

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

**To take place during the
SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON:
“Freedom of Religion or Belief”**

09-10 December 2010

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 OSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on OSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

Thursday, 9 December	Thursday, 9 December
<p><i>Title: Pluralism, Relativism and the Rule of Law</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: European Humanist Federation</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 14.30</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I – I floor</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, French, Italian</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Broken Promises – Freedom of religion or belief in Kazakhstan</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee/Norwegian Mission to the East/Forum18/Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights/Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 14.30</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Ratsaal – V floor</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>
Friday, 10 December	Friday, 10 December
<p><i>Title: First Release and Presentation of Five-Year Report on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.15 – 12.45</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I – I floor</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: The Spanish school subject “Education for Citizenship”; an assault on freedom of education, conscience and religion</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Profesionales por la Etica</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.30 – 14.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Ratsaal – V floor</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Spanish</i></p>

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organizers

Hofburg, Vienna

Thursday, 9 December

Time: 13.00 – 14.30
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Title: Pluralism, Relativism and the Rule of Law
Convenor: European Humanist Federation
Language: English, French, Italian

Summary: Pluralism, the freedom to choose one's world view comprising religious or non religious beliefs and to live one's life accordingly, is a tenet of our democracies and a condition for social harmony. Does the utter condemnation of relativism by Catholic leaders as well as by some MPs relate to pluralism? If yes, in what way? The European Humanist Federation, together with its Italian member association UAAR (Unione degli Atei e degli Agnostici razionalisti) wishes to discuss with government and NGO representatives and with OSCE/ODIHR officials the meaning and scope of pluralism in states governed by the rule of law.

A light lunch will be provided

Time: 13.00 – 14.30
Venue: Ratsaal
Title: Broken Promises – Freedom of religion or belief in Kazakhstan
Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee/Norwegian Mission to the East/Forum18/Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights/Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Presentation of report and discussions.

It will present some conclusions of a project documenting freedom of religion or belief issues in Kazakhstan. It will focus on some of the key issues detected as obstacles to progress in strengthening freedom of religion, and present some recommendations for improvements. Kazakh authorities have been invited to give a presentation on their policies in the field and efforts throughout the Chairmanship.

The report, updating the picture on some of the main problems in the field from a grassroots perspective, will be re-launched at the side event, which will also address the situation with freedom of religion during the Chairmanship.

A group of Norwegian human rights organizations has cooperated on a project addressing freedom of religion or belief in Kazakhstan. The project consists of documenting and publishing a report on these issues, as well as entering into dialogue with authorities and civil society organizations on how to strengthen respect for relevant human

A light lunch will be provided

Friday 10 December

Time: 12.15 – 12.45

Venue: Segmentgalerie I

Title: First Release and Presentation of Five-Year Report on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe

Convenor: Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe

Language: English

Summary: The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe monitors the phenomenon and collects and publishes its findings online. The Observatory publishes a comprehensive report on the years 2005-2010 which will be first presented during this side-event. The report will thereafter also be available for download on the website

www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu.

Traditional Austrian Sweets will be served

Time: 13.30 – 14.00

Venue: Ratsaal

Title: The Spanish school subject “Education for Citizenship”: an assault on freedom of education, conscience and religion

Convenor: Profesionales por la Etica

Language: English, Spanish

Summary: The Spanish educational system established a new area of knowledge called “Education for Citizenship” (EFC), that introduces compulsory subjects at Primary and Secondary school. The core subjects of EfC have been designed (as the official curriculum admits) to shape the conscience of children, getting deep into their values and their personal and family privacy and, in many cases, conflicting with basic Christian values. These subjects are strongly rejected by an important part of the Spanish society and nearly 55,000 parents have conscientiously objected to the participation of their children to this compulsory subject. Parents have formed more than 70 local and regional associations to support objectors and inform parents and society about EFC.

Nearly 2,300 judicial complaints have been lodged in less than two year as a consequence of EFC in the national compulsory curriculum. In most of the cases (aprox. 86%), during 2007 and 2008, local and regional courts sentenced against government. The Supreme Court does not recognize the right of parents to object to the EFC curriculum, in spite of the controversial ethical aspects included in it. Some parents have claimed before the Constitutional Court. On March, 19th 2010, 305 plaintiffs (parents and their children) lodged a complaint (N° 15976/10 *Ramos Bejarano et Autres c.España*) before the ECHR against the Kingdom of Spain, for violations of their rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights.