



**18-19 November 2020 | Online**

**SESSION 1**



**Jürgen Heissel**, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)

Jürgen Heissel has two decades of experience at the Austrian Foreign Service, covering human rights and security policy issues. He has been working in multilateral settings with organizations including the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. His posting prior to the RFoM was with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, where in 2017 he was the co-ordinator of the Human Dimension during the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship.

Heissel holds a degree in Law from the University of Salzburg and is a graduate of the Vienna School of International Studies (Diplomatische Akademie) and the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation.



**Inid Milo**, Head, OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

Inid Milo is a career diplomat from the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, currently Head of the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship 2020 Task Force since April 2019. After finishing her Master degree (Mag.phil) at the University of Vienna in October 2002, Ms. Inid Milo joined first the administration of the Council of Ministers of Albania, the Department on Information Policy and Politics for about 14 months until February 2004. Since Milo joined the diplomatic service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania in May 2004, she has been serving in several positions, including Second Secretary to the Albanian Embassy in Berlin, First Secretary at the Albanian Permanent Mission to the UN, and First Secretary at the Albanian Permanent Delegation to NATO.



**Ton van den Brandt**, Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Ton van den Brandt is Senior Adviser at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. He holds a degree in Dutch law and (cum laude) in International Law, and in Journalism. Van den Brandt worked as a journalist for a national newspaper and a weekly magazine for many years, and is the published author of two journalistic books.

After this, van den Brandt worked as an ad interim legal adviser with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Netherlands Red Cross, before taking up a position as senior political adviser with Amnesty International. He chaired the Dutch branch of the International Commission of Jurists and was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee. Before moving to the OSCE, he led and managed the Communications Department of the Amsterdam District Court of Law.



**Andrey Rikhter**, Senior Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Andrey Rikhter holds university degrees in law, journalism and foreign languages, a doctorate in Russia and a professorship in media studies from Slovakia. He sits on the editorial board of a number of international journals on communications and media policy, and authored more than 200 publications on media law in Russian, English, Armenian, Azeri, Bosnian, Croat, German, French, Serbian, Slovak, Tajik and Ukrainian, including the standard media law textbook for journalism students in the Russian Federation, a textbook on international standards of media regulation and a textbook on online media law. He was a professor at the School of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, where he chaired a department in media law and history.

Rikhter was a commissioner at the International Commission of Jurists and the Chair of the Law Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research.



**Antonina Cherevko**, Chairperson, Independent Media Council in Ukraine

Antonina Cherevko is a human rights lawyer and international development expert with a specialization in media law and a long-term professional and academic focus on the issues of freedom of expression and media policy. She has over 15 years of professional experience in international development and management of democratization projects in the areas of rule of law, human rights, media policy and law reform. Antonina worked with organizations like IREX, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, International Media Support and ARTICLE 19. She is the head of the Independent Media Council in Ukraine and a member of the Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS) of the Council of Europe.



**Artur Papyan**, Director, Media Diversity Institute, Armenia

Artur Papyan is a media consultant and an IT auditor, the director of the Media Diversity Institute – Armenia and the country representative for Techsoup. Artur has worked as a journalist and multimedia editor with RFE/RL’s Armenian Service for more than a decade. In 2018, he co-founded and worked as the CEO of Armenia’s highly popular “Azatutyun TV” internet channel. In recent years, Artur has taught online media, internet journalism, and professional ethics at a number of Armenian Universities, including the Yerevan State University and the Yerevan State Linguistic University.



**Mehman Aliyev**, Director, Turan News Agency, Azerbaijan

Mehman Aliyev has been the director of the independent Turan news agency since its inception in 1990. He is the founder and a participant of various media initiatives - Baku Press Club, Editors Council, Press Council, Word Defense Committee, and Institute for the Safety and Protection of Reporters, among others.

He has participated in several international conferences, seminars, scientific articles in the field of media, human rights, anti-corruption, regional security, and co-operation, among others.



**Mariam Nikuradze**, Executive Director, Open Caucasus Media, Georgia

Mariam Nikuradze is a co-founder and Executive Director of OC Media. She has more than ten years of experience in journalism and documentary photography.

## SESSION 2



**Aidar Botagarov**, Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Aidar Botagarov works as an Adviser with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM). He has been with the RFoM since 2013 and, prior to this, worked as a National Political and Media Officer with the OSCE Centre in Kazakhstan.

Aidar holds a Master’s degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford and a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration from the Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research.

In his current position, Aidar acts as the geographical focal point for media freedom issues in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and the Russian Federation; and has a thematic focus on the safety of

journalists.



**Lasha Darsalia**, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Lasha Darsalia is Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia since October 2018. His responsibilities include dealing with the issues concerning the Russian-Georgian conflict, as well as neighbouring countries and international organizations. Mr. Darsalia is chief negotiator from Georgia to the Russian Federation in the Geneva International Discussions (GID).

Prior to his current assignment, Lasha Darsalia was First Deputy Minister at the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equity. His main responsibilities included working on engagement policy with the communities in the Russian Occupied territories of Georgia.

He graduated from the Tbilisi State University with a Master's and Bachelor's degree in International Relations. In 2007, he received his Master's degree in The Theory of International Relations from the University of Essex (UK) as the British Government Chevening Fellowship Scholar. Parallel to this, he acquired extensive training through various programmes. Among them, he attended the "The New Issues in Security Course – 2016" at the Geneva Center for Security Policy.



**Nino Danelia**, Co-founder and a member of "Coalition for Media Advocacy"

Nino Danelia is a professor of mass communication at Ilia State University. She is also an invited professor at the Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management. Danelia's research interests are in democracy, civic activism and the public sphere, Soviet dissident communication, and journalism professional and civic values. Danelia is an author of several research and policy papers on Georgian media and several handbooks for Georgian journalists and communication specialists. She has more than 20 years of experience of working for several newspapers and radio programmes as a reporter and an editor; and more than ten years of experience of teaching journalism and mass communication.

She is also a founding member of the "Coalition for Media Advocacy", and a founding member of the "Georgian Women Movement".



**Leyla Abdullayeva**, Head of Press-Service Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Leyla Abdullayeva has been the head of the Press Service of the MFA of the Republic of Azerbaijan since October 2018.

She graduated from Baku State University, International Relations Department and joined the diplomatic service at the MFA of Azerbaijan in 2002. She worked at the Mission of Azerbaijan to NATO and later at the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Belgium and the Delegation to the EU. She then acted as the deputy head of the Azerbaijan International Development Agency between 2017-2018.



**Arif Aliyev**, Chairman, Yeni Nesil journalist organization

Arif Aliyev has been Chairman of the Yeni Nesil ("New Generation") Union of Journalists in Azerbaijan since 1995 and Director of the Baku Press Club since 1998. Between 1983 and 1995, he worked as Editor-in-Chief and deputy of Khazar magazine, the Azadlig newspaper and the Svoboda newspaper. He has also served as the press secretary within the Presidential Administration for one year and Director of the Turan Information-Publishing Group for two years.

Mr. Aliyev is one of the founders of the Press Council of Azerbaijan and journalism award "Key media". He has compiled and authored 17 books, most of them on journalism, made three documentaries and often gives lectures on journalism.



**Aram Ananyan**, Director, Armenpress news agency

Aram Ananyan has been the Director of the Armenpress news agency since 2011. Ananyan previously served as an Advisor and Spokesperson of the Prime Minister of Armenia. Ananyan started his journalistic career in "Yerkir" weekly and later became Editor-in-Chief of the "Forum" weekly in 2006. Ananyan holds a doctoral degree in history from the national Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and a Master's Degree in International Relations from Yerevan State University. He has lectured International Journalism and Media management at the Yerevan State University and Yerevan Brusov State University of Languages and Social Sciences.



**Boris Navasardian**, President, Yerevan Press Club (tbc)

Boris Navasardian has been the President of the Yerevan Press Club, the first independent association of journalists in Armenia, since its foundation in 1995. His journalistic career started in 1979. In 1990, he headed the Russian version of the "Republic of Armenia" daily – the organ of the Parliament of independent Armenia. In 1990-1995, he was also the publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the "Zerkalo" weekly. Navasardian lectured at Yerevan State University, the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) State University and the Yerevan State Linguistics University. He has authored numerous articles and TV programmes and was in charge of the publication of over 50 books on journalism.

	<p>From 2005-2007, Mr. Navasardian was a member of the Council of Europe's expert groups on "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Information in Times of Crisis".</p>
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