wider discussion among the protection community regarding the implementation of improved support, and are presenting them in co-operation with ODIHR. Panelists will elaborate on identified good practices and propose potential solutions, inviting the audience to discuss further ideas to better the situation of relocated human rights defenders.

Panelists:

Enira Bronitskaya, Human Constanta
Aleksandar Sekulić, Human Rights Adviser, ODIHR
Tamar Beria, Programme Manager, IPHR

Moderator:

Andrew Gardner, Deputy Head of Human Rights Department, ODIHR

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: Integrating civil society in the work of national parliaments
Convenor: OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Working language: English

Summary: The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) regularly brings together more than 300 members of OSCE parliaments to debate topical issues affecting the region. Democracy, human rights and democracy questions, which are regularly being discussed within OSCE PA Third General Committee, are key priorities for the parliamentarians. Moreover, every year at its Annual Sessions, OSCE PA passes a Declaration with a wide range of recommendations directed at national authorities, including those related to strengthening dialogue with civil society actors. This side event will serve to present the conclusions from the Vancouver 2023 Declaration, brief OSCE diplomats and civil society actors on the Resolution on the Role of National Parliaments in Enhancing Participation of Civil Society in Parliamentary and Decision-Making Processes and seek their feedback, as well as their input for the upcoming 2024 OSCE PA Annual Session in Bucharest (29 June – 3 July 2024). Furthermore, the event will provide an opportunity to exchange good practices, lessons learned and innovations on how national parliaments, as well as international parliamentary fora such as OSCE PA, can better integrate civil society in their work. The OSCE PA is pleased to invite you to a side-event on “Integrating civil society in the work of national parliaments” at the 2023 Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. The OSCE PA looks forward to an active discussion on priority topics and to receiving feedback on the OSCE PA’s human rights and democracy work and civil society engagement efforts. **OBJECTIVES:** The event will provide an opportunity to discuss innovative approaches on integrating the civil society efforts into the work of national parliaments. More specifically, the event will aim to:

1. Present conclusions from the 2023 OSCE PA Vancouver Annual Session;
2. Provide a platform to exchange good practices, lessons learned and innovations on how national parliaments and interparliamentary organizations can better integrate civil society in their work;
3. Raise awareness of OSCE PA tools and mechanisms for promoting the role of the civil society in the work of national parliaments.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: Self-advocacy by women from under-represented groups for achieving justice and gender equality
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The CHANGE project received the 2023 OSCE Gender Equality Champion Award as an innovative and catalytic initiative in support of gender equality across the OSCE region in the project category. While seeking to strengthen impact on democratic institutions, policies and social norms to advance gender equality, women’s human rights and women’s safety, the CHANGE project has a strong focus on women from under-represented groups and their representation at individual, collective and institutional levels. A project’s methodology “I-CHANGE” capacity building for self-advocacy strengthens voices and visibility of Roma women and other women from under-represented groups. The side event will present the methodology and examples of its’ practical application to advance fundamental rights and freedoms of Roma women, leading to their increased access to decision-making, leadership, and representation.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Kyrgyzstan: Authoritarianism is taking over
Convenor: Soros Foundation
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Since gaining independence in 1991, Kyrgyzstan has been known in Central Asia as an “Island of democracy.” However, over the past several years, the island of democracy has been sinking under a tsunami of authoritarianism. The Kyrgyz Republic’s government is severely restricting civil society, criminally prosecuting journalists, civil activists, and human rights defenders, and supporting non-state actors to forge smear campaigns against them. Government also initiated a series of amendments to legislation including foreign agent law, mass media law and a law on NGOs activities that significantly contribute to disappearance of robust civil society, independent media, and political opposition. Moreover, these negative trends worsened after the start of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine that put more pressure on Kyrgyz authorities to inadvertently support Russia by furthering Kremlin’s rhetoric by putting more pressure on local civil society, journalists and human rights defenders. Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan and American Bar Association’s Center for Human Rights are organizing a joint side event where key local and international experts will be addressing further backsliding and offering solutions and provide with recommendations on how to better support civil society in their fight to protect fundamental rights and overall democratic values and principles.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Belarus as an International Crime: Analysis and Accountability
Convenor: World Organisation Against Torture / Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT); International Federation for Human Rights; Front Line Defenders; Human Rights Center Viasna; Human Constanta; Human Rights Watch
Working language: Belarusian, English

Summary: Since mass protests following the rigged presidential elections of 2020, human rights defenders have been one of the main targets of political persecution in Belarus. The crackdown of unprecedented scale made it impossible for activists to engage in human rights work without risking their dignity, freedom and even lives. Belarusian authorities use a wide array of tools and policies to persecute human rights defenders, ranging from legislation changes and use of anti-extremist charges, physical attacks, interrogations, and threats to family members, to closing down organisations and lengthy prison terms in retaliation for human rights work. As a result of this policy, all human rights organisations, independent media, and trade unions have been shut down in Belarus, and their members have been criminally prosecuted. As of 1 August 2023, at least 93 human rights defenders, including members and employees of human rights organisations, trade unionists, lawyers, and journalists, have been imprisoned on fabricated charges. Many Belarusian human rights defenders and entire human rights organisations were forced to go into exile. The imprisonment and forced exile of human rights defenders impede the documentation of human rights violations committed in Belarus and deprive victims and vulnerable groups of much-needed assistance and remedies. This policy of mass repression, which has not ceased since the beginning of the crisis in 2020, amounts to an international crime of persecution. At the event, speakers and participants will discuss:

- the most commonly used tools for targeting human rights organisations and human rights defenders;
- legal qualification and ways of bringing perpetrators to accountability;

- recommendations to the OSCE, States-members and international organisations on how to restore and safeguard civic space and protect Belarusian human rights defenders.

Panelists:

Paval Sapelka, Human Rights Center Viasna

Enira Branitskaya, Human Rights Organisation Human Constanta

Masha Chichtchenkova, World Organisation Against Torture

Tanya Lokshina, Human Rights Watch

Alexandra Leibova, International Federation for Human Rights

Moderator:

Veronika Lapina, Front Line Defenders

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**

Title: Human Rights, Climate Change, and the Third Dimension

Convenor: Crude Accountability

Working language: English

Summary: Crude Accountability invites you to a panel discussing climate within the context of the third dimension. As the climate crisis intensifies, the intersectionality between climate, environment, security, and human rights becomes ever more apparent. Utilizing a collection of policy papers and interviews collected by Crude Accountability from experts and activists spanning the OSCE region, panelists will discuss the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on human rights including forced displacement, resource conflicts, disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities, and barriers to democratic civic participation in decision-making within the OSCE region. The OSCE is taking greater steps to include considerations for climate within its dialogue, as most recently demonstrated by the 2021 MC Decision on Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change. However, climate and environment both remain outside of the third dimension of security and human rights and more must be done to fairly address the human rights implications of climate and environmental injustices. The climate crisis, the worst effects of which we have yet to feel, lays bare the intersections between climate, environment, and human rights. We must reenvision climate and environment as aspects of the third dimension, offer support for affected communities, and safeguard their human rights.

Contact Info: Jeffrey Dunn Jr., Research Coordinator jeffrey@crudeaccountability.org Cell/Signal +1 2074412171

Monday, 9 October

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**

Title: Filtration and Forced Relocation: Examining Russia's Violations of international law

Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties

Working language: English

Summary: Among the many atrocities committed by the Russian military and proxy forces in Ukraine since Russia's February 2022 full scale invasion, the so-called "filtration" of Ukrainian civilians has emerged as an area of growing focus and concern. Considering this, the ABA Center for Human Rights,

CCL, and FRF are organizing a side event to present a new report “Russia’s War in Ukraine: The Filtration and Forced Relocation of Civilians Constitute Gross Violations of International Law” This report joins the voices of those documenting the treatment of Ukrainian civilians and the conditions in which civilians are held, as well as the forced transfers and deportations taking place in connection to the filtration process. The report provides an overview and analysis of the evidence collected on the practice of filtration, based on fieldwork conducted both inside Ukraine and internationally. The focus of the analysis lies on three categories of violations related to filtration: arbitrary detention and deprivation of liberty, inhuman treatment and torture, and forced transfers and deportations. These actions directly breach a multitude of international laws encompassing three legal frameworks: international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law. The side event will allow both local and international experts to discuss the criminal practice of filtration carried out against Ukrainian civilians by the Russian military and proxies during the full-scale invasion of Russia. Experts will explore the applicability of definitions of arbitrary detention and deprivation of liberty, inhuman treatment and torture, and forced transfers and deportations to the practice of filtration. The experts will offer recommendations for the international community on ways to better support civil society engaged in collecting, documenting, processing and analyzing the evidence and how to find and ensure accountability for these crimes.

Panelists:

Oleksandra Romantsova – CCL Executive Director

Artem Matvyeyev, Ukrainian civilian (Zoom)

Natalia Arno – President, FRF

Scott Martin – lawyer, director of Global Justice Advisors

Kristie Bluett – Assistant Professor of Clinical Law, University of Cincinnati College of Law. A human rights advocate

Glenna McGregor, Steering Committee Member and former Chair (2018-2022), ABA International Criminal Law Practice Project (Zoom)

Moderator:

Jasmine Cameron, Senior Legal Advisor, ABA Center for Human Rights

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**

Title: State of torture prohibition in the OSCE region: Current assessment of compliance with the prohibition of torture in OSCE countries and what needs to be done to effectively fight against torture

Convenor: World Organisation Against Torture / Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT)

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The CSP Working Group on Fight against Torture invite you to a discussion on the state of torture prohibition in the OSCE region. In December 2020, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 7/20 “Prevention and eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”. The CSP Working group was one of the most active advocates for its adoption and for inclusion of many provisions. Since 2015 the Civic Solidarity Platform's Working Group on Fight against Torture has been monitoring the situation in the OSCE region, analysing roots of the problems, developing and advocating for measures to be implemented in order to effectively fight against torture. Since 2020 our Working group has been conducting the periodic measurements of the Index on Torture – a unique instrument calculated for each country based on a series of measurements reflecting the State's performance in areas such as torture response mechanism, judicial review, anti-torture provisions in domestic legislation, procedural guarantees designed to prevent the use of torture, torture prevention mechanisms and methods available in the country and the State's adherence to

international standards on the prohibition of torture. The Index of Torture is accompanied by comprehensive review on state of torture prohibition in each country where we measure the Index. Four years of measurement allow the Working Group's experts to identify a group of problems which must be addressed as a matter of priority through joint efforts of the government and civil society. These findings mainly concern Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. During the side-event the Working Group's experts will present their findings on the current and share their position and recommendations on what needs to be done to follow the obligations under the OSCE Decision 7/20.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Olenivka's massacre: Investigation and reconstruction of slaughter based on testimonies
Convenor: Media Initiative for Human Rights
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Several explosions rang out in Olenivka on the night of July 28-29, 2022. A fire broke out in a barrack where 193 Ukrainian prisoners of war were detained. About 50 soldiers were killed and more than 70 seriously injured. All of them were representatives of unit "Azov". What really happened in Olenivka have not been established to this day. The names of the organizers and perpetrators have not been named. The case is being investigated by the Security Service of Ukraine and the Prosecutor General's Office as violation of the laws and customs of war. Till now investigators (Ukrainian or international) have not gotten access to the crime scene, most of the witnesses are still in captivity, and the faces of people who may have been involved in the murder were hidden under masks. The Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) conducts its own investigation. To reconstruct the events of that night, MIHR's team interviewed the witnesses of the crime and families of killed and wounded POWs. During the side-event, MIHR will explain how did it happen; what had happened inside and outside the barracks; why so many POW's died; who is responsible for the war crime.

Panelists:

Maria Klymyk, one of the authors of the investigation, journalist of the Media Initiative for Human Rights

Andrii Yakovlev, MIHR's lawyer

Svitlana Solonska is the wife of a prisoner of war who died in Olenivka

Anastasia Gondyul is the wife of a prisoner of war wounded in Olenivka

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: Presentation of ODIHR Warsaw Recommendations on Judicial Independence and Accountability
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The event will be conducted in English and Russian languages, will aim to gather participants from across the OSCE region. ODIHR will present a newly develop set of recommendations that compliment the Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence. The tool aims to help policymakers, including: ministries of justice, ombudsman offices, judiciaries, civil society, and other stakeholders involved in the reform of the justice sector. The Warsaw Recommendations address such issues as accountability of judicial councils, disciplinary proceedings against judges, transfer and promotion of judges, freedom of expression, and equality and non-discrimination in the judiciary.

Time: 14:00-15:00
Venue: Meeting Room 5 - Plenary
Title: Mind the Gap: how to promote a gender transformative humanitarian assistance in time of crisis? Case study of the Ukraine Refugee Response
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the International Organizations in Vienna
Working language: English

Summary: Humanitarian crises have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, often exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities. The ongoing crisis in Ukraine and consequent forced displacements, has left a devastating mark on the lives of women and girls, who make up 90% of internally displaced persons within the country and refugees across Europe. In the face of this challenge, how can we ensure that the response to the Ukraine refugee crisis is both inclusive and gender-transformative? This side event offers a vital platform for engaging a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including participating States and civil society organizations actively involved in the humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis. It serves as an opportunity to delve into the gendered dimensions of the Ukraine refugee crisis, with a special focus on implementing a gender-transformative approach within the context of a crisis. The event will provide valuable insights into key analyses, emerging trends, primary challenges, and innovative practices. With the participation of key speakers representing local respondents and international stakeholders, the side event will not only review the measures already undertaken but also engage in collective brainstorming to explore opportunities for gender-transformative change. This discussion aims to pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive humanitarian response in the face of a crisis.

Time: 16:00-17:00
Venue: Meeting Room 2 - Saski
Title: Persecution of entrepreneurs by the public prosecution in Poland: corruption attempts, arbitrary detention and fabricated charges
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation
Working language: English

Summary: The side event will examine some of the most notable cases of the politicisation of the Public Prosecutor's Office against the backdrop of the erosion of the rule of law in Poland. For the first time, an array of high-profile entrepreneurs and executives who fell victim to arbitrary detention, corruption attempts and other forms of state harassment will tell their stories, accompanied by expert commentary from the author of Poland's shift to a market economy, former Deputy PM Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz. The event will feature: Prof. Leszek Balcerowicz - economist, Chairman of the Council at the Civil Development Forum, former Chairman of the National Bank of Poland, Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Poland; Przemysław Krych - Polish entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist, founder of Cornerstone Investment Management and Griffin Real Estate; the largest donor of the Investigative Journalism Initiative of Gazeta Wyborcza, the leading liberal daily in Poland; in December 2017, Mr Krych was arbitrarily detained by the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA) and arrested on fabricated charges; Piotr Osiecki - Polish entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Altus TFI, the largest independent asset management company in the CEE until he was targeted by the PiS government with corporate raidership; accompanied and represented by attorney Katarzyna Szwarc; Jakub Karnowski, PhD - economist, independent Board Member in Poland and Ukraine, lecturer at the Warsaw School of Economics, former President of the Board at Polish State Railways (PKP) and Chair of Supervisory Board of PKP Cargo, targeted with bogus charges as revenge for his anti-corruption activities; Introduced and moderated by Martin Mycielski - Vice-President of the Open Dialogue Foundation, with welcome from Bartosz Kramek, ODF's Chair of the Supervisory Board. Read more, contact us and

download our annual report on the Polish Public Prosecutor's Office at www.odfoundation.eu.
Tweet/post about our event tagging @ODFoundation (X, FB) or OpenDialogueFoundation (Instagram)
with the hashtag #WarsawHDC!

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Human Dimension: Situation with human rights and rule of law in Central Asia
Convenor: Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan"
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Analysis discussion about the impact and role of protection and promotion of citizens' rights and freedoms in the context of threats and risks in Central Asia from local to global level

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Belarus: Suppression of independent lawyers has intensified. Is there a Solution?
Convenor: Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers
Working language: Belarussian, English, Russian

Summary: A joint side event by the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers (BAHR), Right to Defense, American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights, CCBE, Lawyers for Lawyers, International Commission of Jurists, and International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. The period after the fraudulent 2020 presidential elections was marked by unprecedented violence by the Belarusian authorities against peaceful demonstrators as well as by a complete breakdown of the justice and legal system. Violence and tortures, meticulously documented by civil society and international mechanisms, has been properly investigated or prosecuted by the Belarusian authorities. Numerous politically motivated trials were marred by fair trial violations. The number of persons subjected to administrative liability is 40,000 while about 4,000 people are facing criminal charges. The number of political prisoners has exceeded 1,500. Attorneys have become a particular target of repression. Since 2020, more than 100 lawyers have had their licenses revoked in retaliation for their work on sensitive political cases. As a result, there are now very few lawyers left in the country who are willing to represent their clients in sensitive cases. However, independent Belarusian lawyers are fighting back: they recently created the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers (BAHRL) which mission is to restore the Bar institute and right to defence in Belarus. Panellists will discuss the current situation of the legal profession in Belarus, highlight specific cases of imprisoned and exiled lawyers, introduce the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers as a new voice of the legal profession in Belarus, and provide recommendations for the international community.

Panelists:

Lela Metreveli, Director of Human Rights Embassy, "Lawyers for the Rule of Law in the Eastern Partnership Region"; Regional Project Manager

Maryia Kolesava-Hudzilina, President of Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers

Maksim Polovinko, Member of Belarussian Association of Human Rights Lawyers, Team-lead of Right to Defense project

Artem Semyanov, Human rights lawyer, Belarussian Association of Human Rights Lawyers

Tatsiana Lishankova, Human Rights Lawyer, Belarussian Association of Human Rights Lawyers.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: ODIHR Brief: Guiding Principles of Democratic Lawmaking and Better Laws
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Building on ODIHR's unique methodology for assessing legislative processes of individual OSCE participating States over the past 20 years, ODIHR has developed new Guidelines on Democratic Law-making for Better Laws. The main purpose of the Guidelines is to provide an overview of key rule of law, democratic governance and human rights standards and good practices underlying each stage of the legislative cycle, from the very early policy discussions, to the development, drafting, consultation, discussion, adoption and publication, and later monitoring and evaluation of laws. They also seek to showcase how to make such processes open, transparent, effective and inclusive, accessible, non-discriminatory, gender-responsive and sensitive to the needs of diverse groups of society, representative and participatory. In essence, their main goal is to provide guidance to decision-makers on how to draft better legislation by enhancing the quality of law-making processes.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: Launch of 'The Rise of Citizenship Deprivation as counter-terrorism: A Global Threat to Human Rights' Report
Convenor: Islamic Human Rights Commission
Working language: English

Summary: Description: The IHRC team launches its latest report 'The Rise of Citizenship Deprivation: A Global Threat to Human Rights'. The report focuses on the practice of citizenship deprivation by states and provides a comprehensive analysis of the key human rights violations by states used to target EU citizens, among others, through citizenship deprivation as an anti-terrorism measure.

Panelists:

Caterina Aiena, author of the report
Massoud Shadjareh, IHRC chairperson
Abed Choudhury, Director of IHRC Legal team

Tuesday, 10 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: New Visual tools in Human Rights Protection: How Documentaries Help to Document War Crimes?
Convenor: Human Rights Protection Group SICH
Working language: English

Summary: Since 2018, civic organization Human Rights Protection Group SICH has been creating a variety of visual content as an additional advocacy tool. These instruments complement and empower traditional means of protecting the rights of war victims, in particular, IDPs, wounded civilians, POWs, civic hostages, and relatives of missing persons. Visual technologies help to establish interaction with authorities, promote legislative changes, and draw attention to human rights violations during the war in Ukraine both of the Ukrainian and international audience. SICH cooperates with all-Ukrainian TV channels, European universities, screens films in cinemas, as well as on the offline and online platforms

in Europe and the USA. During the side event SICH will share their experience and screen a short documentary (10 min) about a former civic hostage who was captured in Mariupol.

Panelists:

Olga Bozhko (Volynska), Executive Director, Human Rights Protection Group SICH, civic organization
Lika Toloraia, media expert, Human Rights Protection Group SICH, civic organization

Serhiy Klevets, a former civilian hostage (Zoom)

Yuriy Tregubko, a former civilian hostage (Zoom)

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**

Title: Demanding accountability for inhuman treatment in Belarusian and Russian prisons

Convenor: Civil Rights Defenders; Front Line Defenders

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Civil society has played a crucial role in monitoring and documenting the situation in prisons and in defending the rights of prisoners. The situation in Belarusian and Russian prisons has been condemned by national civil society actors and the international community for violations of prisoners rights; inhuman conditions; politically-motivated trials where due process is not respected; and cases of torture, including many cases of human rights defenders being targeted because of their legitimate human rights work. Both governments continue to use arbitrary detention and politically-motivated prosecution to silence critics, activists, journalists, and opposition politicians. And to date, both governments have failed to meet international standards of rights protection in closed institutions, with ongoing impunity and a general lack of accountability in cases of inhuman treatment and torture. In Russia and Belarus, the last year has been marked by drastically increased restrictions and repression on human rights defenders and activists who disagree with the state politics and call for respect of fundamental freedoms. Repressions include ongoing detentions of activists and journalists as well as those rights defenders in both countries who remain imprisoned. To address the persecution of activists and their imprisonment as well as document cases of torture and inhuman treatment in prisons, Crew Against Torture in Russia and Human Rights Centre Viasna in Belarus provide much-needed and timely legal assistance to victims of torture and political prisoners. The organisations' thorough and in-depth documentation of rights violations in prisons and of prisoners has been crucial in calling for accountability. This side event presentation will explore the work of civil society in both countries in the ongoing efforts to combat impunity in cases of torture and inhuman treatment and protect the rights of persons in prisons, especially those jailed on politically-motivated grounds.

Introduction of the participants: Elena Rodina, Civil Rights Defenders

Panelists: Leonid Sudalenko, human rights defender and lawyer

Pavel Sapelko, lawyer and analyst, Interim Board member, Human Rights Centre Viasna

Sergei Babinets, the head of the Crew Against Torture

Ekaterina Vanslova, the head of the North Caucasus branch of the Crew Against Torture

Moderator:

Veronika Lapina, Front Line Defenders Introduction of the participants: Elena Rodina, Civil Rights Defenders

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**

Title: Addressing Atrocities: Torture of civilian prisoners and POW in the Aftermath of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Convenor: Tribunal for Putin

Working language: English

Summary: Freedom from torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right. In spite of this absolute prohibition, torture and other ill-treatment continued to systematically occur during Russia's assault on Ukraine. The Russian Federation mostly refuses to admit that it is detaining civilians making them the most vulnerable category of a captive. Also, Russian sham AZOV trials in Rostov-on-Don are evident examples of combatant privilege denied. Exchanged captives and prisoners report on torture and inhumane treatment in captivity. It's crucial to emphasize that the prohibition of torture is an absolute norm in international law, and all nations are obligated to uphold it, during both international and non-international armed conflict. Considering this, the Tribunal for Putin initiative organized a side event to present the widespread pattern of torture and ill-treatment in the Russian Federation and occupied areas of Ukraine. The event will summarize the evidence collected and insights developed on the criminal practice of torture of POW and civilian hostages by the Russian military and proxies during the full-scale invasion of Russia. The panelists will also offer recommendations to ensure accountability for the human rights violations and international crimes associated with torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Introduction and moderation: Oleksandra Romantsova, Executive director of the Center for Civil Liberties, 8 years of experience in documenting war crimes on the territory of Ukraine

Panelists:

Olena Kuvaieva, human rights lawyer at the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) Strategic Litigation Center specializing in strategic litigation

Vladyslav Dolzhko, lawyer, legal advisor, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG), co-author of the KHPG's Submissions to the OTP of the ICC.

Yulia Polekhina, lawyer at the Human rights group Sich

Olena Yagupova, civilian Ukrainian Witness testimony: Proof of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention of civilians, torture and ill-treatment conducted by the Russians.

Victoria Petruk, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War (KSHPPV) expert
Anna Kozmenko, strategic litigation lawyer at the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. .

Contact person: Nataliia Yashchuk, CCL, nataliia.yashchuk@ccl.org

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: The Situation in Karakalpakstan: Human Rights Violations in the Absence of Political Dialogue

Convenor: Freedom for Eurasia; United States Mission to the OSCE

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The bloody suppression of unrest in Karakalpakstan on July 1-2, 2022, caused by the Uzbek authorities' attempt to abolish the sovereignty of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, marks a crisis in the colonial model of governance that developed in relations between Tashkent and Nukus after the collapse of the USSR.

Unfortunately, official Tashkent has not yet demonstrated its readiness for dialogue, balancing, on the one hand, between intimidation and repression, and on the other, trying to deny the systemic nature of the existing problems. The responsibility of security forces for the disproportionate use of force, which led to numerous casualties, has not been effectively investigated, and information about the victims is unreliable. Uzbek authorities completely deny torture, which took place in hundreds of cases during the official investigation of the unrest.

Currently, protest leader Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov, sentenced to 16 years in prison on the basis of fabricated evidence, is being held in inhumane conditions. A total of 64 people have been convicted,

while others have pending criminal cases brought against them. Civil society activists are under unprecedented pressure.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Shifting mindsets: from coercive interrogations to effective interviewing “The Méndez Principles”
Convenor: Association for Prevention of Torture
Working language: English

Summary: The side event has the objective to introduce the Méndez Principles and discuss how they contribute to advance human rights and effective administration of justice. The event also aims to build further cross-regional support for the Méndez Principles to facilitate their implementation at the national level.

Panelists:

H.E. Ambassador Fabrice Filliez, Permanent Representative of Switzerland in Poland
Mr. Przemysław Kazimirski, Director of National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture of Poland
Ms. Barbara Bernath, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture
Ms. Verónica Hinestroza, Senior Legal Adviser, Fair Trials (Zoom)

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: “Political prisoners in Belarus: 3 years of injustice”
Convenor: Human Rights Center Viasna
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: More than three years after the presidential elections of August 2020 politically motivated persecution in Belarus does not stop. The number of political prisoners is growing, the reasons for detention are expanding, and the methods the Belarusian authorities are using to put pressure on those who are being persecuted for political reasons are changing. The health of people in prisons is deteriorating, there have been cases of deaths in prisons. This became a humanitarian problem, where human right defenders, relatives and political prisoners have to fight and look for ways to improve their situation. The event will include testimonies about the current situation for political prisoners in Belarus from ex-political prisoners, relatives of political prisoners and human right defenders. To address the issues there will be discussions on the possible ways to support Belarusian political prisoners for the international community and debates whether ways to release Belarusian political prisoners exist.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**
Title: No peace, no progress, no human rights. Briefing by Russian human rights defenders
Convenor: Moscow Helsinki Group
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Council of Russian Human Rights Defenders invites you to a discussion on the current situation in Russia. It develops from bad to worse in the context of the Putin regime’s brutal aggression against Ukraine, military censorship, expanding politically-motivated persecution for anti-war expression and any opposition to the government, elimination of independent media, toxic spreading of

hatred and incitement to violence by the propaganda machine, and the government's war against civil society. Despite the crackdown, human rights defenders, civic activists, volunteers, and democratically-minded people across Russia continue standing against the war and fighting for human rights and democratic values. In addition to security risks from government's repression and actions by war-mongering imperial "patriots", they face increasing isolation from international cooperation and disappearance of resources.

Time: 16:00-17:00
Venue: Meeting Room 1 - Belweder
Title: Making the Nelson Mandela Rules actionable for prison staff: ODIHR/PRI curriculum on the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The side event aims to present ODIHR and Penal Reform International (PRI)'s new Trainer's Manual: Introduction to the Nelson Mandela Rules International training program. It will provide an opportunity to discuss how participating States and other relevant actors can promote the practical implementation of the Rules, including through capacity building initiatives. It will also raise awareness on the importance of the Rules as key standard to protect the human rights of prisoners, while providing reliable guidance to prison staff and prison administrations. States have a duty to ensure that people in prison are treated humanely and that their human rights are respected and upheld. OSCE participating States have repeatedly emphasized the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and the necessity to ensure that all persons in detention are treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. The revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (known as the Nelson Mandela Rules), are regarded as the key international standard governing prison administrations and providing protection for the rights of persons deprived of liberty, including protection from torture and other ill-treatment. To help prison staff understand and implement the Rules in practice, ODIHR, in partnership with PRI and in consultation with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), have developed a trainer's manual that includes presentations, practical exercises and guidance notes. The manual is based on the ODIHR/PRI Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules and was tested in a four-day pilot training in Gothenburg, Sweden. Since then, ODIHR held a successful training for Italian penitentiary police and a Training of Trainers for staff involved in the delivery of training for prison officers in Belgrade, Serbia. To make the tested curriculum available to other institutions for trainings of prison staff and increase the number of trained prison staff, ODIHR will make it available as a publication.

Panelists:

Mr. Dmitry Nurumov, PRI Representative for Central Asia

Ms. Smiljka Baranček, Director of Training Centre, Prison system and probation Directorate, Croatia

Mr. Isaac Tacho, Probation Inspector, Swedish Prison and Probation Service

Moderator:

Laura Jaffrey, ODIHR Adviser on Torture Prevention

Time: 16:00-17:00
Venue: Meeting Room 4 - Opera
Title: The Shoot To Kill Order. How the Events in January 2022 Affected Human Rights and Freedoms in Kazakhstan
Convenor: Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Almost two years on, the Kazakhstani government has not undertaken an effective and independent investigation into the Kantar (Bloody January) events, nor has it recognized that widescale human rights violations took place or provided full compensation for the victims and their families. On the contrary, victims, and those protecting their rights such as human rights defenders and lawyers continue to face harassment and persecution in retribution for carrying out their professional duties. In June 2023, the Human Rights Alliance in Support of Fundamental Rights of Kazakhstan presented its report about the tragic events in Kazakhstan in January 2022. The human rights defenders as authors of this report had systematically documented the grave violations of human rights during the January 2022 events. In their findings the authors are posing eight specific questions and are making five precise recommendations to the authorities of Kazakhstan. This side-event will feature this report as well as three other monitoring reports covering the events of January 2022 in Kazakhstan and discuss the response of government authorities to the findings and recommendations. KIBHR is holding this briefing in order to highlight our concerns about the worrying deterioration in the human rights situation in the country and to call for a suitable response from the OSCE and the international community. The objectives of this joint side event are: 1. To inform the members states of OSCE and the bodies of the organisation about the ongoing situation in Kazakhstan after the Kantar events; 2. To advocate for an international investigation of the massive human rights violation in Kazakhstan in 2022; 3. To advocate for upholding the commitment of Kazakhstan to implementing its international human rights commitments.

Panelists:

Yevgeniy Zhovtis, Human Rights Defender, Director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Member of the Human Rights Alliance in Support of Fundamental Rights (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

Bakhytzhan Toregozhina, Human Rights Defender, President of Ar. Rukh. Khak. Human Rights Foundation, Member of the Human Rights Alliance in Support of Fundamental Rights (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

Viktor Ten, Director of the Taldykorgan Human Rights Center, member the Kazakhstan NGOs Coalition against Torture (Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan)

Rachel Gasowski, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR).

Moderator:

Tatyana Chernobil

Wednesday, 11 October

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**

Title: Upholding human rights commitments: Human rights perspective of the humanitarian mine action

Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE

Working language: English

Summary: Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are key to the OSCE's comprehensive security concept. The OSCE participating States have recognized the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and that these are guaranteed by law. The Organization, with the unique concept of security and shared commitments in the field of human rights, is well positioned to serve as a platform for dialogue and cooperation in this area. The side event intends to discuss humanitarian mine

actions as an indispensable element of sustainable peace, security and development, as well as enjoyment of human rights. The side event also aims to improve awareness among the OSCE participating States regarding the humanitarian mine action in the OSCE region, as well as to promote the full and effective implementation of the OSCE commitments related to human rights, including through effectively utilizing the existing mine assistance mechanism in order to address human rights problems arising from landmines. Landmines and other explosive remnants and devices pose serious and indiscriminate threat to life, safety and livelihoods of civilians, including in the post-conflict period, creating additional obstacles for the return of refugees and IDPs to their homes, thus violating their fundamental human rights. They undermine prospects for attaining sustainable peace, security and development, as well as for enabling the enjoyment of human rights. A direct link between Mine Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework, is well recognized.

Time: 14:00-15:00
Venue: Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski
Title: Echoes of Resilience and Diversity: Unveiling Minority Stories from Türkiye Amidst Earthquake Challenges
Convenor: Minority Rights Group International
Working language: English, Turkish

Summary: We are pleased to present an engaging side event, “Echoes of Resilience and Diversity: Unveiling Minority Stories from Türkiye Amidst Earthquake Challenges” as part of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings (HIDM). This event sheds a light on minority rights and identities in Türkiye. Accomplished experts and network participants from the Minority, Accountability, Rights and Collaboration (MARC) Turkey project will take center stage, providing a platform for enriching discussions, powerful insights, and the screening of two short films that intimately capture minorities’ experiences. The panel discussion, short film screening, and Q&A session offer a holistic understanding of the subject matter and encourage meaningful interactions among attendees.

Time: 14:00-15:00
Venue: Meeting Room 4 - Opera
Title: Why words matter: religious leaders against hate speech
Convenor: KAICIID International Dialogue Centre
Working language: English

Summary: Words can hurt but also turn into bridges to reconciliation and peace. While words of hatred harm human dignity, paving the way to abuse and violations, words can also point the path to empathy, mutual recognition and respect. The rise of “hate speech” whether in the form of discriminatory and xenophobic language or other forms of intolerant and hateful expressions, calls for a renewed reflection about how to prevent and counteract this pernicious phenomenon. As outlined in KAICIID research and policy papers developed in the framework of the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) , religious leaders and other religious actors are in a critical position to deal with this threat to social cohesion and peace, particularly “hate speech” perpetrated in the name of or on the basis of religion. Not only their actions are highly symbolic, but they bear a special responsibility towards promoting words that heal, fostering fellowship, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence. Organised by the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) in partnership with European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe), the side event “Why words matter: religious leaders against hate speech” provides an opportunity to focus attention on the pervasive and detrimental effects of hate speech and the role of religious leaders and actors in preventing and addressing this

phenomenon. In a dialogic talk, members of the Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Sikh communities will share their insights and experiences in this connection. Thanks to its distinct constituency and dual governance structure – gathering states and religious leaders – KAICIID is uniquely placed to provide an inclusive platform to convene religious leaders, policymakers and experts. The organization aims to end the abuse of religion to justify oppression, violence and conflict, while fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an effective tool to promote justice, peace and reconciliation.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**
Title: Reclaiming Home: Upholding the Right of Refugees to Return
Convenor: Western Azerbaijan Community
Working language: English

Summary: The right of refugees to return to their homes is a fundamental human right enshrined in various international conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1951 Refugee Convention. Despite the legal recognition, millions of refugees worldwide continue to face significant obstacles and challenges preventing them from returning to their places of origin. This side event aims to shed light on the importance of upholding this fundamental right and explore practical solutions to ensure its implementation.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at the end of 2022, 35.3 million people were refugees, and only 453,600 refugees returned or were resettled. Repatriation programmes bringing people home and ensuring their fundamental human rights and safety, is of significant importance. By fostering dialogue, sharing experiences, and developing practical solutions, it is important to empower all stakeholders to work together in promoting the right of refugees to return to their homes and rebuild their lives with dignity and security.

Large-scale displacement of people in the OSCE area due to conflicts or their consequences is one of the most acute problems requiring urgent action. Azerbaijan has been coping with the problem of refugees and IDPs for almost three decades due to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Close to one million Azerbaijanis had been expelled from Armenia and the territories of Azerbaijan occupied.

The upcoming side event will provide a unique opportunity to examine barriers hindering the return of refugees and discuss challenges faced by them worldwide, as well as encourage dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to identify solutions to remove obstacles and promote the implementation of the right of refugees to return. The event also aims to provide a platform to share experience as well as expertise in support of ensuring the right of refugees to return.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**
Title: The Human Rights Situation of Ukrainian Roma affected by the War in Ukraine
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The Russian Federation's military attack in Ukraine has led large number of displaced populations, including Roma, in the country and abroad. As part of the mass influx of displaced people, Roma have experienced discriminatory experiences and intolerant treatment at every stage of the displacement cycle – from fleeing the conflict zones to securing shelter, protection, humanitarian aid and state services made available for internally displaced and refugees. Roma women have been particularly affected by manifestations of discrimination based on intersectional identities they possess. Anti-Roma attitudes remain the key motivation behind these obstacles.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: Roma Rights are Human Rights: Advocating for the Human Rights of the Roma in Europe and Eurasia
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: The proposed side event on Roma Rights are Human Rights: Advocating for the Human Rights of the Roma in Europe and Eurasia would be a world stage platform to facilitate a multilateral, solution-driven discussion about the persisting international issue that is the marginalization of the Roma in Europe and Eurasia. The Roma Rights are Human Rights side event would offer participants the opportunity to address entrenched institutional practices and norms affecting the Roma; dispel persisting societal attitudes and divisions about and within the Roma community, which authoritarian states and other malign actors exploit; and propose solutions to combat structural barriers to employment and economic opportunities that prevent the Roma from experiencing the realization of their freedom and equality in dignity and rights.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**
Title: Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ People in Kazakhstan
Convenor: Human Rights Centre Glotion
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: International documents in the field of human rights have established the principles of non-discrimination and equality, which means - human rights belong to everyone regardless of gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Is there any anti-discrimination legislation in Kazakhstan that protects the rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals, what is the state doing to assist in the implementation of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and what difficulties do LGBTIQ+ persons encounter in the realization of human rights?

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Migration Crisis: how to address it integrally?
Convenor: Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture
Working language: English, Polski

Summary: The event will be dedicated to discussing the migration crisis that Europe has been facing for several years. In particular, during the discussion, panelists will raise a number of issues, including how to effectively manage the migration crisis and whether the new Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission will fulfill its role and be an effective tool to prevent future crises. Moreover, the participants, who come from different EU countries, will exchange their own experiences on how illegal migration has been countered in their member states.

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict: practical approaches to improving compliance and accountability
Convenor: Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Working language: English

Summary: The side-event is convened by Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in cooperation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The event will explore practical solutions to improving compliance and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) committed during armed conflict. Many armed conflicts see a high incidence of SGBV, often committed on a mass scale in order to terrorize civilian population and punish or humiliate “the enemy”. While women and girls are more vulnerable to SGBV and most perpetrators are men, men are also routinely victims of SGBV during armed conflict, in particular in detention settings where the inherent power imbalance between the detainees and their captors increases the risk of abuse. In OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05, OSCE participating States have committed to “...take all necessary steps to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls during and after armed conflict and emergencies, including the bringing to justice of perpetrators of crimes, and to take special measures to address the needs of women and girls in the post-conflict environment.” Combatting all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, is also reflected in MC decisions 14/07, 18/04 and 20/07. Within this framework, this event will explore the key challenges to improving compliance with SGBV prohibitions during armed conflict, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable. In particular, international experts and practitioners with first-hand experience of prosecuting SGBV crimes will share their insights on the following:

- Strategies for recording and processing mass SGBV cases during and in the aftermath of armed conflicts;
- Strategies for increasing capacity of domestic institutions to respond to SGBV crimes committed during armed conflict;
- Strategies for ensuring accountability of commanders and high-level military and civilian officials for SGBV committed during armed conflict

Panelists:

Antonietta Trapani, Project Coordinator, War Crimes Monitoring Project, Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Igor Korol, Ukraine Prosecutor-General’s Office, Head of the First Unit of the Division for Conflict-Related Violence Crimes of the Department for the Counteraction to Crimes Committed in the Context of Armed Conflict

Moderator: Monika Hlavkova, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: Capacity-Building Tools for Roma and Sinti Civil Society: Guidelines for Roma and Sinti activists in addressing access to healthcare and situations of evictions

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English

Summary: The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is mandated to assist OSCE participating States in implementing the commitments relating to Roma and Sinti, stemming from the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (Action Plan) and the three subsequent Ministerial Council Decisions. In this respect, chapter four of the Action Plan elaborates on “addressing socio-economic issues”. It provides a plethora of recommended actions by OSCE participating States and OSCE institutions and structures, including in the realms of housing and health care. The Action Plan has committed participating States to ensuring non-discriminatory access to healthcare for Roma and Sinti, and to ensuring inclusive housing policies free of segregation. In view of its mandate, ODIHR produced Guidelines for Activists Addressing Roma

and Sinti Evictions, as well as Guidelines for Activists Addressing Access to Health Care and Vaccination for Roma and Sinti.

Thursday, 12 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Ratification of the Rome Statute, the role of Ukraine and the international community in ensuring quality justice processes regarding the war in Ukraine
Convenor: The Institute for Peace and Common Ground (IPCG)
Working language: English

Summary: Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is accompanied by numerous grave international crimes on a daily basis. The response to this challenge was unprecedented support for justice and accountability efforts from many countries around the world. Initiation of an investigation at the ICC and financial support for the Court's work on Ukraine; resource, technical and expert support for the work of justice agencies, participation in discussions on the establishment of special justice and accountability mechanisms, compensation mechanisms; participation in joint investigation teams; investigations under the universal jurisdiction mechanism, etc. The case of Ukraine, in particular because of such a strong response from the international community, has resulted in expectation that it should help not only ensure justice in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine, but also strengthen the international justice system as a whole. At the same time, a year and a half after the full-scale invasion and nine years since the beginning of the armed conflict, the architecture of conflict related justice in Ukraine still has significant gaps both at the level of the regulatory framework and in the more practical dimension. This makes its capacity insufficient to respond to the challenges of providing justice for victims of the armed conflict both in Ukraine and in other situations around the world. The Rome Statute, which has not been ratified by Ukraine, the lack of an adequate national legislative framework, as well as of a strategic vision of priorities, coupled with other factors remain fundamental obstacles. Policymakers have a unique opportunity and responsibility to effectively overcome these obstacles. The way they approach the drafting and implementation of policies at the domestic and international levels determines their effectiveness. This event aims to outline the main challenges inherent in the existing efforts to build a conflict related justice architecture in Ukraine and how Ukraine and international partners can strengthen them to achieve the common goal of restoring the rights of victims and bringing perpetrators of the grave crimes to justice.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**
Title: Missing Migrants at the EU-Belarus Border
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will gather representatives of civil society organizations from Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to present the state of affairs of the rights of asylum seekers at the EU-Belarus border and present their joint initiative to monitor the cases of missing persons. Since the summer of 2021, the number of asylum seekers entering Latvia, Lithuania and Poland from Belarus increased rapidly due to actions of the Belarusian regime. In all the three EU countries, the practice of pushbacks or summary returns of asylum seekers to Belarus, often carried out in a violent manner, has become

prevalent and systematic. It has been well documented that forced returns to Belarus place individuals at risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment at the hands of Belarusian state agents and chain-refoulement to their countries of origin. Being denied access to the territory and the asylum procedures of the EU countries and being pushed back and forth over the green border multiple times including in harsh winter temperatures have caused serious injuries to men, women, and children and eventually lead to over 70 documented deaths in the border areas. The situation has been made worse by the limited access to the border areas for representatives of civil society, international organizations and the media. Over 300 people have been reported missing at the EU-Belarus border by families and friends of the people on the move. These cases have been mostly addressed to local human rights defenders who, in the absence of systematic and effective actions from state institutions and international humanitarian actors, assisted them in documenting the cases and searching for the missing. The OSCE participating States have committed to promote dignified treatment of all individuals wanting to cross borders, in conformity with relevant national legal frameworks, international law, in particular human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law (Ljubljana 2005). The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights provides a platform for human rights defenders from different countries to exchange and support each other in their work at international borders.

Panelists:

Marta Górczyńska, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland

Kalina Czarnóg, Fundacja Ocalenie, Poland

Enira Bronitskaya, Human Constanta, Belarus

Dalia Krapavickaite, Sienos Grupė, Lithuania

Anna E. Griķe, Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem (I want to help refugees), Latvia

Alice Szczepanikova, OSCE ODIHR

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: **The Nexus between Disabilities and Human Trafficking**

Convenor: **OSCE Secretariat**

Working language: **English**

Summary: While various international treaties and legal documents testify to the global and regional commitment to criminalize and eradicate human trafficking, there are important elements that remain structurally overlooked in legislation and strategies to combat human trafficking. One such aspect is the nexus between disabilities and human trafficking. Although the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to human trafficking is acknowledged in various documents, the provisions often remain insubstantial and fail to offer comprehensive strategies for effective responses. However, research, court cases and testimonies from survivors indicate that disability as a vulnerability factor to trafficking in human beings, as a feature for exploitation or as a result of human trafficking, is of real concern and needs to be addressed. The OSCE 2021 Survey Report for example, identified specific targeting of people with developmental/physical disabilities by traffickers as an emerging trend. According to information provided by OSCE participating States regarding trafficking involving persons with disabilities, 13 out of 41 responding States (31%) reported cases in their judicial processes or under investigation, and in five of these thirteen countries, NGOs stated that they had reports of traffickers targeting people with disabilities. This highlights the subsequent need for the development of robust and concrete measures addressing the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the context of human trafficking. The lack of knowledge about the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities amidst conflicts further underscores the urgency of investing in research and data collection. Wars and conflicts further exacerbate the vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities, including heightened exposure to risks of human trafficking. As an example, a 2023 OCHA report estimates that 15% of 15.4 million individuals in Ukraine in need of protection services have a disability, and that women and girls with disabilities

are at high risk of human trafficking. Objective of the side event 1) To provide an overview of the links existing between disabilities and trafficking in human beings, 2) To shed light on this critical issue, accelerate actionable solutions and raise awareness among stakeholders

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**
Title: Human Rights Under Russian Occupation in Georgia
Convenor: State Security Service of Georgia
Working language: English

Summary: The representatives of the State Security service of Georgia (SSSG) will present the updated information about the human right violations in the occupied regions of Georgia - Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and review the security environment on the ground, as well as the humanitarian challenges. In particular, the speakers will focus on several topics, including:

- Short introductory overview of the current security environment on the ground, change into the conflict architecture since Russia-Georgia war of 2008 and its legacy;
- Consistent and systemic human right violations on the occupied territories, as well as in the adjacent areas of the occupation line. Ethnic discrimination against Georgians living on the occupied territories of Georgia;
- Hybrid warfare instruments linked to the violation of fundamental human rights
- Illegal detentions, illegal so-called borderization process and Disinformation campaigns;
- Necessity of wider and intense international engagement in the occupied territories of Georgia on human rights prism.

The representatives of the State Security Service of Georgia will represent the relevant photo and video footage during their presentation demonstrating the illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces in the vicinity of the occupation line. Eventually, the presenters will answer the related questions voiced from the audience.

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**
Title: Crimes against Ukrainian children under Russian control: indoctrination, militarisation and deportation
Convenor: CCE "Almenda"; Regional Center of Human Rights; Civil Rights Defenders
Working language: English

Summary: Since the occupation of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in 2014, the Russian Federation has managed to weaponise education as a tool for destroying the Ukrainian identity of children and youth. The system created in 2014 for Russia-occupied Crimea is currently being implemented on the Russia-occupied territories of Kherson, Zaporizhzhzia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This side event allows the Ukrainian civil society to give a child-centred perspective on Russia's deliberate policies of destroying Ukrainian identity in occupied territories, including forcible transfer to Russian territory. The discussion will start with how Russia's policies effectively implemented in Russia-occupied Crimea have resulted in the death of young men who studied in Russia-controlled educational institutions, absorbed Russian military propaganda from a younger age and later were forcibly conscripted into the Russian armed forces. A detailed account will be given of what perils these policies bring for children remaining in occupation and those who are forcibly transferred into Russian territory, including children separated from their families. The event aims to raise awareness of these issues and seek solutions within the existing OSCE mechanisms. The panel will focus on the following key questions:

1. Eradication of national identity of children remaining in Russia-occupied territories

2. Memorial plaques as the ultimate proof of Russian crimes against children on occupied territories: destruction of Ukrainian identity, indoctrination and militarisation
3. Deportation for reeducation: how Russia is using forcible transfer of Ukrainian children as a tool for instilling Russian identity
4. What measures can be taken within the OSCE mechanisms for Ukrainian children?

Panelists:

Anastasiia Vorobiova, Center for Civic Education “Almenda”

Kateryna Rashevskaya, Regional Center for Human Rights

Mykola Kuleba, Save Ukraine (Zoom)

Moderator:

Helen Rask, Eurasia Department Director of Civil Rights Defenders

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: Addressing Trafficking of Women and Children as a Result of Armed Conflicts

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: The side event “Addressing Trafficking of Women and Children as a Result of Armed Conflicts” will provide an overview of the current challenges in addressing risks of trafficking in women and children fleeing conflict and the protection of identified victims of trafficking. The side event will provide a platform for discussion of ways to ensure a victim and survivor-centred, gender-sensitive, child friendly and trauma-informed approach in addressing risks to and trafficking of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in context of armed conflicts, including in Ukraine. It seeks to examine effective approaches to reduce the vulnerability to trafficking of women and children fleeing armed conflicts within and outside a country, and enable sharing promising practices with regard to protection measures for victims of trafficking within this vulnerable population. It will focus on the gender dimension and the necessity to include the voices of victims and survivors in the design and implementation of protection systems.

Opening Remarks: ODIHR

Keynote Address: Dmytro Lubinets, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

Jeanne Celestine Lakin, Chair of the 2nd ISTAC

Panelists:

Fawzia Koofi, Former Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament in Afghanistan and women's rights activist

Kevin Hyland, Strategic Director of Santa Marta Group and former UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner

Ioana Bauer, Chairwoman of the Board of eLiberare, Romania

Moderator:

Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE ODIHR

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 - Saski**

Title: The right to access State-held information – Council of Europe standards

Convenor: Council of Europe

Working language: English

Summary: The European Court of Human Rights has progressively advanced towards the recognition of a right of access to information as falling within the scope of the right to freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In 2009, the Council of Europe

Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No.205), also known as the Tromsø Convention, become the first binding international legal instrument to recognise a general stand-alone right to access State-held information. This right is intrinsic to people's self-development and essential to advance the democratic principles of transparency, good governance and accountability of public authorities. In force since December 2020, the Tromsø Convention offers a set of benchmarks to aspire to and against which the state of democratic institutions can be measured. Its monitoring bodies are not only supervisory structures but also fora to learn through exchanges of expertise of independent experts and exchanges of views amongst State representatives. The workshop seeks to raise awareness amongst participating States in the OSCE and representatives of civil society on the standards of the Tromsø Convention and to stimulate reflections on joining, supporting and collaborating with this instrument.

Panelists:

Professor. dr.jur Emeritus Inge Lorange Backer, Department of Public and International Law, Oslo University; member of the Council of Europe Access Info Group Substantive and procedural safeguards for the right of access to official documents under the Tromsø Convention. The state of play with the first baseline evaluation of the implementation of the Convention

Dr. Þórdís Ingaóttir, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Reykjavik University; member of the Council of Europe Access Info Group The development of a right to information in international human rights law, the place of the Tromsø Convention

Krzysztof Kosowicz, Lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights Developments in the Court's jurisprudence on the right to information

Elona Hoxhaj, Director General on the Right to Information, Information and Data Protection Commissioner of Albania, representative of the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) The role of information commissioners in promoting the implementation of international standards on access to official documents.

Moderator:

Elvana Thaçi – Secretary to the Tromsø Convention treaty bodies

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 5 - Plenary**

Title: Civil Society reflections on the preparedness to keep up with technological advances in the field of human trafficking

Convenor: OSCE Secretariat; Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Working language: English

Summary: The rapid evolution of innovative technology has greatly influenced the way human trafficking is perpetrated. Criminals are increasingly leveraging technology at every stage of the crime – in the planning, recruitment, transportation, control and exploitation of victims, and in the transferring and hiding of criminal proceeds. This has made the crime even more challenging to tackle, as traffickers are exploiting technologies to remain hidden, to connect with vulnerable individuals, and to expand the number of users of victims' services. Moreover, traffickers are misusing technology to put in place new forms of exploitation, such as the livestreaming of sexual abuse available to a global audience, including of minors, to maximize profits. An analysis of the international jurisprudence on the specific topic revealed existing cases where there had been no in-person contact between any of the parties involved in the exploitation of a person – the victims themselves, the traffickers nor the individuals indulging in the victim's exploitation – due to the use of technology. As technology continues to evolve, counter-trafficking efforts need to keep pace with the developments in order to ensure effective prevention, protection, and prosecution. The increased misuse of technology by traffickers has carried great impact on the work of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the OSCE area working to combat human trafficking as well. From a victims' support- and protection point of view, CSOs have had to develop

new frameworks for reporting, analysis and referral of content-based exploitation, adapt their awareness-raising and victims' outreach campaigns to the online environment, and diversify the psychological support provided to victims exploited through technology, among others. The conversation around the technological developments and innovation and their potential misuse by traffickers to exploit victims, are at an early stage. This side event will gather leading experts from civil society organizations across the OSCE region to discuss the potential impact of recent technological progress on the ability to efficiently combat human trafficking. It will discuss needs and challenges, and whether the anti-trafficking community has established itself to sustain the inevitable technological progress with the necessary resources and strategies to keep up with what lies ahead, and what is required to ensure that we do not lose the innovation-battle against criminals.

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

Venue: **Meeting Room 4 - Opera**

Title: How Can the OSCE Save Vladimir Kara-Murza and Defend Freedom of Expression in Russia?

Convenor: SOLIDARUS e.V.; Free Russia Foundation

Working language: English

Summary: Vladimir Kara-Murza was arbitrarily arrested in Moscow in April 2022 after denouncing Russia's war on Ukraine. As an outspoken advocate for a free Russia, opposition leader, journalist, and historian, Kara-Murza has for years courageously promoted democracy and human rights. In April 2023, after almost a year in pretrial detention, Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison for "organizing the activities of an undesirable organization," "disseminating knowingly false information about the Russian armed forces," and "high treason." The charges stem from his work for Free Russia Foundation and public speeches denouncing Russia's authoritarian policies and invasion of Ukraine. The need for Kara-Murza's immediate release is urgent, as his existent illness — caused by two earlier poisonings — and deteriorating condition threaten his life and health. We must continue to speak out about Kara-Murza and the around 600 other political prisoners in Russia. Russia can't afford to lose its champions of democracy, such as Vladimir Kara-Murza. Free Russia Foundation (FRF), Global Justice Advisors, Human Rights Foundation, McCain Institute, and Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights are co-organizing a side event where international and local experts will discuss Kara-Murza's current detention, mechanisms for his release, and the prospects for a free and democratic Russia.

Panelists:

Irwin Cotler, International Chair,

Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, longtime Member of Parliament, international human rights lawyer

Astrid Thors, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, former Member of the Finnish Parliament, former Minister of Migration and European Affairs, former Member of the European Parliament

Mariana Katzarova, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation (TBD)

Evgenia Kara-Murza, Vladimir Kara-Murza's wife, FRF Advocacy Director

Martin Scott, Founder and Managing Director, Global Justice Advisors

Vadim Prokhorov, Vladimir Kara-Murza's lawyer

Vitaly Morozov, Counsel Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP

Moderator:

Natalia Arno, President, Free Russia Foundation

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Rescue of Ukrainian citizens deported to Russia: return and departure to third countries
Convenor: Human Rights Centre ZMINA
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Context. Since the start of Russia's large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, according to various sources, between 3 and over 4 million Ukrainian citizens have been deported to Russian-controlled territories, including 19,546 to over 700,000 Ukrainian children. It is impossible to establish the exact number of deported or forcibly displaced Ukrainians, which is, among other things, due to the refusal of the Russian Federation to facilitate both the identification and repatriation of civilians. Information about “evacuated” Ukrainians is not provided upon request by Ukraine or competent international organizations. At the same time, the actions positioned by the aggressor state as evacuation have signs of several international crimes committed during the armed conflict in an atmosphere of fear and unfreedom when Russia deliberately created conditions in which there was no other choice but to leave (to Russia or to the occupied territory). One of these conditions was blocking evacuation corridors by the Russian military and shelling the “grey zone”. The “Ukraine. 5 AM” Coalition described the situation with the deportation of civilians in detail in its analytical report last year. In 2023, the issue of departure and/or repatriation of Ukrainian citizens deported to the territory of the Russian Federation or forcibly transferred to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine remains relevant. There is no single legal mechanism to achieve this goal. The exact number of adult Ukrainians who have managed to leave the territories under Russian control is unknown, but it has been established that 386 of them are children. The panel will discuss in detail the return of Ukrainian citizens, including unaccompanied children, their possible departure to third countries, and the risks faced by Ukrainian citizens who cannot leave the territory of the Russian Federation. Key questions:

- general overview of the situation regarding the deportation of civilians from the territory of Ukraine to the territory of the Russian Federation;
- difficulties with the departure (evacuation) of Ukrainian citizens from the occupied territories and the territory of the Russian Federation;
- existing measures for the return and support of Ukrainian citizens upon their return (adults and children); support programs (rehabilitation, reintegration), etc.;
- peculiarities of returning deported children to the territory of Ukraine.