



Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2024

Warsaw, Poland, 30 September - 11 October 2024

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW OF ODIHR EVENTS

Tuesday, 1 October

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Meeting room 5 - Belweder
Title: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Elections and Presentation of the ODIHR Handbook for the Observation of ICT in Elections
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Today nearly all OSCE participating States use some form of ICT in their elections, however different their application may be. Some participating States use ICT for casting or counting votes, while others use this technology in election-related processes such as voter registration, identification and verification or for systems and platforms needed for management of voting results. These technological developments bring certain benefits but also numerous concerns, related to issues of public trust, accountability, transparency, and general cybersecurity challenges, that were not common for traditional, paper-based election processes. At the same time, participating States are obliged to respect international standards and commitments, including those stipulated in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, irrespective of the technology used. In line with its mandate, in 2024 ODIHR published a handbook for the observation of ICT in elections. The new edition of the handbook updates the ODIHR methodology for the observation and assessment of ICT used during voting and counting, and includes new aspects such as electronic registration, verification of voters and candidates, and cybersecurity. While the handbook is mostly used by election observers, it provides practical and useful guidance for OSCE participating States in their efforts to introduce and use ICT-based election solutions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:30-19:30
Venue: Meeting room 5 - Belweder
Title: The role of civil society and international actors in supporting adjudication of war crimes by national courts
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: The Russian Federation's military attack in Ukraine has tragically claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, while amassing ever-growing evidence of violations of international criminal law and international humanitarian law. National authorities have registered over 130,000 suspected incidents of war crimes. However, without a dedicated international tribunal or court to hear these cases, Ukrainian domestic courts and the country's criminal justice system need to urgently adapt their institutions to adjudicate the war crimes cases. Currently, Ukrainian legislation is not fully adapted to allow effective prosecution and adjudication of international crimes. Criminal justice actors such as judges, prosecutors, and attorneys need increased knowledge and skills to effectively adjudicate international crimes.

Civil society organizations have played an increasingly important role in accountability and advancing international law and norms. Through monitoring domestic war crimes cases, international organizations also play a role in building the capacity of domestic courts adjudicating war crimes cases. This side event will focus on the tools international and domestic actors can use in supporting domestic courts to ensure access to justice and respect of the right to a fair trial and to judicial independence at the adjudication of international crimes.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 2 October

Time: **13:30-14:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: Building together. Launch of the ODIHR Guidance on establishing and maintaining National Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (NSTACs)
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will present ODIHR's Guidance on Establishing and Maintaining National Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Councils (NSTACs). The event aims to familiarize OSCE participating States, civil society, international organizations and survivor leaders with the concept of NSTACs and the importance of ethical survivor inclusion; showcase the new policy guidance and its key components; highlight practical tools and effective practices to support the establishment of NSTACs; present recommended standards for establishing NSTACs; and provide a platform for dialogue. Speakers will describe and discuss the practical tools and approaches needed for governments to establish successful and impactful NSTACs, highlighting the significance and value of the inclusion of survivor leaders in all national anti-trafficking efforts and National Referral Mechanisms.

Speakers:

Jeanne Celestine Lakin, award-winning author of *A Voice in the Darkness: Memoir of a Rwandan Genocide*, Human Rights Advocate, Chair of ISTAC (United States)
Jane Lasonder, Survivors' Councils Advisor and Vice-Chair of ISTAC (United Kingdom)
Itohan Okundaye, Founder of Shinning Hope Foundation against Human Trafficking, Member of ISTAC (Finland)
Maria Kirdan, Member of ISTAC (France)
Rachel Witkin (TBC)

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 3 October

SPECIAL EVENT

Time: 17:00-20:00

Venue: Kino Kultura, Krakowskie Przedmieście 21/23, Warsaw

Title: Launch of Starlight Stadium: an online educational game for human rights defenders

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English

Starlight Stadium is an online educational game developed by ODIHR that explores the methodology of human rights monitoring. In the course of four episodes, available in English, Ukrainian, and Russian, players join a fictional human rights investigation and explore the different phases of monitoring, from conducting an initial assessment of the situation, through gathering information and then verification, analysis, and report writing, to conducting an advocacy campaign.

After years of development, the game will be officially launched on Thursday, October 3rd during the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. Join the Starlight Stadium team to learn more about the game and play it yourself, as well as exploring an exhibition and listening to a panel discussion about the development process and the game's importance for the work and security of human rights defenders.

Friday, 4 October

Time: **14:30-15:30**

Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**

Title: Reflecting on 20 years of ODIHR's Legislative Assistance: Highlights, Trends and Challenges

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Laws have an immense, although often unforeseen, influence on our daily lives, shaping our societies, our rights, our obligations and our personal freedoms. The quality of laws that impact our lives is a direct consequence of the way in which they were developed and with whom they were consulted.

2024 marks twenty years since the establishment of ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit, as well as the publication of its 500th legal review. During this time, ODIHR has provided legislative assistance to almost 40 participating States on a variety of topics, including election and political parties, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and information, judicial reform, fair trial rights, NHRIs, criminal reform, gender equality, security sector reform and many more. Building upon these twenty years of legislative assistance, ODIHR has also developed the Guidelines on Democratic Lawmaking for Better Laws, which will be presented at the event. The Guidelines aim to promote more openness, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and participation at all stages of the legislative cycle to ensure that lawmaking processes and legislation are human rights-compliant, accessible, non-discriminatory, gender-responsive and sensitive to the needs of diverse social groups. During this side event, ODIHR will present the main highlights from its 20 years of legislative assistance work, and also reflect on key legislative trends and challenges.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:30-09:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: Presentation of the work and findings of the ODIHR Ukraine Monitoring Initiative:
Reporting on violations of IHL and IHRL related to the armed conflict in Ukraine
Convenor: ODIHR
Working language: English

Summary: In order to fulfil its mandate in assisting OSCE participating States in implementing their Human Dimension commitments, ODIHR established the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative (UMI) immediately after 24 February 2022, in order to monitor, research, document and report on alleged IHL and IHRL violations resulting from the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. To date, ODIHR has issued five interim reports.

UMI's monitoring and public reporting aims to contribute towards ensuring accountability for IHL and IHRL violations committed in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine, by establishing the facts and giving a voice to survivors and witnesses. Additionally, UMI informs the wider public on the human rights and issues recommendations based on its observations to both sides of the armed conflict.

At the event ODIHR will present a summary of the findings to date, share details of future plans and experiences of conducting the monitoring from members of the remote monitoring and interviewing teams.

Monday, 7 October

Time: **14:30-15:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: Launch of ODIHR's "Belief, Dialogue and Security" Guide
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: ODIHR's "Belief, Dialogue and Security" guide has been produced in response to calls from participating States to provide guidance on how to ensure that fruitful dialogue and joint action can take place across religious and belief boundaries. Concretely, it addresses how states can facilitate dialogue and joint partnerships, which are crucial to foster respect for freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief (FoRB). The guide also offers a number of good practices and interviews with actors engaged in a broad range of dialogue and joint action initiatives.

The guide is the result of extensive stakeholder consultation, and has benefitted from the input of ODIHR's Panel of Experts on FoRB. The launch will gather representatives of participating States and civil society organisations to discuss challenges in convening such discussions, for example the need to ensure diverse representation amongst religious or belief community representatives; show why FoRB is important for meaningful dialogue, how dialogue can be used to increase respect for FoRB, and why both dialogue and FoRB are important components in building comprehensive security; present the guide's key recommendations and examples of best practice; and promote gender and youth mainstreaming in dialogue that transcends religious and belief boundaries.

Speakers:

Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director
Susan Kerr, ODIHR Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Mariam Gvartadze, Strategic Litigation and Advocacy Program Director, Tolerance and Diversity Institute, Georgia
Alexandr Klyushev, Chairman of the Association of Religious Organizations of Kazakhstan

Jennifer Pearson, Superintendent, West Midlands Police Force, UK (online)
John Kinahan, Forum 18

The event will take place in English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: The right to monitor assemblies in the OSCE region: experiences from the field
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The focus of this event is to launch ODIHR's report on the experiences of assembly monitors from the OSCE region, which is based on interviews conducted with participants from 16 participating States. Most participants are members of the ODIHR-CSO assembly monitoring network from various regions, who have been actively engaged or making efforts to engage in assembly monitoring in their countries. The report reflects on the status of the monitors in international and national law, and elaborates on policing and assembly monitoring, including cooperation with the authorities and the extent to which the work of monitors is helped or hindered. It also offers recommendations on how assembly monitoring can be facilitated for the benefit of stronger oversight of law enforcement and improved dialogue between civil society and public authorities. The aim of the side event is to draw the attention of OSCE participating States to this evolving area of human rights defenders' work and engage participants in a discussion on the state measures necessary to promote, facilitate and recognize the right to monitor assemblies as a part of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 9 October

Time: **14:30-15:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: Addressing Roma Human Rights Concerns in Ukraine Through Dialogue Between Government, Civil Society and International Community
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: The Russian Federation's military attack in Ukraine has caused tremendous suffering and harm to the civilian population. The war has placed already vulnerable groups, including Roma, at a higher risk of discrimination and abuse, and deepened their socio-economic hardship. Forcibly displaced Ukrainian Roma often face prejudice and discrimination in their attempt to access the shelter, protection, humanitarian aid, employment and services available to refugees and internally displaced people. Roma women suffer particularly from manifestations of intersectional discrimination, exploitation and human trafficking. Roma civil society and the international community have joined the Ukrainian state's efforts to address the needs of Roma communities impacted by the war. Nonetheless, more coordinated action is needed to ensure that Roma can realise their human rights without discrimination and with dignity. This side event provides a venue for discussion between Ukrainian government representatives, Roma civil society and the international community on key challenges facing Roma and potential joint action to improve the situation.

Speakers:

Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director
Ihor Lossovskiy, Deputy Head, State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience
Janush Panchenko, Roma human rights activist
Oleksandr Osipov, Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Views
Zemfira Kondur, Project Coordinator, Council of Europe Office in Ukraine
Mykhailo Bilyavskiy, Lawyer, Roma mediator, Roma Women's Fund "Chiricli"
Moderator: Iryna Sukhinina, Project Officer, ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: The Needs, Capacity and Potential of Roma and Sinti Women's Organizations and Activists in the OSCE Region
Convenors: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE; and European Union Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna;
Working language: English

Summary: Roma women's organizations and activists play a crucial role in representing and advocating for Roma and Sinti women's rights, which are often violated by intersectional forms of discrimination and systematic inequality. Roma women's civil society have valuable expertise and practices on gender equality, gender mainstreaming and intersectionality. However, more funding and administrative support are needed together with more opportunities for collaboration, capacity building and empowerment to ensure that their voices are heard by policy makers at all levels. This side event will provide a platform for discussion and reflection among and between Roma women civil society and representatives and delegations of OSCE participating States on key challenges facing both Roma and Sinti women in the OSCE region and the organizations advocating for their needs.

Speakers:
Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director
Ambassador Anne-Marie Callan, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE
Carmen Gheorghe, President, E-Romnja
Đorđe Jovanović, President, European Roma Rights Centre
Simona Toroțcoi, Representative, European Roma Grassroots Organization Network
Moderator: Cristi Mihalache, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, Chief of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 10 October

SPECIAL EVENT

Women's Power Breakfast:
Advancing women's representation in politics,
promoting gender-responsive governance

Thursday, 10 October, 8:30-9:45 CET

Hotel Sofitel, Meeting room Belweder, 1st floor

2024 marks both 20 years since the OSCE Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality and the 15th anniversary of the 2009 Decision on the Women's Participation in Political and Public Life. It is therefore an important moment to look back on and assess how far we have come in implementing this shared commitment by the OSCE participating States.

In those 15 years, participating States have continued to improve legislative and policy frameworks on gender equality and made efforts to reduce the over-representation of men in parliaments and governments, as well as the judiciary, the security sector, and other state institutions. However, in the last few years, we have observed difficulties in progressing further with gender equality, for example in implementing new measures for women's equal political participation, especially in leadership positions, or in preventing the growing problem of violence against women in politics. This development prevents states from delivering fully for all women and men, which is the ultimate goal of gender mainstreaming in public decision-making and gender-responsive governance. The situation is made worse by the democratic and gender equality backsliding in many places. At this event, ODIHR will host Professor Drude Dahlerup, one of the world's leading gender and politics scholars, to discuss promising practices, lessons learned, and ways to overcome remaining barriers. The event will also be an opportunity for participants to learn more about ODIHR's latest publication in this area, the Gender-responsive Governance Toolkit.

Time: **14:30-15:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: Engaging men to support gender equality: from awareness to action
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights & OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme
Working language: English

Summary: The OSCE has long been committed to advancing gender equality, with a particular emphasis on the vital role that men and boys play in achieving this objective. A recent conference hosted by CHANGE and WIN, two OSCE projects working in this area led to the OSCE Policy and Practice Recommendations on Engaging Men. At this event the recommendations will be presented along with the "Sarajevo Recommendations on Engaging Male Politicians as Critical Actors for Gender Equality in Politics". While emphasis on the constructive engagement of men to support gender equality is key to achieving substantive gender equality, it is also important to support men to deliver on gender equality. At the same time, further support is needed to assist traditional advocates for gender equality and strengthen institutional mechanisms and gender mainstreaming.

Speakers:

Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director

Dr. Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Head of Gender Issues Programme

Liliana Palihovici, Special Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Gender

Knut-Are Okstad, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative to the OSCE, Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

Ambassador Anne-Marie Callan, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE

Thomas Churchyard, founder and former Executive Director of "Kwakha Indvodza"

Jovan Andonovski, Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia, member of the iCHANGE Transnational Network to Prevent, Address and Reverse Gender Backsliding

Refreshments will be provided