

**SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS**  
to take place during the  
**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON**  
**Freedom of Assembly and Association**

**8 – 9 November 2012**  
**Vienna, Hofburg**

*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.*

*The side events below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The 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.*

<b>Thursday, 8 November</b>	<b>Thursday, 8 November</b>
<p><i>Title: Suppressing Protest: Human Rights Violations in the U.S. Response to Occupy Wall Street</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Global Justice Clinic (New York University School of Law)</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Valuing dissent: the case for non-compliance with professional psychotherapeutic guilds which override client autonomy and personal values insisting that reducing unwanted same sex attractions is an “ethical offence.”</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Core Issues Trust</i></p> <p><i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Ratsaal</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>
<b>Friday, 9 November</b>	<b>Friday, 9 November</b>
<p><i>Title: Church autonomy, government restrictions, and the right to form associations under international human rights law</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Alliance Defending Freedom</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.00 – 14.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i></p> <p><i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Launch of ODIHR’s Report on Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: ODIHR Human Rights Department</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.00 – 14.00</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Ratsaal</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Russian, German</i></p>

## OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organizers  
Hofburg, Vienna

Thursday, 8 November

**Time:** 13.00 – 15.00  
**Venue:** Segmentgalerie I  
**Title:** Suppressing Protest: Human Rights Violations in the U.S. Response to Occupy Wall Street  
**Convenor:** Global Justice Clinic (New York University School of Law)  
**Language:** English

**Summary:** This side event will present the findings of an eight-month investigation into the US Government response to the Occupy Wall Street protests. The investigation, led by human rights law experts, found extensive human rights violations by US authorities in New York City of assembly rights, since the start of Occupy Wall Street in September 2011. The report draws heavily on the assembly rights standards promoted by the OSCE, and provides a model of the domestic application of the OSCE's *Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly*. The report documents excessive police force, obstruction of press freedoms, pervasive surveillance, unjustified closure of public space, arbitrary arrests, and transparency and accountability failures. Together, these violations worked to stifle the expression of peaceful dissent in the US. The report calls for major reforms to protest policies, and for urgent accountability measures to be taken. During this side event, authors of the report will discuss its findings, how they undertook investigations, applied the OSCE's *Guidelines*, and broader lessons for civil society work documenting and seeking to prevent assembly rights violations.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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**Time:** 13.00 – 15.00  
**Venue:** Ratsaal  
**Title:** Valuing dissent: the case for non-compliance with professional psychotherapeutic guilds which override client autonomy and personal values insisting that reducing unwanted same sex attractions is an “ethical offence.”  
**Convenor:** Core Issues Trust  
**Language:** English

**Summary:** The largest psychotherapeutic professional bodies in the United Kingdom refuse to let autonomous individuals determine their own sexual identity and practice. Recent ruling makes it an ethical offence for any psychotherapist to reduce or attempt to reduce unwanted same-sex attractions, even after advanced informed consent. Neither organisation articulates any circumstance which may be an exception to this rule. Thus a married man, wanting to retain his marriage to a woman, may not be helped to reduce same sex feelings, under any circumstances.

This decision is at variance with the World Health Organisation's support of the right of individuals to seek and receive 'treatment' for conflict in sexual orientation.

**Friday, 9 November**

**Time:** 12.00 – 14.00  
**Venue:** Segmentgalerie I  
**Title:** Church autonomy, government restrictions, and the right to form associations under international human rights law  
**Convenor:** Alliance Defending Freedom  
**Language:** English

**Summary:** As the European Court of Human Rights has held, religious communities traditionally and universally exist in the form of organized structures and participation in the life of the community is a manifestation of one's religion. Moreover, the autonomous existence of religious communities is indispensable for pluralism in a democratic society. However, many countries within the OSCE region place burdensome restrictions on religious communities and violate their right to freedom of association.

Drawing on vast international litigation experience in this area, Alliance Defending Freedom lawyers will provide real case examples from several OSCE participating States. The side event will also consider best practices and possible policy aspirations for OSCE implementation in the future.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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**Time:** 12.00 – 14.00  
**Venue:** Ratsaal  
**Title:** Launch of ODIHR's Report on Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly  
**Convenor:** ODIHR Human Rights Department  
**Language:** English, Russian, German

**Summary:** Between May 2011 and June 2012, ODIHR has deployed monitors to observe public assemblies in 11 participating States. The goal was to identify gaps, problems and good practices regarding the full respect for freedom of assembly. Based on these findings, ODIHR is publishing a comprehensive monitoring report, which offers recommendation to participating States on regulating and policing assemblies. At this side event, ODIHR will officially launch the report and present some of its findings. It will be an opportunity to share good practices on freedom of assembly throughout the OSCE region.

*Refreshments will be provided*