



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting III (2024)

Vienna Austria, 24 - 25 June 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, 24 June

Time: **17:30-18:30**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Challenges of Anti-Discrimination Policy Amidst the Adoption of Russian - Style Law in Georgia
Convenor: Georgian Democracy Initiative; UNA Association of Georgia
Working language: English

Summary: The United Nations Association Georgia (UNAG), together with the Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI) and the civic platform “No to Phobia,” is hosting a side event to discuss recent developments in Georgia. Georgia is experiencing democratic backsliding, threatening its Euro-Atlantic path and European future. Recently, the Government of Georgia adopted a Russian-style law requiring all civil society organizations receiving foreign funding to register as organizations pursuing the interests of a foreign power. Despite critical statements and numerous calls from both Georgian people and Western countries, the ruling party ignored the position and interests of the Georgian people and passed the law. The adoption of such laws in authoritarian regimes like Russia serves as a concerning precedent, and Georgian CSOs have similar expectations. In the coming months, they will face fines and

government requests to share all their data, including sensitive information about their beneficiaries. Alongside these changes, Parliament is expected to adopt another law, the so-called LGBT propaganda law, which would prohibit various actions and expressions that could be regarded as LGBT propaganda. As a result, addressing discrimination and hate crimes in Georgia has become extremely difficult. Civil society organizations working on these issues will essentially be declared “agents,” and their activities may be prohibited by another law. Additionally, even without the law, the regime has initiated mass terror against CSOs and activists, organizing violence against them, attacking their offices, damaging property, and physically assaulting people in the streets. This event aims to discuss the ongoing situation in Georgia, provide insights into recent developments, raise awareness, and seek support from the international community.

Tuesday, 25 June

Time: **09:00-10:00**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Backsliding on LGBTQI+ Rights in the OSCE Area
Convenor: United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE;
United States Mission to the OSCE;
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE;
Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE;
Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE;
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE;
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark;
Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE;
Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE;
Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: As States across the OSCE region celebrate June Pride Month, we have a tremendous opportunity to acknowledge progress in recognizing the diversity of gender identity and sexual orientation. Sadly, this progress is marred by backsliding on LGBTQI+ persons enjoyment of human rights in multiple countries in the OSCE region, which is particularly apparent, in Russia. The discussion will try to address inter alia what we can do to reverse this trend and how governments and civil society can work with LGBTQI+ individuals to improve human rights protections, while adhering to the do no harm principle.

Time: **13:15-14:15**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Advancing Toward Holistic Support and Legal Redress: Promoting Tolerance, Combating Discrimination, and Supporting CRSV Survivors in Ukraine
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Survivors of CRSV endure not only the initial trauma but also ongoing challenges such as societal stigma, re-traumatization, and fear of reprisals. The reluctance of survivors to come forward is compounded by negative experiences with authorities, and fears of being labeled as collaborators. This underscores the need for a survivor-centered approach that emphasizes tolerance, anti-discrimination, and comprehensive support. Our event will focus on gender-inclusive, trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach to investigation of CRSV, while highlighting the importance of providing tailored psychological, medical, social, economic, and legal support to survivors. A collaborative and holistic response from civil society, national and international entities, and donors is essential to empower survivors and ensure they receive the justice and care they deserve.