



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting I (2024)**

Vienna Austria, 22 - 23 April 2024

### **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.*

#### **Monday, 22 April**

Time: **12:30-13:30**  
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**  
Title: Persecution of Ukrainian Civilians in the Occupied Territories as Crime Against Humanity: Civil Society's Efforts in Restoring Justice  
Convenor: Human Rights Centre ZMINA  
Working language: English

Summary: Despite the high risks, Ukrainian human rights organizations together with international partners continue documenting and investigating international crimes committed by Russian Federation-controlled forces against civilians in the occupied territories of Ukraine. Applying international standards, Ukrainian human rights defenders carry out regular field missions to liberated territories, conduct interviews with victims and witnesses, and undertake open source intelligence to obtain credible and robust evidence that may be used by domestic and international accountability mechanisms. The evidence gathered clearly indicates that the Russian military and special services have executed comprehensive filtration measures in the occupied territories aimed at scrutinizing the population to identify those civilians with actual or perceived support for the Ukrainian state, equated with opposition

to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Once identified, representatives of the persecuted group underwent arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment while in detention. This included sexual violence amounting to torture and, in some cases, unlawful killings, forcible deportation to Russia or denial of the right to a fair trial. Occupation administrations also coerce Ukrainians into obtaining Russian passports or face restricted access to healthcare and social benefits, instilling fear and suppressing resistance, putting both patients and healthcare workers at risk of persecution. The pattern of attack against civilians by the Russian military forces and security services shows a specific intent to discriminate against political group in a systematic and pre-planned way. At the event will be discussed:

- Preliminary findings of the CSOs investigation, including the main patterns and trends of documented crimes
- Widespread practices of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention: current situation and ways to address it
- Civil society's work on the ground: challenges and results
- The role of civil society and the international community in ensuring justice Recommendations to the OSCE and individual countries

Panelists:

Yelyzaveta Sokurenko, Human Rights Centre ZMINA

Lyubov Smachylo, Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR)

Arie Mora, Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group (ULAG)

Eugenia Andreyuk, World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

Moderator:

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

Time: **17:30-18:30**

Venue: **533**

Title: Current issues with humanitarian mechanisms in the EU for the Russian civil society

Convenor: Movement of Conscientious Objectors

Working language: Russian

Summary: Russian civil society is increasingly subjected to repression within Russia. The situation worsens for members of the LGBT+ community, conscientious objectors to military service, and political activists who voice their disagreement with the political situation in Russia. Moreover, there are still numerous obstacles preventing Russian civil society, opposed to Russia's war with Ukraine, from applying for Category C or D visas. These individuals are left to face the Russian state alone. The discussion aims to address this problem and explore potential solutions. It will examine existing practices, such as the assistance provided to Russian political activists in Germany, France, Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic.

Panelists:

Andrey Moiseykin, a Municipal Deputy from St. Petersburg in exile. Deputy Head of the "Horizonte" (Abt. Exilhilfe) initiative. The organization helps politically active Russians at risk of repression in Russia to obtain humanitarian visas in Germany.

Gulnaz Sabirova, Senior Project Manager for the "Sphere Foundation", which helps defend the rights of LGBT individuals in Russia. The Foundation provides assistance to people who have faced discrimination and/or violence.

Sofia Zelenkevich, Coordinator of the "Get Lost" (Idite Lesom) project, which helps conscripts avoid compulsory military service, and military personnel to leave the war zone and move to other safe countries.

Olga Prokopyeva, President of the "Russie-Libertés" organization. The organization disseminates objective information about the political situation in Russia, including the functioning of political institutions, civil liberties, and human rights. In France, they give a voice to persecuted representatives of Russian civil society targeted by the Kremlin regime.

Moderator:

Artem Klyga, a Military Lawyer, Advocacy Manager at the Movement of Conscientious Objectors. The movement assists conscripts and military personnel in opting out of military service in Russia. We actively advocate for providing political asylum to Russian deserters who have left the war zone and are not military criminals.

Time: **17:30-18:30**  
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**  
Title: Unveiling Intent: Investigating Mens Rea in the context of the forcible transfer of Ukrainian Children by Russia  
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee  
Working language: English

Summary: The documentation of international crimes committed during the war of aggression against Ukraine involves significant efforts from state authorities and civil society organizations, both within Ukraine and beyond its borders. The International Criminal Court has already issued four arrest warrants for crimes allegedly perpetrated amidst the war in Ukraine. Yet, a critical challenge in criminal proceedings lies in proving mental elements (mens rea), often overlooked by documentation initiatives but crucial for holding superiors to command accountable. This event showcases research by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, focusing on documenting the mental elements of international crimes - specifically, the crimes of deportation and forcible transfer of children from the occupied territories of Ukraine. It describes Russia's displacement policy, which promotes and encourages the commission of international crimes against Ukrainian children. The existence of such a policy opens avenues for charging individuals involved with crimes against humanity, alongside the charges of war crimes that have already been the subject of ICC warrants of arrest.

Panelists:

Gleb Bogush – Legal Expert, Netherlands Helsinki Committee, in-person  
Sergiy Petukhov – Legal Expert, Netherlands Helsinki Committee, in-person  
Helen Sucher – Kidmapping project (online)

Time: **17:30-18:30**  
Venue: **Ratsaal**  
Title: Violations of the rights of Russian-speaking citizens of the European Union. Problems and opportunities for German civil society to protect them.  
Convenor: Association to prevent discrimination and exclusion of Germans from Russia  
Working language: English, German

Summary: The problem of Russian-speaking residents of Europe requires the keen attention of human rights activists. Since the Covid pandemic in the EU in Europe, a situation has developed in Germany in which the mainstream media has stopped providing objective information and has become a party to government actions. restrictions on freedoms caused civil protests and top. The media did not pay attention to the fundamental causes of stratification in society. officials ignore the problem and only civil society began to form as a counterweight to the strengthening of repressive measures and the

unipolar information field in the media. with the outbreak of the war in Russia-Ukraine, the EU has a huge number of restrictive measures that affect Russian-speaking residents of the EU and violate their rights. National discord appeared in society. Threats to Russian-speaking people in the meltdown, attempts to expel them from the country, persecution in the workplace. Some government actions run counter to human rights. Such as confiscation of private vehicles.

Panelists:

Ulrich Oehme, President of VADAR

Olga Petersen, VADAR expert

Heiner Sylvester. Vice-president of the Union of Writers of Interethnic Harmony

Saadi Isakov, deputy Vice-President of the Union of Writers of Interethnic Harmony

Eugen Schmidt, Member of the Bundestag Commissioner for the Affairs of Russian Germans Schmidt.

Professor Weiel, Member of the Bundestag.

Deutschland Kurier press representative

## **Tuesday, 23 April**

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

Venue: **533**

Title: Challenges of ensuring justice in Ukraine for the victims of war crimes and motivating them on the national level

Convenor: Media Initiative for Human Rights

Working language: English

Summary: The Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine has currently registered more than 120,000 cases regarding war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine during the full-scale war. This number is constantly growing. At the same time, there are already more than 128,000 official victims of these war crimes. The issue of victims of war crimes has several components: protecting their rights, ensuring security, supporting their psychological state, motivating them to participate in justice, connections in their communities after the war crime, attitude to justice and belief in its possibility. From the experience of other countries that have faced war crimes, we see the importance of creating a system of support and protection for victims - but we also see how they lose faith in justice, in the capacity of the international justice system and the motivation to be participants in this process. This is exactly what we explored in our latest analytical paper *The Cooling Effect*. At the event, we plan to discuss: practical problems and challenges of involving victims of war crimes in court proceedings; violation of the rights of the victims during the pre-trial investigation and at the trial stage; communication problems between law enforcement agencies and victims; faith in justice and the influence of various factors on it; the influence of media and community interest on the motivation and openness of the victims; general problems of ensuring justice regarding Russia's war in Ukraine within the limits of national legislation; the work of trial monitors during the full-scale war.

Panelists:

Oksana Rasulova, Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR)

Lyubov Smachylo, Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR)

Dariya Rosohata, Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem"

Arie Mora, Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group (ULAG)

Moderator:

Christopher D. Russell, OSCE, Rule of Law Officer

**Time:** 13:15-14:15  
**Venue:** Bibliotheksaal  
**Title:** Together for Accountability: The Role of National and International Civil Society in Holding Russian Perpetrators to Account for International Crimes in Ukraine  
**Convenor:** International Partnership for Human Rights  
**Working language:** English, Ukrainian

**Summary:** Drawing upon extensive experience in documenting and seeking accountability for international crimes committed by Russian forces and proxies in Ukraine, IPHR and partners will discuss the role of national and international civil society actors in holding Russian perpetrators to account. We will also address ways to bridge persistent gaps between the accountability-seeking efforts of different actors involved in the justice and accountability process. Event participants will explore challenges hindering accountability efforts, such as limited access to victims and witnesses, particularly those in Russia or Ukrainian territories under Russian control. Additionally, we will discuss issues related to access to justice for victims, as well as the challenges in addressing the scale of these crimes in Ukraine and internationally. Join us to explore solutions to these challenges and foster greater collaboration between international and Ukrainian entities in seeking justice.

**Panelists:**

Roman Avramenko, Director of Truth Hounds

Caitlin Howarth, Director of Conflict Observatory at the University of Yale

Lyubov Smachylo, Advocacy Director at Media Initiative for Human Rights

Nuvola Galliani, Legal Adviser, International Partnership for Human Rights

**Moderator:**

Simon Papuashvili, Program Director at International Partnership for Human Rights

**Time:** 13:15-14:15  
**Venue:** 533  
**Title:** Civilian prisoners. Persecution of dissidents in Ukraine and the possibilities of civil society to protect them  
**Convenor:** Information Group on Crimes against the Person  
**Working language:** English, Russian

**Summary:** In Ukraine there is a law introducing criminal penalties for “collaboration”. Any person who expresses doubts about the correctness of the actions of the Ukrainian authorities and even simply maintains personal neutrality in a situation of armed conflict may fall under this article. In violation of international humanitarian law, this law also applies to citizens living in areas where fighting took place. To teachers, health workers, volunteers who continued to perform their professional duties regardless of whose control was the territory in which they lived. During the round table organized by the IGCP, reports will be presented on the situation with the persecution of dissidents in Ukraine, and testimonies of people who have been persecuted by the Ukrainian authorities and intelligence services will be heard. Possible mechanisms of international legal protection for Ukrainian citizens and, in general, civil society faced with this challenge were discussed.

**Panelists:**

Mikhail Chernov, expert of the interregional public movement "For Democracy and Human Rights"

Ivan Kopyl, director of the public initiative Verum

Pavel Volkov, journalist of the news agency Ukraine.ru.

Georgy Nekrasov, witness, resident of Avdeevka

Andre Lucidi, journalist  
Deutschland Kurier press representative  
Moderator:  
Maksim Vilkov, IGCP coordinator