

# Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

21 September - 2 October 2015

Warsaw, Poland

## 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, NGOs, governments, 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, 21 September

Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Protection of human rights defenders and journalists in Central Asia and in conflict areas  
Convenor: Finnish Committee for European Security - STETE  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Discussion of the situation with HR defenders and journalists in Central Asia and post-Soviet space. How do we deal with impunity?

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Media Freedom in the Digital Age - Recent Developments  
Convenor: Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Internet has over the latest decades become a main vehicle for expressing, receiving and exchanging information and opinions. Proper protection of the right to freedom of expression and against interference with information stored or exchanged electronically has therefor become a key human rights issue. The starting point should be that rights are protected online just as they are offline. Law enforcement on the internet or by using the internet should adhere to international human rights standards, be authorized by law and consistent with the principles of necessity and proportionality. These issues must be kept in mind continuously when developing internet governance and the management of cyberspace. The side event will • present information on how human rights concerns have been addressed in several recent high-profile global discussions such as the 2015 Global Conference on Cyberspace (<http://bit.ly/1hYQLgQ>) and in the work of the Global Commission on Internet Governance (<https://www.ourinternet.org/#home>), • look at the recent trends in the practice of OSCE participating States, • discuss what lessons to learn for the OSCE and the OSCE participating States, including what follow-up has been given to the 2013 Conference on Internet and Media Freedom, organized by the Representative on Freedom of the Media

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Who is afraid of media pluralism?  
Convenor: Foundation for the Study of Democracy  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Foundation for the Study of Democracy invites to rethink challenges in the media landscape. Media experts and journalists will offer their assessments of the state of media diversity in the OSCE region, implementation of the commitments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

## **Tuesday, 22 September**

Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Extinguishing the Flame of Propaganda with Media Freedom and Pluralism  
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Delegation of Denmark to the OSCE, United States Mission to the OSCE; Sweden, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Freedom House  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Panel discussion will consider the implications of recently implemented initiatives to eliminate propaganda and limit its dangerous effect, and will explore possible alternative responses to the propaganda in the OSCE region. The speakers will address the following questions: • Do the existing measures contribute effectively to countering propaganda and limiting its effect? • Do these measures meet the international human rights standards for fundamental freedoms, as set out in key documents such as the Helsinki Final Act and the European Convention on Human Rights? • What more can States, civil society and the

media do to ensure that individuals have broad access to objective and impartial information, without limiting freedom of the media, and to develop skills amongst the population to critically consume media and detect propaganda?

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Protection of Sources  
Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Protection of Sources Tuesday 22 September 2015, 8.15-9.50 am, Opera Room, Hotel Sofitel, Warsaw The Media would be nothing without its sources, and the importance of protecting them in order to ensure press freedom should be self-evident. Recent developments in many states are however undermining this protection, and renewed action is therefore required. Press freedom is crucially dependent on the freedom to publish ideas and information without the risk of interference or sanctions from public authorities. Unfettered access to information is vital for the press to play its role as ‘public watchdog’. In particular, access to information about how public authorities manage the power vested in them by the citizens. This, in order to hold authorities accountable for their actions, politically and, if necessary, legally, should their powers be misused or even abused. Without access to relevant information, the right to publish becomes meaningless; there would be nothing to publish. International courts and mechanisms have been mindful that much important information would never reach the public if journalists were unable to guarantee confidentiality to their sources. However, the right of journalists to protect the identity of their sources depends both on journalists’ right to refuse to reveal their sources, and on protection against surveillance by public authorities. Fuelled by the fight against terrorism, which in turn also inspires other areas of criminal law, communication surveillance have widened. This poses a direct threat to press freedom by undermining the confidentiality of the communication between journalists and their sources. In addition, potential sources will less likely provide information if they do not trust the confidentiality of regular means of communication. This development has further proved to challenge many international and regional human rights principles, such as the general rule of law, the presumption of innocence, protection against self-incrimination, respect for private life etc. These threats against press freedom also demonstrate how closely connected and interdependent freedom of expression and information is with respect to privacy – and how the undermining of the latter undermines the former. Combined with a tendency towards widening the scope of so-called “national security”, with increased surveillance, partly on a pre-crime logic and often in an indiscriminate manner, this development poses a great threat to the essential role the press should hold in a sound democracy. This panel will discuss the importance of protecting journalistic sources, its relevance from a human rights perspective, the main challenges to protect sources and recent international developments within this field. Speakers: • Mr. Jon Wessel-Aas, Norwegian media lawyer • Mr. Ben Emmerson, UN Special Rapporteur on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism • Mr. Tyge Trier, Danish media lawyer (tbc) • Ms. Katie Morris, Head of Europe and Central Asia Region, Article 19 Moderator: Ms. Dunja Mijatović, Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE Light breakfast will be offered from 8.15 (including national delights from Norway (tbc))

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Human Rights Defenders - Increasing Pressure, Increasing Protection Needs  
Convenor: Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Human Rights Defenders play an essential role in the promotion and protection of human rights, including those enshrined in OSCE commitments. The right of the individual to know and act upon his or her rights was recognised in the Helsinki Final Act, and the need to protect human rights defenders has been emphasised by OSCE participating States on a number of occasions since then, including in the 1990 Copenhagen Document and the 1994 Budapest Document. Despite this, Human Rights Defenders face increasing pressure from the authorities, and in some cases from non-state actors, in a number of OSCE participating States. They have been subjected to harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and violent attacks, and their capacity to promote human rights has been limited by new restrictions on civil society organisations and the press. In 2014, ODIHR adopted Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, similar to the EU Guidelines that were originally adopted in 2004. This side event aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by Human Rights Defenders in OSCE participating States, including by discussing specific examples. It will highlight the actions of the European Union to protect Human Rights Defenders, both through diplomatic activity and funding mechanisms and offer an opportunity for civil society to provide feedback on the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in the OSCE area. The side event will also discuss how governments, civil society as well as regional and international organisations can effectively protect Human Rights Defenders, and aims to identify further steps that could be taken within the OSCE area to protect Human Rights Defenders.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Launch of the Final Recommendations on Enhancing the Participation of Association in Public Decision-Making Processes (follow-up to April 2015 SHDM)  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The right to participate in public affairs has been recognized globally and in domestic settings, and regional standards and models have been developed to support public participation, including that of associations, in decision-making processes. In an effort to enhance the participation of associations in public decision-making processes, ODIHR organized a Civil Society Forum on this topic in Vienna in April 2015, which resulted in a set of draft recommendations presented during the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Freedoms of Peaceful Assembly and Association (16-17 April 2015), and has been further refined and supplemented since.

The main purpose of the side event is to officially launch and encourage the implementation of the final set of recommendations which offer practical guidance to States on how to create an enabling environment for associations that allows them to participate in public decision-making processes in an effective, transparent, impartial and non-discriminatory manner. The side event

will involve experts on freedom of association and public participation and provide opportunities for the audience to debate with them the recommendations through interactive panel discussions.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Ukraine: The Price of Freedom.  
Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties; International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine  
Working languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: The presentation of human rights organizations' analytical report "The Price of Freedom", dedicated to the events of Euromaidan (2013-2014 year) and its subsequent investigation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Free speech vs. hate speech  
Convenor: Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Such a contraposition is accounted for many cases of collision between fundamental human rights and for different interpretations of defining hate speech. Experts will present the overall analysis of common approaches of different OSCE countries in this field. The audience is invited to negotiate the contours of unlawful hate speech. Where is the balance between the right to freedom of expression and other human rights? What should be done by authorities and by civil society to make people sure that their rights to privacy, freedom of religion and many others are fully protected?

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: Reform of Interpol in relation to politically motivated persecutions: work in progress  
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation, Poland  
Working languages: English, Polish, Russian

Summary: Following the increased widespread misuse of Interpol by authoritarian states over recent years, the century-old institution faces increasing levels of criticism and calls for systemic reforms. Human rights organisations have exposed numerous cases in which dissidents who fled their countries were put on the Red Notice list following requests made by the very same governments who persecuted them or by the governments of allied countries. There is a stark disproportion in the means available to such persons as regards their defence and the tools available to authoritarian regimes which are able to fabricate criminal cases subsequently considered as official grounds for the issuance of a Red Notice. In 2015, Interpol opened up to civil society's recommendations and adopted the policy of protecting persons who sought protection from the automatic nature of the Red Notice procedure. A number of dissidents have been removed from Interpol's wanted lists. While the Open Dialog foundation appreciates the drive for reform within Interpol's institutions, it also points to the remaining problems that need to be addressed: - tackling the phenomenon of states informally "commissioning" a third country to request the issuance of a Red Notice on their behalf; - the need for increased communication between Interpol and the UNHCR. Persons who have been detained following the politically motivated issuance of a Red Notice are among the side-event's speakers: Pavel Zabelin (Russia, detained in Estonia, Germany) Muratbek Ketebayev (Kazakhstan, detained in Poland, Spain), Nikolai Koblyakov (Russia/France, detained in Bulgaria), Alma Shalabayeva (Kazakhstan, detained and illegally deported from Italy).

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Main Internet problems and trends in Kazakhstan: state purchases, propaganda, violation of freedom of speech. Ways to solve  
Convenor: Legal Media Center, Kazakhstan  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The key objective is to inform international community about the latest trends and problems in the field of state policy regulating information space of Kazakhstan and to find possible solutions with participation of invited experts. The main topics for discussion are: Internet legislation, state funding of the internet sphere, types of propaganda, possible scenarios, risks and forecasts.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Turkmenistan: A New Facade of the Old Prison  
Convenor: Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, Russian Federation  
Working languages: English

Summary: Briefing organised by “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign with support of the Civic Solidarity Platform The government of Turkmenistan is one of the most repressive in the world. All fundamental rights and freedoms are subject to draconian restrictions, and human rights defenders face the constant threat of reprisals. The government uses imprisonment, travel bans, and other arbitrary punishments as tools for political retaliation against perceived critics and their families and associates. Torture and enforced disappearances in prisons are widespread. The country is virtually closed to independent scrutiny. Due to deteriorating economic situation in the country and violent clashes at the border with Afghanistan, the government of Turkmenistan is eager to develop international cooperation in the economic and security dimensions of the OSCE. However, it has not taken any positive steps in human dimension. All key human rights concerns raised by international organisations, including by the OSCE and the EU, remain unaddressed. Instead, the authorities are trying to “sell” to the international community a tale of “positive change” while increasingly tightening the screws inside the country. Several laws adopted between 2010 and 2015, which the government shows to the OSCE and the EU as progress, either have not been implemented or establish highly restrictive provisions contradicting international standards. Experts and activists have serious concerns about plans for constitutional reform which may further consolidate personal authoritarian rule. Enforced disappearances of people sentenced to long prison terms remain the most acute human rights problem. Reports by the “Prove they are Alive!” campaign indicate evidence of enforced disappearances since the 1990s, with more than 100 people disappeared without a trace in Turkmen prisons. Excluding conflict-related disappearances (Chechnya, former Yugoslavia, Eastern Ukraine), this is the largest set of enforced disappearances in the Eurasian space. Some of the prisoners were to be released in 2013-2014 either because their terms had expired or because of new legal provisions from 2010-2011. However, no prisoners in this category have been released. Instead, their relatives were told by law enforcement officials of new prison terms, with no documents provided or any contact allowed. No independent observers are allowed to visit prisoners while there are numerous allegations of

severe torture in the penal system. “Prove they are Alive!” campaign continues to document cases of the disappeared and works with their relatives to seek redress through international human rights mechanisms. In October 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee adopted a landmark decision on an individual complaint concerning former Minister of Turkmenistan Foreign Affairs of Boris Shikhmuradov, stating that he is a victim of enforced disappearance and of a number of other violations. The UN Committee ruled that Turkmenistan is under obligation to provide Mr. Shikhmuradov and his family with an effective remedy and take steps to prevent similar violations in the future. Turkmenistan has until 7th of November to provide a substantive reply. In order to restrict information about human rights violations and intimidate relatives of the disappeared from using international mechanisms, the government of Turkmenistan increasingly restricts the right of its citizens to travel outside the country by means of an informal and arbitrary system of travel bans, imposed on family members of prisoners, family members of exiled dissidents, and civil society activists. Furthermore, in March 2015, the Turkmen authorities started a massive campaign to forcibly dismantle privately owned satellite antennas. This campaign serves to further isolate people in Turkmenistan from any independent sources of news and information. Radio Azatlyq (Radio Liberty), which has been the only independent media in the Turkmen language providing regular coverage of social issues, security problems and findings of the “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign, is a primary target of this crackdown. Evidence of continued gross human rights violations in Turkmenistan 12 years after the release of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism report, presented in reports of “Prove They Are Alive!” and other NGOs, clearly indicates that an immediate action of the international community to address enforced disappearances and torture in Turkmenistan is absolutely necessary and cannot be delayed any more.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Overcoming the conflict  
Convenor: Mediacongress "The Commonwealth of Journalists", Russian Federation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The presentation of the Media-project titled "Overcoming the conflict".

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Shrinking space for civil society in Russia  
Convenor: Public Verdict Foundation, Russian Federation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In the past few years, the Russian Federation has adopted a number of laws significantly restricting fundamental rights and freedoms. Some of these new laws undermine the guarantees of the right to freedom of association—in particular, by introducing concepts such as 'non-profit organisations performing the functions of a foreign agent' and 'undesirable international and foreign non-governmental organisations'. Being branded a 'foreign agent' or an 'undesirable organisation' leads to substantial restrictions or, in certain cases, a total ban on



activities, heavy fines and criminal charges. The continuing steps of the Russian government to suppress and stigmatise civil society activities, which it sees as critical towards its policies, are clearly in breach of international and European standards. These steps have hit hard a large number of Russian NGOs, including member organisations of EU-Russia Civil Society Forum, through paralysing inspections, long and time-consuming court cases, and government actions to put a derogatory label of “foreign agents” on them. Some organisations have closed down to avoid being convicted in court. The scope of activities of many organisations has diminished. Along with freedom of association, a range of other fundamental rights and freedoms has been under assault in Russia lately, including freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

*Refreshments will be provided*

## **Wednesday, 23 September**

Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Legal harassment of human rights defenders and activists: the role of the judiciary and prosecution authorities  
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In a number of OSCE participating States including Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan policies of harassment, intimidation and detention are increasingly applied towards human rights defenders. They are combined with the legal prosecution of NGOs and/or their leaders. This means that prosecutors and judges are dealing with heavily contested and politically sensitive cases, which raises the question to what extent judges and prosecutors are political tools in the repressive apparatus of the state. In the working breakfast, representatives from different countries will present information on the operations of judges and prosecutors in proceedings against civil society representatives. Academic and professional experts will examine the relevance for these proceedings of international standards on the operations of judges and prosecutors, including professional standards such as the ‘Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct’ (drawn up by the Judicial Group on Strengthening Judicial Integrity, set up under the auspices of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime) and the ‘Standards of Professional Responsibility and Statement of the Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors’ (adopted by the International Association of Prosecutors). Questions and debate will focus in particular on potential remedies to the current situation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Central Asia: Growing pressure on civil society  
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: As part of a broader trend in the former Soviet Union, civil society has recently come under growing pressure in Central Asia. The authorities of the region have

accused civil society groups, especially those that receive funding from abroad, of attempting to “destabilize” the political situation and even organizing “colour” revolutions. New legislation restricting the activities of NGOs, trade unions, religious communities and other civil society actors has been proposed and enacted. New legislation on NGOs initiated in several countries of the region is of particular concern. In Kyrgyzstan, the parliament adopted a draft law similar to the Russian “foreign agents” law in the first reading in June 2015. This draft law requires NGOs to register and use the stigmatizing “foreign agents” label if they receive foreign funding and engage in broadly worded “political activities”. The same month the parliament of Tajikistan passed a new law that provides for the creation of a state registry of foreign grants received by public associations. Public associations will be required to inform the authorities before implementing programs funded from such sources. In Kazakhstan, the new Criminal Code that entered into force earlier this year contains provisions that could be used to harass and obstruct the work of NGOs and their members. Among others, it toughens penalties for unregistered activities of public associations and introduces the concept of a “leader of a public association” as a separate subject of criminal liability. In Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the civil society environment remains fundamentally repressive. The new Law on Public Associations that entered into force in Turkmenistan in 2014 retained major, problematic provisions and, as previously, civil society groups addressing human rights and other sensitive issues cannot operate openly in the country. In Uzbekistan, NGOs continue to face serious legal and practical obstacles to implementing their activities, and representatives of independent groups are subjected to ongoing harassment. At this side event, the trends outlined above will be discussed and analyzed. The speakers will provide recommendations on how the international community can best respond to recent developments of concern, support the region’s civil society and help promote reforms to bring current legislation and practice into line with OSCE and other international standards. There will also be time for open discussion and questions.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time:	<b>13:00-15:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3</b>
Title:	Women, Peace and Security; Marking the 15th Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 - concrete examples of its implementation
Convenor:	Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Iceland; Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE
Working languages:	English

Summary: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted on 31 October 2000. The main objectives of the resolution are to enhance women's role and decision-making capacities with regard to con-flict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. It also aims to improve significantly the re-alization and protection of the human rights and security of women and girls. This year marks the 15-year anniversary of this landmark resolution. Women's active participation and leadership is crucial in all parts of peace and security decision-making and action. In order to reach sustainable peace and security such an inclusive approach is needed. The OSCE as the world's largest regional organization has formulated its own commitments to implement UNSCR 1325 and its six follow up resolutions and the topic enjoys wide support among OSCE participating States. There are 50 National Action Plans globally and 27 of them within the OSCE region. There has been a lot of international activity to promote UNSCR 1325 but practical implementation remains a challenge. The purpose of this side event is to offer

concrete examples on how the UNSCR 1325 is being and has been implemented. The side event provides an arena for sharing these best practices and complements the previous efforts in the OSCE area, such as the Regional Conference and Consultation on UNSCR 1325 organized in Vilnius (20 April 2015). The side event focuses on concrete implementation and presents speakers both on international as well as on national level implementation efforts. Speakers: • Opening words: OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender issues, Ambassador Miroslava Beham • Moderator: Ambassador Audunn Atlason, Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE • Mr. Antti Häikiö, Ministerial Advisor, Civilian Crisis Management, Ministry of the Interior, International Affairs Unit, Finland • Ludmilla Kiktenko, CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation), Gender Ad-visor in CAREC, from the OSCE Project Women, Water Management and Conflict Pre-vention – Comprehensive Approach to Security • Ms. Amel Gorani, Liechtenstein sponsored Inclusion Coordinator at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva • Mrs. Asiye Bekarca Sen, Social Researcher at the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority - Department of Response

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Human Rights lawyers: Challenges and Professional Guaranties for legal Professionals  
Convenor: Human Rights Embassy, American Bar association (ABA) Center for Human Rights, Human Rights House Network (HRHN), Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation (L4L), The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), OSCE/ODIHR  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Current Situation of Lawyers in Former Soviet countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine) and presentation of the HRHN recommendations from the report “Human Rights Lawyers: Guaranties and Immunities”. Filing complaints with the international institutions and applying universal standards in the national courts puts human rights lawyers at risk. Arrests, searches of organizations and lawyers’ offices, and disbarment of lawyers who defend opponents of the states have become a common problem in the region. Lawyers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine will make presentations in the panel to address these issues. Legal associations and members of the Human Rights House Network have joined their efforts to bring the attention of States, bar associations, international organizations and human rights defenders to the need to strengthen national implementation of the legal framework regarding human rights defenders and the international standards on the professional guaranties for human rights lawyers, including the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. Lawyers from the countries participating in the Human Rights House Network’s Program “International Law in Advocacy” will present recommendations from the report “Human Rights Lawyers: Guaranties and Immunities” prepared in cooperation with experts of the Human Rights House Foundation and with the support of the ABA Center for Human Rights Justice Defenders program. Panelists: Khalid Baghirov (Azerbaijan), Dmitry Chernyh (Belarus), Polina Zhukova (Kazakhstan), Khusanbai Saliev (Kyrgyzstan), Lela Metreveli (Moldova), Irina Biriukova (Russia), Viktor Smalii (Ukraine). Moderator: Maria SLAZAK, CCBE President  
Opening and Introduction: the Head or Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**

Title: 25 Years of the OSCE Copenhagen Document  
Convenor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: At the 1990 Copenhagen Conference on the Human Dimension, States laid the groundwork for what would become the fundamental rule book for the entire OSCE area, the human dimension acquires of the OSCE. This acquires continues to be the main reference document for the OSCE's human dimension work. The essence of this work is the regular, ongoing review of implementation of commitments in this field, as well as the provision of assistance where required. Already at the Copenhagen Conference, participating States considered that the degree of compliance with these commitments had improved in recent times. Yet they also expressed the view that "further steps are required" (Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the human dimension of the CSCE (CD), preamble). This combination of acknowledgement of past achievements with a realistic appreciation of shortcomings and challenges is as relevant today as it was then. Since 1990, the OSCE has consistently deepened and developed its commitments on human rights and democracy. Nevertheless, 25 years onwards, the commitments undertaken in Copenhagen remain the foundation for democratic government in the OSCE area. The side event will celebrate the achievements laid down in the Document as it defined standards for functioning, accountable, open, and transparent democratic systems, and confirmed that "the protection and promotion of human rights ... is one of the basic purposes of government". On this basis, the side event will review general compliance in the OSCE area with commitments enshrined in the Copenhagen Document, define remaining challenges and look at measures that can be taken to tackle these challenges and close implementation gaps. The side event will be forward-looking and provide guidance for the further development of the OSCE's commitments on democracy, human rights, the rule of law and national minorities. ODIHR's "Common Responsibility" report could provide relevant inspiration. Democracy is a process, and so is the development and application of human rights. This side event will also serve to emphasize that these are issues that do not lend themselves to complacency.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: The European Social Charter: a Social Constitution for Europe  
Convenor: Council of Europe  
Working languages: English

Summary: Europe is facing an unprecedented crisis with heavy economic and social consequences. At the same time, some austerity measures, designed to stimulate recovery, may weaken the protection of social rights, which, in turn, may affect social cohesion and threaten the European social model based on solidarity. In this context, the Council of Europe has launched a "Turin process" for the European Social Charter in order to enhance the respect for fundamental social rights that constitutes the best way forward to increase citizens' participation in democratic processes, reinforce their trust in European construction and combat fundamentalism and radicalisation. The European Social Charter is a treaty of the Council of Europe which guarantees human rights in everyday life. Indispensable for individual dignity and fulfilment, these rights are the very foundation on which democracy and the rule of law rest, and are essential for the promotion of stability. It guarantees the fundamental freedoms and rights of

every day, such as housing, health, education, employment, legal and social protection and movement of persons. A key element of the Charter is the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The side event will provide an opportunity to present the Charter, its monitoring mechanisms (the reporting system and the collective complaints procedure) and the interpretation of the Charter by the European Committee of Social Rights, as well as discuss ways to ensure that the Charter is taken into account in the design and implementation of national legislation and practice, and the important role of national and international human rights organisations in monitoring the respect of commitments made by States under the Charter. The side event will focus in particular on non-discrimination and gender equality.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Reviewing evaluation instruments of implementation of human dimension commitments: Moving forward. Briefing by the Civic Solidarity Platform.  
Convenor: Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights; International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)  
Working languages: English

Summary: A wide range of human dimension commitments has been developed in the OSCE throughout forty years of its existence. However, implementation of commitments by participating states remains inconsistent and in recent years has deteriorated further. Protracted and systematic violations of human dimension commitments have persisted in several participating states, and a number of crisis situations negatively affecting the human dimension and sometimes having inter-dimensional implications has increased. A lack of regular and systematic mechanism(s) of evaluation of implementation of human dimension commitments in the OSCE system and a lack of a mechanism of taking concrete follow-up steps to implement recommendations contained in the reports of the OSCE human dimension meetings and reports produced by the OSCE institutions are perceived by many actors as the major factors contributing to poor implementation of commitments. A patchwork of evaluation and assessment tools existing in the OSCE has apparently been not systematic enough and insufficient to ensure effective scrutiny of implementation of human dimension commitments by participating states, as evidenced by increasingly poor record of implementation. In the recent years, civil society organisations and a number of OSCE actors have raised the need to consolidate and expand existing OSCE human dimension evaluation instruments and improve follow-up to adopted recommendations. In order to stimulate thinking and discussions on this issue, the Civic Solidarity Platform organised an expert workshop in Berlin in mid-July 2015 aimed at developing recommendations for concrete steps which could be considered for implementation by the German and Austrian Chairmanships, OSCE institutions and concerned participating states in the next two years. The workshop brought together representatives of civil society, the OSCE political bodies and institutions, several delegations of participating States, and external experts and generated a number of ideas and concrete recommendations. The workshop was supported by the Troika – the incoming German, the current Serbian and the outgoing Swiss OSCE Chairmanships and hosted by the German Chairmanship in Berlin. The briefing participants will share results of the workshop in Berlin and discuss the next steps to consolidate and expand existing OSCE human dimension evaluation instruments and improve follow-up to adopted recommendations. The Berlin workshop is part of a series of expert workshops organised by the Civic Solidarity Platform in 2015. Other workshops will develop concrete recommendations in such areas as freedom of expression, combating torture and enforced disappearances, and implementation of Bolzano Recommendations of HCNM.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: The Right of Association within the Security Sector  
Convenor: European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL)  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL) and the European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) OSCE participating States have committed themselves to guarantee the freedom of association (Copenhagen 1990). This freedom, enshrined in a number of other international human rights instruments, has been recognized as including the right to establish and join professional associations and trade unions. Some countries in the OSCE region continue to place undue restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of association for police and military personnel. This side event will explore the current situation with regard to the freedom of association in the security sector and the important role professional associations and unions can play in this sector. The panel discussion will have a particular focus on the armed and police forces. Moderator: Ton de Zeeuw, Treasurer of EUROMIL Speakers: Emmanuel Jacob, President of EUROMIL, Han Busker, Treasurer of EuroCOP, Oleg Shvedkov, President of ITUS (Russia), Juan Antonio Delgado Ramos, Communication Secretary of AUGC (Spain).

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Human Rights in Armenia  
Convenor: Human Rights Without Frontiers  
Working languages: English

Summary: Human rights in Armenia: State of play and future prospects The assessment of the human rights situation by domestic NGOs and several bodies of the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe is revealing serious shortcomings in the implementation of international standards that Armenia had committed to uphold. Moreover, in the first semester of 2015, the prohibition of public protest gatherings and the disproportionate use of force by police against participants in peaceful demonstrations have not remained unnoticed by the international community. OSCE officials have made public statements to express their serious concerns about the deterioration of the fundamental rights in Armenia. Since the country has joined the Eurasian Economic Union, the work of the Armenian human rights activists have quickly been affected. They have been suspected of being 'foreign agents' and have been slandered or even threatened. Defending LGBT rights has suddenly been perceived as a betrayal of 'Armenian values'. Armenian human rights activists will participate in the event

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**

Title: Promoting active participation of men and women in economic, social and cultural life: policy, legislation and practical steps  
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The main goal of the event will be to share them with participants the policy of the Russian Federation aimed at supporting equal opportunities for men and women to participate in all spheres of life. Special focus will be put on the social protection of disabled persons, motherhood and orphans. The experience of the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education will be presented. The discussions will also touch upon the cooperation between authorities and civil society on federal and regional levels, especially with regard to the activity of trade unions.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

### **Thursday, 24 September**

Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Presentation and Discussion of ODIHR's Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE HCNM  
Working languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) conducted a joint Human Rights Assessment Mission (HRAM) on Crimea from 6 to 18 July 2015. The HRAM evaluated the current human rights situation in Crimea, including the situation of minority groups, as impacted by developments since the release of the previous ODIHR/HCNM report on Ukraine in May 2014. ODIHR and HCNM will deliver a brief presentation of the findings of the report, followed by an open forum for discussants and participants in relation to the issues raised.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Role of Independent Human Rights Institutions in Combating Violence against Women and Gender-Based Discrimination in Serbia  
Convenor: Office of the Ombudsman; Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality; Protector of Citizens – Ombudsman of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia  
Working languages: English, Serbian

Summary: Since the establishment of the independent human rights institutions, the OSCE Mission to Serbia has established joint programs aimed at protecting and promoting women's rights and gender equality in Serbia. These activities, particularly those related to

combatting violence against women and gender-based discrimination, re-enforce the OSCE human dimension commitments set forth in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04) and Ministerial Decisions (15/5 and 7/14). The OSCE Mission to Serbia has supported and facilitated work of the Serbian independent human rights institutions by providing capacity building opportunities on gender mainstreaming. Furthermore, the Mission has strengthened their monitoring role and activities, with a special focus on violence against women and gender-based discrimination. The Working breakfast with the Serbian independent human rights institutions will provide a platform for discussion on how to facilitate the enforcement of women's rights and gender equality to achieve better protection for victims of gender-based violence and discrimination. The participants will have an opportunity to learn about the main findings of the Protector of Citizens Special Report on the Implementation of the General/Special Protocols on Protection of the Women against Violence and mechanisms for combatting gender-based discrimination and violence against women, established by the independent human rights institutions in Serbia.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Examining the relationship between prosecutors and the media: A mix of accountability, intrusion and manipulation?  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event is designed to supplement the discussion on prosecutorial accountability taking place on the Special Day dedicated to judicial accountability. It will unpick the complicated (but also useful and inevitable) relationship between prosecutors and the media, with special emphasis on issues of accountability. The starting point is that media scrutiny is an essential element of holding the prosecution accountable to the public and that the public has a legitimate interest in being informed about the work of the prosecution and criminal justice at large. Media scrutiny is instrumental in keeping prosecutorial discretion in check which can otherwise be a fertile ground for corruption and political manipulation. However, when the boundaries of permissible media interference are crossed, the independence of prosecutors and their impartiality are at risk. The relationship of prosecutors with the media can also be abused by prosecutors in order to influence the outcome of a trial, smear a criminal defendant, harass political opponents or achieve a celebrity status. Such inappropriate conduct may jeopardise the success of criminal prosecution and violate the fair trial rights of both defendants and victims as well as their right to privacy. In the cases of prosecutors criticising the decisions of the court or mounting a virulent media campaign, there is also an interference with the impartiality of the court. The more serious forms of these transgressions should give rise to disciplinary action and, possibly, civil suits, thus raising a separate issue of accountability in the context of prosecutors' relationship with the media. The event will seek to identify current challenges and good practices in providing for accountability across the OSCE region when it comes to the interaction between prosecution and the media. The topic thus complements ODIHR's work on judicial independence as reflected in the 2010 Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence by shifting the focus to the performance of prosecutors and examining mechanisms of accountability for their actions. It also is closely connected to trends in prosecutorial reform across the OSCE region, as witnessed in a number of recent legislative initiatives regulating the institutional setup and functioning of prosecutorial services. It further highlights the importance of the work of media when it comes to criminal justice more broadly, including its challenges and limitations.



*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Crimes in Eastern Ukraine  
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)  
Working languages: English

Summary: Local and international civil society actors have documented violations of international humanitarian law and international crimes in Eastern Ukraine since the conflict erupted in the spring of 2014. This research revealed pattern of serious violations of international humanitarian law taking place on the territory of Ukraine since March 2014. Persons most responsible for these violations have incurred individual criminal responsibility under international treaty and customary laws, for which they should be investigated and prosecuted by international and domestic authorities. In an effort to close the impunity gap in relation to these crimes, CSO have issued number of reports the aim of which is to assist international and domestic prosecutors to bring those responsible to justice. The evidence obtained by the CSOs may also be used for further investigations and prosecutions by domestic authorities in Ukraine, Russia and other jurisdictions based on the principle of universal jurisdiction. This side event discusses importance of accountability for international crimes in Eastern Ukraine as well as alternative prospects for fight against impunity.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Politically motivated persecutions in Azerbaijan  
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)  
Working languages: English

Summary: In 2014-2015, the Azerbaijani government carried out an unprecedented crackdown on civil society. New restrictive legislation has been adopted, e.g. establishing new obstacles for NGOs to receiving funding for their work, and NGOs have been subjected to smear campaigns, office raids, freezing of their accounts and other forms of pressure. Dozens of human rights defenders, journalists and other outspoken individuals have been arrested on politically motivated charges. Several prominent human rights defenders have recently been convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms on spurious charges of tax evasion, illegal entrepreneurship and the like, while the trials against others are under way. The trials in these cases have been characterized by serious due process and fair trial violations, in addition to being politically motivated, and the lawyers of those on trial have also been subjected to intimidation. A number of human rights defenders have been forced to either leave the country or go into hiding. Currently there are no signs that the situation of the human rights defenders community in Azerbaijan will improve any time soon; on the contrary, the recent convictions of HRDs and available information about the conditions of HRDs behind bars only further reinforce concerns. The purpose of this side event is to disclose concrete facts that indicate the political nature of persecutions that dozens of rights defenders are subject to in Azerbaijan, as well as fundamental problems with rule of law and administration of justice.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: The importance of the independence and integrity of the judicial system for appropriate administration of justice and protection of human rights  
Convenor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Department for Humanitarian Co-operation and Human Rights, Russian Federation  
Working languages: Russian

Summary: Recently in a number of OSCE participating states we witness attempts to affect the independence of judges and the integrity of judicial systems. We propose to exchange best practices in order to find ways to avoid such attempts and to ensure respect to rule of law.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: Learning from the past: History education for human rights  
Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE, US Mission  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This side event will explore how history education can play a role in raising awareness about past violations, with a view to prevent or reverse tendencies towards using historic narratives to justify or relativize current day human rights violations. The event will draw on the experiences of the Swedish Living History Forum, including their work with schools and young people. It will also include examples from one or two other countries.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Shrinking spaces: human rights defenders in the OSCE region at more risk than ever  
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In past months, violations against human rights defenders and NGOs have continued unabated in a number of OSCE countries. Human rights defenders have been jailed, attacked or killed and their bank accounts have been frozen. Draconian NGO laws have forced civil society organisations to shut their doors. LGBT rights defenders have been slandered, criminalised or attacked. This side-event will discuss ways to ensure the genuine implementation and monitoring of the Guidelines throughout the OSCE region. Representatives from human rights organisations in AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, KYRGYZSTAN and the RUSSIAN FEDERATION will analyse the challenges they face in their day-to-day work.

Concrete recommendations in terms of implementation and monitoring of the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines will be formulated.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Deprivation of liberty: protecting persons in situations of vulnerability  
Convenor: Association for the Prevention of Torture  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Encouraging torture prevention stakeholders to encompass a vulnerability perspective in their work, and encouraging stakeholders working on discrimination and tolerance to mainstream the detention focus in their endeavours is needed to foster progress on the issue. The Association for the Prevention of Torture therefore suggests contributing to doing so by holding a related side event to the 2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). Objectives of the proposed side event 1. Raise awareness on specific situations of vulnerability of persons deprived of liberty, in the OSCE region. 2. Share good practices and challenges regarding the protection of persons in situations of vulnerability when deprived of liberty, in OSCE participating States. 3. Engage OSCE institutions and other relevant stakeholders on the issue, and foster exchanges and dialogue among them.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Mechanisms to investigate torture allegations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: Problems and solutions  
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: At this side event speakers of the NGO coalitions against torture in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will present key problems relating to the current practice of reacting to and investigating torture allegations and discuss the possible establishment of independent investigation mechanisms. Ensuring that allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are investigated promptly, thoroughly, impartially and independently is crucial in order to eradicate torture and end impunity in a country. When Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan were last reviewed by the United Nations Committee against Torture in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, the Committee recommended each of them that they establish independent bodies to conduct investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment. To date, in all three countries the examination of torture allegations is in many cases conducted by the internal security service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or another law enforcement agency whose employees are themselves implicated in the complaint. These internal security services usually dismiss the allegations as unfounded and, as a result, criminal cases are opened only in a small number of cases. When investigations are conducted by prosecutors, the investigations are also often not conducted effectively. Prosecutors and policemen from the same regions frequently have close professional and sometimes even personal links, which often poses an obstacle to thorough and impartial investigations into violations committed by police.

In those cases where torture violations are revealed during court hearings prosecutors have an inherent conflict of interest. The law envisages that prosecutors carry out both the function of criminal prosecution and that of supervision over the legality of the investigative process. Within the function of criminal prosecution, the prosecutor presents indictments in courts that are frequently based on information provided by police or other law enforcement agencies. By revealing violations (including torture) that took place during their investigative activities, the prosecutor undermines the legitimacy of the collected evidence and weakens the arguments presented in the indictment. In each of the three countries NGOs have considered two possible models of how independent investigation mechanisms could function in their countries: a) a mechanism that builds on and improves the existing investigation service within prosecutors' offices and b) a newly established special investigation service outside the existing structures. The side event will provide a platform to explore these models and discuss their pros and cons.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: "Enforced disappearances: End impunity". Discussion will be held.  
Documentary The Gang about enforced disappearances in Belarus will be screened  
Convenor: Civil Campaign "European Belarus"  
Working languages: English

Summary: The enforced disappearance of persons violates a number of fundamental human rights and often serves to cover-up further rights violations. In cases of enforced disappearance, the perpetrators include not only those who kidnap and detain the victim, but also those who withhold information from relatives relating to the victim's whereabouts. Though a number of European countries have signed and ratified the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, a significant number of enforced disappearances remain unsolved and continue to occur across the region up to this date. Some of the most prominent cases are from Belarus – four politicians and activists disappeared in Belarus just before the second presidential election in 2001: Yuri Zakharenko, former Interior Minister; Victor Gonchar, former Vice Speaker of Parliament; Anatoly Krasovsky, a businessman who financed the opposition; and Dmitry Zavadsky, a journalist.<sup>1</sup> In Turkmenistan, well over hundred cases of enforced disappearances in prisons after arbitrary detentions and unfair trials were documented. Cases include Boris Shikhmuradov, ex-minister of Foreign Affairs, Batyr Berdiyev – Ambassador to OSCE, other politicians, officials and businessman. Hundreds, if not thousands of cases of enforced disappearances remain unsolved from the times of Balkan war. In Dagestan and Chechnya of Russian Federation enforced disappearances are part of suppression, harassment and intimidation policies. In Ukraine, including Crimea, these practices were brought into practice together with occupation of territories. With this, international pressure needs to be sustained to be able to continuously and consistently campaign for European countries to sign and ratify the Convention. Europe, together with the other regions, needs to foster a strengthened solidarity to keep the issue of disappearances at the height of global awareness and response.

*Refreshments will be provided*

## **Friday, 25 September**

Time: **08:00-10:00**

Venue: **Opera**  
Title: **Enforced Disappearances in the OSCE Region – and its impact on women and beyond the disappeared**  
Convenor: **Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE**  
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: Committed on a gross scale during the Second World War, enforced disappearances have continued to feature in the OSCE area. Enforced disappearances occur “when persons are arrested, detained or abducted against their will or otherwise deprived of their liberty by officials of different branches or levels of Government or by organized groups or private individuals acting on behalf of, or with the support, direct or indirect, consent or acquiescence of the Government, followed by a refusal to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the persons concerned or a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty, which places such persons outside the protection of the law”. Enforced disappearances are prohibited as a peremptory norm (*jus cogens*) and a UN Convention aims at creating mechanism for deterrence and accountability. Here the discussion will focus on women and on the consequences beyond the disappeared themselves, their families and the wider society.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: **Convention against Torture Initiative: Supporting the fight against torture in the OSCE**  
Convenor: **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark**  
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) is a ten-year global initiative for the universal ratification and better implementation of the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT) that was launched in 2014 by the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco. A key commitment of the five founders of the CTI is to spearhead the exchange of experience within their respective regions to strengthen the implementation of the CAT and the fight against torture. In this endeavour, they are supported by a Group of Friends of CTI. The OSCE is a key forum for this purpose: All OSCE participating States have ratified the CAT and 41 of the participating States have ratified the OPCAT. This provides a good platform for discussing the challenges that remain in the OSCE region with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment. Furthermore, the 2014 Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE brought the fight against torture back to the OSCE agenda, giving renewed impetus to discussions on how to strengthen and develop the OSCE commitments on torture prevention. This focus is set to continue during the Serbian Chairmanship throughout 2015. On this background, this side-event aims to explore how the CTI may best complement and strengthen the ongoing efforts to fight torture in the OSCE-area, based on the specific challenges of OSCE participating States and building on previous discussions and exchanges within the OSCE. Objective • To identify particular ratification and implementation challenges in the OSCE area within three key areas: 1) National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs); 2) Independent investigative bodies; and 3) Rehabilitation of torture victims. Outputs • The identification of particular challenges related to NPMs, independent investigative bodies and rehabilitation of torture victims in the OSCE area. • A discussion on which of these particular challenges could benefit mostly – in terms of achieving tangible

improvements – by subsequent peer-exchanges at expert level. • The opportunity to exchange ideas about how to enhance and strengthen the existing OSCE commitments on torture in a new Decision on the Prevention of Torture in the OSCE

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Democracy and You(th) - new mechanisms of political participation  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Democracy requires meaningful participation and involvement of all citizens, in-particular youth, but also other groups such as women, minorities and persons with disabilities, as well as accountable and transparent democratic institutions. In many OSCE participating States youth are increasingly disengaged from politics. Political parties are experiencing a steep fall in membership rates among youth and youth turnout in elections is decreasing across the OSCE region. This does not however necessarily mean there is a disinterest in politics among youth. The EU 2012 Youth report suggests that personal commitment and faith in political involvement are strong amongst young people. Youth's growing engagement in new forms of political participation is particularly evident in social media and other online platforms. In 2014, the OSCE has focused on increasing its engagement with youth within the framework of the priorities of the Swiss Chairmanship, who organized a series of meetings for OSCE Youth Ambassadors, and adopted a Model Youth Action Plan (YAP) at the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel. To complement these efforts, ODIHR organized two Youth Leadership Forums to discuss challenges to youth political participation. The Forums brought together more than 80 young leaders from 37 participating States. Participants agreed on a set of recommendations addressing challenges to youth political participation. ODIHR also trained young policy advisors to improve their professional outputs within democratic institutions. During the 2015 HDIM, ODIHR in close cooperation with the OSCE CiO and the OSCE Youth Ambassadors are organising a side event entitled "Democracy and You(th) - new mechanisms of political participation". The Side Event will specifically focus on: 1) The OSCE Model Youth Action Plan and how the action points related to political participation could be implemented by OSCE governments and supported by OSCE executive structures. 2) How the ODIHR Youth Leadership Forum recommendations could be channelled and implemented by the OSCE, and its participating States, 3) How traditional democratic institutions (e.g. political parties, parliaments) could benefit from the informal mechanisms of political engagement, by further utilizing information and communication tools (ICT) in their policy making.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Development of Election Observation Methodology: E-learning and Follow-up Handbook  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: Ministerial Council Decision 19/2006 tasked ODIHR to “further diversify the participation of [...] observers by supporting national training efforts,” and to “maintain the highest professional standards [...] by active training [...]” The Election Observer Training Programme assists participating States’ efforts to maintain a roster of individuals with relevant skills in this field, and complements national training efforts undertaken in some participating States. As part of this programme, in July 2012, ODIHR launched its e-learning course for Short-Term Observers (STOs), available at [www.stoelearning.org](http://www.stoelearning.org). Since then, the course has attracted significant attention both within and outside the OSCE area. More than 5,000 participants are either actively taking part in the course or have already completed it. These include potential election observers, election management professionals, civil society representatives, and academics from more than 130 countries around the world, including 52 OSCE participating States and 10 OSCE Partners for Co-operation. ODIHR has received numerous requests for extension of the course to cover the duties and responsibilities of the Long-Term Observers (LTOs). In response to these requests, ODIHR has updated the existing STO e-learning course and added an LTO component to it. The comprehensive e-learning course will be open to all interested stakeholders, both within the OSCE region and beyond. It will be made available in English and Russian in order to increase its outreach and the number of beneficiaries and stakeholders. At this side event, the comprehensive e-learning course will be launched and participants will be able to test it.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Belarus: "Elections" Amidst the Continuing Human Dimension Crisis"  
Convenor: Charter97.org  
Working languages: English

Summary: Belarus is on the eve of new presidential elections. In the current situation Lukashenka badly craves to receive even a limited international recognition of progress in their conduct and of his legitimacy. At the same time, there has been no progress at all in the field of human rights and that not a single recommendation of international organisations has been implemented. Human rights situation in Belarus has continued to steadily deteriorate, turning into a human rights crisis where violations are of “systemic and systematic” character, in the words of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus. No major human rights violations committed in 2010-11 have been reversed while repressive practices persist. New restrictive laws have been adopted, further undermining all fundamental rights and freedoms. All political prisoners who returned home from colonies in 2014, except one, had served their entire terms. A new political prisoner has been convicted and another one has received an additional term in the recent months, thus bringing their total number to six. Their harassment and inhuman treatment, amounting to torture, continues. Dozens of former political prisoners have not been exonerated and remain restricted in their fundamental rights and freedoms. All in all, as a result of absence of positive changes in human rights and rule of law, the framework of relations between the Lukashenka regime and the international community has been again, like in the past, skilfully restricted by the autocratic ruler to a classic game of “hostage trade”. As soon as he receives the lifting of sanctions, expansion of trade and financial support from the West in exchange for release of all current political prisoners, he will detain and convict a new group of opponents, and the “game” will continue. As a result of these developments, experts and activists started to experience a strongest sense of déjà vu, recalling a similar pattern in the past.

Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: Implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan  
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: At this side event speakers of the NGO coalitions against torture in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and a representative of Physicians for Human Rights will discuss positive steps taken by governments in these countries aimed at implementing the procedures contained in the United Nations Istanbul Protocol as well as continuing challenges. Forensic experts and other medical personnel examining alleged torture victims in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan often lack independence of law enforcement agencies or other government agencies implicated in the alleged torture. As a result, the documentation of injuries is not always carried out thoroughly and impartially. While Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have introduced the institution of independent forensic experts, their conclusions are usually not attributed equal evidentiary weight in court, compared to those of state forensic experts. The Istanbul Protocol provides details of procedures to be adhered to in the medical and psychological examination of alleged torture victims. Diligent implementation of these procedures is an important step towards ending impunity of the perpetrators. In recent years particularly Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have taken significant steps to implement standards contained in the Istanbul Protocol pertaining to the examination and documentation of injuries. In Kyrgyzstan, the Ministry of Health, the Prosecutor General and the NGO Coalition against Torture in Kyrgyzstan jointly elaborated the Manual on Effective Documentation of Violence, Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on the basis of principles enshrined in the Istanbul Protocol. In December 2014, the Ministry of Health obliged medical personnel – when conducting examinations of detainees -- to document torture and other ill-treatment in line with the Manual. The Ministry of Health also adopted a complex plan aimed at ensuring that the principles and procedures outlined in the Manual take root within the Ministry's health service. In cooperation with the Ministry, the Coalition against Torture has conducted a series of trainings in 2015 for professionals including forensic experts, psychiatrists and other medical personnel. In December 2012, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Tajikistan established a Working Group consisting of government and NGO representatives that elaborated procedures based on the Istanbul Protocol. The Ministry obliged medical personnel to adhere to these procedures when examining victims of torture. Since 2012, the NGO Human Rights Centre, a member of the Coalition against Torture in Tajikistan, and the US-based NGO Physicians for Human Rights have jointly conducted trainings on standards of the Istanbul Protocol for 150 professionals, including forensic experts, psychiatrists, medical personnel of closed institutions, legal professionals and members of the Monitoring Group set up under the Ombudsman's Office. Although state forensic experts in Kazakhstan have participated in trainings on the standards of the Istanbul Protocol, the authorities have not yet obliged medical personnel to abide by them. Forensic examinations are done based on an order of an investigator or an investigative judge. If the examination is conducted at the request of the defence, the defence has to cover the costs, unlike when the examination is ordered by the prosecuting party.

Time: **18:00-20:00**



Venue: **Opera**  
Title: The National Human Rights Action Plan of Kazakhstan: view of  
Kazakhstani civil society  
Convenor: Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The 2009-2012 National Human Rights Action Plan developed and adopted in Kazakhstan in 2009 became the first detailed document in Central Asia that formulates principle directions of internal and external policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the sphere of human rights and includes specific proposals as to the improvement of mechanisms and procedures of their protection. However, in spite of the fact that the document was approved by the RK President and widely announced by the Government, the State Authorities could not fully implement it. According to independent experts, the document could not be fully implemented initially, first of all, due to number of abstract wishes which gave no opportunity for concrete actions, absence of competent authorities in charge and enforcers, absence of implementation terms, absence of concrete conceptual context and comparative critical analysis of legislation, institutional assurance and law-enforcement practice for revealing weak spots and system problems, which in whole has predetermined the formal nature of these recommendations and has preconditioned impossibility to implement them. Exactly due to this the RK National Action Plan was implemented for 23% in whole, and the only "Right of the Child" Chapter - for 60%. Unfortunately, until now the decision of the Kazakh authorities to proceed with the development of the Second National Human Rights Action Plan for 2014-2020, remained unrealized, despite the fact that in early 2014, a Working Group, which included government representatives and experts from NGOs was established to deal with this issue. However, despite some "stand-down" on the part of the government, NGOs and experts continued to work in this direction, and today a National Human Rights Action Plan on behalf of the civil society has been developed. All chapters of the present document are based on the fundamental principles such as the principle of the presumption in favour of rights and freedoms, the principle of legal certainty and predictability; the principle of proportionality, the principle of non-discrimination, transparency in decision making; the principle of speed and timeliness of administrative or judicial review of complaints against decisions and the principle of observance of the criteria of admissible restrictions of rights and freedoms. Organizers of the side-event will present the National Action Plan for 2015-2020 and in this regard will address some issues related to observance of basic rights and freedoms in Kazakhstan.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Repressions against Russian civil society in 2015  
Convenor: Foundation "For Environmental and Social Justice", Russian Federation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: During 2015 the situation with human rights in Russia changed dramatically. There were adopted number of repressive laws; violations of human rights became every day practice of Russian authorities; now we have dozens of politically motivated cases in frames of which people arrested or already sentenced to years of prison. Why representatives of Russian civil society think that Russia is on the edge of catastrophe? How many activists and NGOs are under attack? Which new repressive laws will be adopted in next month? Our side event will try

to give the answers.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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**Time:** 18:00-20:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2  
**Title:** International election observation as a modern attribute of democratic elections: regulation and practice  
**Convenor:** Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law  
**Working languages:** English, Russian

**Summary:** The round table will focus on the problems of the international election observation: - the OSCE commitments of democratic elections - the principles of election observation - the problems of international observers legal status: international law and national regulation - the problems of the election observation methodology - the new forms of the election observation - the best practice of election observation from different international organizations

*Refreshments will be provided*

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**Time:** 18:00-20:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 1  
**Title:** Human rights violations in occupied Crimea and in the regions of the military conflict in Lugansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine  
**Convenor:** Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland  
**Working languages:** English, Russian

**Summary:** Helsinki Human Rights Foundation (Warsaw) jointly with coalition “Justice for Peace in Donbas”\* as well as CrimeaSOS initiative implements the project on search and documentation of evidences of the illegal detention places and arbitrary arrests and detentions of civilians and military forces representatives in the regions of the military conflict (Anti-terrorist operation zone) in Lugansk and Donetsk regions as well as human rights violations in Crimea. The side-event will discuss the results of the monitoring research implemented by the project partners which concerned the situation with the safeguard of the right to liberty (deprivation of liberty), right to life and right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman way. The collection of evidences will present the facts that took place mainly in summer of 2014. Ukrainian human rights activists will present the main and typical human rights violations occurred on the territories of Luhansk and Donetsk regions not controlled by Ukrainian government. The collection of evidences from victims or direct witnesses describes the pictures of the scales, gravity and geography of the brutal violations of the right to liberty in the “legal” and hidden detention places and arbitrary detentions across the military conflict zone. Collected by civil activists hundreds cases prove the murders, tortures, unhuman treatment, such cases are proved by supported written or filmed evidences. This material is proposed to be presented during the side-event. Victims of tortures and unlawful detention expected to speak for themselves during this session. The activists of Krym SOS will discuss the issues related to the human rights situation in Crimea after its occupation by Russian Federation. \* Coalition “Justice for Peace in Donbas” was created in 2014 by 17 Ukrainian NGOs. The aim of the coalition was to collect facts and evidences of human rights violations and assist to national and international human rights mechanisms and institutions in investigation of the crimes, related to the military conflict

in Donezk and Lugansk regions as from May of 2014. \* CrimeaSOS is the project which has been established by volunteers on February 27, 2014 – after the beginning of occupation of Crimea by Russian Federation. CrimeaSOS is engaged in providing assistance to internally displaced persons from Crimea and eastern regions of Ukraine, as well as informing about the human rights violations in Crimea. CrimeaSOS is the implementing partner of UNHCR in Ukraine.

*Refreshments will be provided*

## **Monday, 28 September**

Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Legal Protection of Survivors of Trafficking in Human Beings  
Convenor: Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In many countries in the OSCE region victims (survivors) of human trafficking lack access to legal counselling and aid. An adequate referral system which ensures that victims are informed about the relevant judicial proceedings and their rights from their very first contact with the authorities is missing in many countries. The Netherlands Helsinki Committee has together with national NGOs worked on this issue in Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Albania. There are very few lawyers trained in working with trafficked persons. State-funded legal aid is scarce and often limited to no more than the formal presence of a lawyer during the trial. Even if victims have a right to claim compensation for the damages they suffered formally, in practice such claims are rarely awarded. If they are awarded, they are hardly ever executed. Provisions such as the use of closed hearings or audio-visual means, that might protect the safety and privacy of victims, are not effectively used. Many actors in the judicial system, including police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers, lack knowledge about trafficking and its psychological, social and health impacts on its victims. In some cases victims are disrespectfully treated by representatives of the judicial system itself. As a result trafficked persons face major barriers in accessing justice so that criminal proceedings often lead to their secondary victimization. At the same time, NGOs are not trained in providing legal counselling and have limited funds to pay for legal aid and representation. The side event will • present information from national research in a number of countries in analysing the position of victims in criminal and other relevant legal proceedings, • inform about the follow-up of this research through national trainings of social workers and lawyers and through lobby and advocacy by the national NGOs, • engage participants and panellists in exchange of information on and experiences with legal protection of victims of trafficking in human beings.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Problems of observance of the rights of national minorities in Eastern Europe  
Convenor: Institute of European Studies, Latvia  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet system failed to achieve full operation of all democratic institutions. In particular, there is no full protection of interests of national minorities. The round table is expected to discuss the situation of national minorities in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria. It will attempt to find out the reasons national minority rights violations in these countries and make recommendations for the development of democratic institutions.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Civil society and human rights in Belarus on the eve of presidential elections  
Convenor: Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In the frames of the side-event, representatives of the Belarusian civil society will focus on the human rights situation and legal conditions for civil society organizations in Belarus on the eve of presidential elections which are to take place on October 11, 2015. The event will be held by representatives of major groups carrying out the domestic observation for the presidential elections: the "Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections" campaign (including the Human Rights Center "Viasna" and the Belarusian Helsinki Committee) and the "Right to Choose" campaign uniting 8 political parties and trade unions. At the event, an analysis of the legal environment before the elections, including obstacles to free and fair elections will be provided. The process of formation of election commissions, registration of initiative groups and presidential nomination procedures, conditions for campaigning (including the conditions for publications in the media, conditions for holding meetings and pickets, the possibility for distribution of programs of candidates) will be assessed. National observation campaigns will present their conclusions and assessment on the issue if the presidential elections on October 11 will be free and fair. Representatives of the Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus and the Center for Legal Transformation will talk about the conditions for the work of NGOs in Belarus. Particular attention will be given to the facts of pressure on NGOs related to the presidential elections, as well as the reform of receiving foreign financial assistance in Belarus.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Human rights education in Russia: Presentation of country overview  
Convenor: Center of Civic Education and Human Rights, Russian Federation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Presentation of the overview on the situation pertaining to human rights education in Russia will be provided for participants.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: Obstacles in front of the democratic participation of different cultures and the impact of Europe's social cohesion  
Convenor: COJEP International  
Working languages: English, French

Summary: Obstacles in front of the democratic participation of different cultures and the impact of Europe's social cohesion **CITIZENSHIP AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF MUSLIM IN EUROPE** In last years, through the war on terrorism and the rise in extremist violence, the European politicians and some mainstream media have exploited the unwanted situation to target Muslim communities and Islam. Far right movements, academics and a part of clergy has become very vocal in ridiculing and demonizing all Muslims who live in Europe. Physical attacks, vandalism and anti-Islam legislations are spreading. This relentless campaign has resulted in widening the gulf between Muslim communities and the majority as well as an increase in the negative perception to such an extent that Muslims feel under siege and in some cases are turning their back towards the society. COJEPINTERNATIONAL is working to counter this trend and raise awareness among Muslim people, thus supporting the process of social cohesion. At the same time, we are appealing to the European decision makers and political establishment to remember the humanistic spirit of Europe and strive for the continuation and even redefining the democratic culture. This is our New Europe Project **WITH FULL CITIZENSHIP** for Muslims in Europe. In short, we are looking for a new model of an inclusive Europe, where Muslim communities can feel safe, appreciated and useful, and not degraded and marginalized.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Tolerance and non-discrimination of LGBTI people  
Convenor: C.O.C. - Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum (Centre for Culture and Leisure), the Netherlands  
Working languages: English

Summary: The OSCE has many important commitments in combating any form of intolerance, discrimination, and bias based violence. All through the OSCE region, a clear pattern emerges of a high level of violence and bias crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Transgender people are the most vulnerable: In the last five years, 71 murders of trans people have been documented in Europe. Nearly every transgender person experiences harassment, abuse and violence. There are however also significant positive developments at national and international level of States and international fora taking up, such as the UN and OAS. This round table will focus on how States and the OSCE name discrimination, intolerance and bias violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and carry out their important responsibility to protect each and every citizen without making any distinction.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Presentation of the "White Papers of Hate"  
Convenor: International Human Rights Movement "World without Nazism"  
Working languages: English

Summary: "White Papers of Hate" represents the third study into manifestations of xenophobia, neo-Nazism and radical nationalism in Europe, including Russia and Ukraine. The first two studies were covered the period between January 2012 and December 2013. The new White Papers of Hate analyses the situation in 2014. We are inviting everybody who is interested in the problems of asylums and migrants in the context of the revival of radical Nationalism and neo-Nazism in our countries.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Hate Crimes and factors provoking them  
Convenor: Foundation for Development Civil Society Institution "Public Diplomacy", Russian Federation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Violent, prejudice motivated crimes that occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of his or her perceived membership in a certain social group. Examples of such groups include but are not limited to: ethnicity, gender identity, disability, language, nationality, physical appearance, religion, or sexual orientation. In recent years, the number of hate crimes is increasing, especially due to the unstable political situation in some European countries. The event is planned to share the experience of monitoring hate crimes and discuss current approaches to its prevention.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Detention centers for foreign citizens: challenges in implementation of ECHR-decisions on migrants rights protection  
Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Migration is becoming one of the most discussed problems in the modern world. Millions of people leave their homes and go abroad, some - looking for the work and the chance to improve their life's, the others escaping conflicts, repressions, violence. The countries of migrants destinations often partly welcome migration as the way to support economy and well-being of their citizens, but simultaneously there are tough measures taken against those migrants who lack some papers or cannot prove their identity. One of the most vulnerable groups are the stateless persons, who are seen as unwanted migrants, while there is no place,

where they officially belong to and are welcome in. Both foreign citizens and stateless persons often end up in detention centres as the courts decide that these people "violate the migration law" by not having required documents. The conditions of the detention are not better than in prison for those accused in criminal offences and the legal control over the detention periods might be even worse: in Russia, migrants can be kept in such prisons up to two years without any court reconsidering the necessity in this heavy freedom limitation. In a few cases, the European Court of Human Rights pointed out the violations of articles 3 and 5 of ECHR in keeping stateless persons in Russian detention centers for foreign citizens. Russia was called by the ECHR to take general measures and to establish regular court control over the detention periods, provide free legal aid to detainees and to improve the conditions of detention (better access to the visits, more time for walking outside, better medical care and food for imprisoned persons). Those measures should indeed improve the situation of all foreign citizens in detention centres - not only the stateless ones. However the implementation on the important ECHR decision faces many problems and challenges. The strategic rulings of the ECHR on Russia have significant importance for the other countries of the CoE as well - in most of them the rights of migrants are violated in the detention centres. The issue is going to be discussed by lawyers and experts on migrants rights, statelessness and ECHR.

*Refreshments will be provided*

## **Tuesday, 29 September**

Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Wake up call: Sharing findings from the 2014 OSCE/ODIHR annual hate crime report  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: This one-hour breakfast session will provide participants with the opportunity to: - explore the data and information that ODIHR has received so far for its 2014 reporting cycle; - learn about ODIHR's work on hate crime in 2014-15 and; explore ODIHR's key observations, with a focus on how civil society data can be used to better understand official data, patterns of underreporting and opportunities to improve official records of hate crime in the OSCE region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Joint Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities: scope, challenges and opportunities  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE commitments call on OSCE participating States to refrain from imposing restrictions inconsistent with international standards on the practice of religion or

belief by individuals and religious communities (1989 Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting), as well as to grant to communities of believers upon their request recognition of a legal status (2013 Kyiv Ministerial Council Decision No 3/13). Despite these commitments, challenges related to the collective dimension of the right to freedom of religion or belief continue to exist in the OSCE area. In particular, the use of mandatory registration systems, as well as significant practical and legal obstacles to acquiring legal personality continues to negatively affect the collective rights of a wide range of religious or belief communities. To assist participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission have developed the Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities. The Guidelines, which will be presented at the event, are a benchmark document containing minimum international standards for ensuring voluntary access to legal personality for religious or belief communities. The event aims at raising awareness among OSCE participating States, civil society and religious or belief communities about international standards pertaining to the legal personality of religious or belief communities as well as at presenting good practices from across the OSCE region and concrete measures that would help OSCE participating States to ensure that their national legal frameworks and practices comply with international standards and OSCE commitments in this field. The event would also serve as a forum to discuss relevant challenges and explore further steps to promote and implement the Guidelines in the OSCE region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: The Italian experience in preventing and combating hate crimes  
Convenor: "Giuseppe Dossetti" Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom;  
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Tolerance and  
Non-Discrimination Department; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation; Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE;  
Ministry of Interior, Italy  
Working languages: English

Summary: This event will represent an opportunity for Italian institutional actors to share their experience in preventing and combating hate crimes and to exchange views with other relevant actors. The Observatory for Security Against Discriminatory Act and the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights will present their stance and activity on hate crimes. The cooperation between Italian institutions and OSCE/ODIHR, especially in the field of data collection and training, will be specifically highlighted.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Hate Crime Victim Support in Europe  
Convenor: Saechsische Beratungsstellen fuer Betroffene rechtsmotivierter und  
rassistischer Gewalt des RAA Sachsen e.V., Germany  
Working languages: English



Summary: “RAA Saxony – Support for Victims of Hate Crime” is a regional civil society organization based in Saxony Germany. In order to strengthen Human Rights and to fulfil international regulations on Hate Crimes we developed the project with our partners to improve support structures and the situation of victims in the OSCE region. Due to the work of monitoring projects (like ODIHR and CEJI/Facing Facts!) Hate Crimes are recognized and far more visible. The new EU Victims’ Directive prepared the ground to develop specialized support structures. Therefore we invited thirty-one Hate Crime community workers as well as academics from 17 European countries (including Russia and Ukraine) to Berlin for two three-day workshop on “Guidelines and Support Standards for Victims of Hate Crime in Europe”. Our intention was to bring together Hate Crime community workers from different European states to share and discuss knowledge and expertise on approved support mechanism. Out of the workshop results we formulated guidelines, recommendations and necessary framework requirements for efficient counselling services throughout Europe. Bringing in our expertise to the international discourse we contribute to the victim, while putting their special needs into focus, our findings are an important step to establish a visible and explicit victim centred approach to provide effective support services to victims of Hate Crimes in the OSCE region. By focusing on our project results on the Side Event we will discuss the situation of victims of Hate Crime and victim support standards in Europe.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: The United Kingdom’s liberal orthodoxy: the virtual ban on traditional Christian and family values.  
Convenor: Core Issues Trust  
Working languages: English

Summary: Ongoing media indications are that the UK government is considering criminalising professional help offered to clients wanting to diminish or eliminate homosexual feelings and behaviours. Already an effective ban is in place through the country’s leading mental health organisations against those members responding to such client requests. Training, continual professional development, supervision and professional indemnity insurance are denied to individuals making use of even standard psychotherapeutic modalities to assist this minority population. Frequent requests to these bodies to produce the evidence that on average any such intervention is harmful, are ignored. Those groups motivated by orthodox Christian values with regard to human sexuality to help such people are not exempt from this effective ban. The country’s courts are now punitive in penalising any position resistant to the liberal orthodoxy that promotes homosexuality as a natural (inborn and unchangeable) category of existence, or of genetic origin. This session looks at the mechanisms used in the United Kingdom to effectively ban the right to receive and to offer help for unwanted same-sex attractions and behaviours. It makes reference to exorbitant fines and justifications for the punitive action taken by the courts with reference to the as yet unresolved Core Issues Trust and Transport For London action (the Bus case) in the country’s High Court. The session will be led by Standing Council for the London-based Christian Legal Centre, Human Rights Barrister Paul Diamond and Dr Mike Davidson Director, Core Issues Trust. Paul Diamond has extensive experience at all court levels in the United Kingdom and has made representations in the European Courts and in Houses of Parliament in Westminster. Mike Davidson supports clients seeking to move away from unwanted practices and feelings now ignored or pathologised by UK professional mental health bodies.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Countering Disabilities Discrimination: Lessons Learned for the U.S. and Europe  
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE, Finnish Mission to the OSCE  
Working languages: English

Summary: Challenges remain in the OSCE region for countering discrimination and promoting tolerance for persons with disabilities. Government officials and representatives from NGOs discuss various concrete steps and measures that have been effective in promoting rights of the disabled, and offer perspectives on how to counter discrimination.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Non-Violent Communication as a Means for Building Tolerance, Peace and for Conflict Transformation – A Short Introduction  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: Non-violent communication (NVC) is a communication process and method developed by Marshall B. Rosenberg, based on the idea that all human beings have the capacity for compassion and only choose violence (psychological and physical) when they don't recognize more effective strategies for meeting their needs. This simple, yet powerful, method proposes that if people can identify their needs and the needs of others, harmony, tolerance and respect among people can be achieved. The author of the method, Marshall B. Rosenberg travelled the globe teaching Nonviolent Communication to diplomats, educators, corporate managers, parents, military personnel, peace activists, and others. He visited about 35 countries every year to meet with people in places riddled with conflict, violence and suffering. He has conducted mediation sessions in the Middle East, Sierra Leone, Croatia, and Rwanda. This side event will provide a short, interactive overview on how non-violent communication can improve interactions between people, and thus can help resolve conflicts and further peace in societies. It aims to show what potential this method has in diplomacy, peace-building and conflict transformation, offering short practical exercises to its participants to train and try the method.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Presentation of Germany's Chairmanship Priorities in the Human Dimension

Convenor: German Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Working English  
languages:

Summary: The incoming German OSCE Chairmanship would like to present its Chairmanshp priorities for the Human Dimension.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Regions of Georgia  
Convenor: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Georgia  
Working English  
languages:

Summary: Overview of the human rights situation in the occupied regions of Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali, Georgia

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Wednesday, 30 September**

Time: **08:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: 'Freedom' of religion in Britain: Dealing with challenges to religious speech, conscience and expression in an aggressive secular state  
Convenor: Christian Legal Centre (London); Core Issues Trust, United Kingdom  
Working English  
languages:

Summary: The Christian Legal Centre has led the way in defending Christian freedoms in Britain in recent years. The Centre has dealt with numerous high-profile cases in which Christians have been penalised for living out their faith. This working breakfast will be an opportunity to hear from Paul Diamond, leading human rights barrister and standing counsel to the Christian Legal Centre, as he discusses a number of cases including: • Victoria Wastenev, a senior public health service occupational therapist who was suspended for nine months for giving a Christian book to a Muslim colleague; • Sarah Mbuyi, a Christian nursery nurse who was dismissed for gross misconduct after saying, in conversation with a colleague, that marriage is between one man and one woman; • several street preachers who have been arrested for expressing Christian values; • a Christian charity (Core Issues Trust) that has been ordered to pay costs in excess of £100,000 for challenging a public body when it refused to display its adverts on London transport. Delegates should find the material instructive in developing ways forward to achieve a balance in the 'clash of rights' which often occurs when secularist legislation meets religious belief. There will also be plenty of time for delegates to meet one another in the hope that working relationships can be formed which contribute to the preservation of religious freedom in the areas of speech, conscience and expression.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Addressing Intolerance against Muslims in the OSCE  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: This roundtable with Civil Society Organizations and participating States delegations will allow participants to share their ideas on the issues faced by Muslim communities across the OSCE region. Participants will also be able to share best practice and ideas on how to best address this contemporary form of racism and intolerance. ODIHR will also present its approach on Intolerance against Muslims, and recent projects and activities related to this issue.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: FoRB Issues in Austria, France, Germany, and Hungary  
Convenor: FOREF Europe (Forum for Religious Freedom - Europe)  
Working languages: English

Summary: The Forum for Religious Freedom-Europe (<http://foref-europe.org/>) is an independent, secular, non-governmental organization based in Vienna. FOREF monitors compliance with Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) issues, documents problems, and advocates with the international community, national governments and civil society. FOREF will use this opportunity to present expert analysis and encourage dialogue about such issues as anti-sect institutions, problems faced by religious minorities, the challenge of upholding the principle of state neutrality, and the need for equality in the registration of religious communities. FOREF will convene a panel of experts including, inter alia, Professor David Baer, FoRB expert Willy Fautre, human rights lawyer Michael Langhans, and Austrian religious freedom advocate Peter Zoehrer to present information and recommendations.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: Limited Horizons: Media and Civil Society Independence in Hungary  
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE, Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Ókotárs and Transparency International Hungary  
Working languages: English

Summary: The Hungarian media environment is characterized by increasing concentration of media outlets, often controlled by partisan entities, and eroding journalistic independence. Are the people of Hungary adequately exposed to diverse points of view in order to be fully informed in their role as citizens? Can civil society respond effectively to social problems and crises under constrained independence? At this side event, representatives from four major Hungarian civil society organizations – the Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, the Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (Ókotárs) and Transparency International Hungary – will discuss restrictions on the functioning of independent institutions and their impact on Hungarian democracy and civil society.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: **Combating Hate Speech, Racism and Incitement against Roma and Sinti in Election Campaigns**  
Convenor: **OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V.**  
Working languages: **English, German**

Summary: Roma and Sinti in Europe are frequently key targets of racism, hate speech and incitement, in particular during election campaigns. Politicians and political parties, not just from the extreme right but also from mainstream political parties, often draw upon resentments and prejudices against Roma and Sinti in order to win votes through populist strategies and the scapegoating of minorities. The periodic repetition during election campaigns maintains a high level of stigmatization, anti-Gypsyism and hate speech within politics, media and society. For these reasons, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma have been advocating for politicians to strengthen the political commitments that they have made. This event aims to present examples of hate speech, racism and incitement against Roma and Sinti within election campaigns. The event aims to open up a debate about political commitments and the existing available tools, such as national and international agreements, in order to ban racism, hate speech and incitement within the OSCE region. The side event would feature speakers Mr. Michael Georg Link (Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) and Mr. Romani Rose (Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma), as well as Roma and Sinti activists.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: **Law, policy, and outreach efforts to counter discrimination on religious grounds**  
Convenor: **Turkish Mission to OSCE, United States Mission to the OSCE,**  
Working languages: **English, French**

Summary: Promoting tolerance towards Muslims and combating discrimination continues to be a challenge in the OSCE region. Representatives from academia and non-governmental organizations will address the legal, policy and outreach frameworks in place to support non-discrimination on the basis of religion.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: **History of Irena Sendler life - the Past and the Present**

Convenor: Council of Europe  
Working English  
languages:

Summary: The Council of Europe Office will present a film on Irena Sendler life (21 minutes) who saved hundreds of Jewish children during the second War. The side event will provide an opportunity to discuss the Council of Europe policy on combating anti-Semitism and will provide basic information on the report of Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the State of Democracy, Human Right and Rule of Law.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Religious dialog in multi-confessional country in order to insure peace stability and prosperity: Russian experience  
Convenor: Muslim Religious Board of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation  
Working Russian  
languages:

Summary: Transmission of the Russian experience. Discussion of multi-confessional people residing in the Russian Federation, identifying problems and solutions.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: Current Human Challenges in Policing Roma and Sinti Communities in the OSCE Area  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working English  
languages:

Summary: Challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in their relations with the police include ethnic profiling, disproportionate or excessive use of force by police against Roma, to failure by the police to respond effectively to Roma and Sinti victims of crime and racist violence. In addition, Roma and Sinti often face a lack of means and knowledge to challenge and obtain redress for police misconduct. Furthermore, Roma and Sinti women and children from poverty-driven communities are particularly vulnerable to fall prey to human trafficking or depend on informal street work, requiring adequate police intervention to protect them and prevent their further exploitation. The Chapter III of the 2003 Action Plan for Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area recognizes the need to improve relations between police and Roma and Sinti communities, to prevent police abuse and violence against Roma and Sinti people, and improve trust and confidence in the police among Roma and Sinti. This side event will address current human rights challenges monitored in the OSCE region with regard to policing in Roma communities, and address the implementation of the OSCE commitments related to improving the relations between the police and Roma and Sinti. The side event will feature presentations from representatives of national human rights institutions, Roma and Sinti civil society, and OSCE representatives.

*Refreshments will be provided*

## **Thursday, 1 October**

Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Implementation of religious freedom in ordinary life: ICR experience  
Convenor: Interreligious Council of Russia (ICR)  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The meeting will involve Christian, Muslim, Judaism and other religious leaders and representatives of non-religious communities in discussion and sharing with experience of making the usual life of ordinary people happier. What role in this process may play women and youth. What role in this process must be supported and what must be avoided. What is best practice in European countries and what in Asian. At the end all participants can accept a recommendation, as a mutual document, that states the unity and conciliation of all parties on the basis of dialogue, tolerance and respect.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Opera**  
Title: "Watchers of the Sky" a provocative journey from apathy to action.  
Convenor: Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, Hungary  
Working languages: English

Summary: The inclusion of a "human dimension" in security policies has become a reality only in recent history and thanks to the dedicated work of a great number of often forgotten individuals who devoted their lives to the cause of human rights. This session, organized by the Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities and the filmmakers, wishes to be a tribute to the remarkable contribution of Raphael Lemkin to the human rights architecture. The session will feature the screening of "Watchers of the Sky", a documentary movie by Edet Belzberg on the incredible life of the man who invented the word "Genocide". Traveling from Armenia to Bosnia, from New York to Darfur, from Nuremberg to Rwanda, the film unveils the hidden work of many tireless men and women that, following in Lemkin's footsteps, fight to make the world a better place in which mass violence is no longer a reality. The screening will be followed by a short discussion with experts as well as one of the producers of the movie.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Announcement of the Annual Report of ORIW - Islamophobia in French speaking countries in Europe  
Convenor: COJEP International

Working English, French  
languages:

Summary: ORIW, Organisation “Racism Islamophobia Watch” is an organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Representation in France was established in October 2013. We work with experts and lawyers in order to fight against Islamophobia and racism in Francophone countries. Our organization works independently without being affiliated to any political party or government structure. Racism is an ideology which, assuming the existence of human races, believes that some races are inherently superior to others. This ideology can lead to an attitude of hostility or systematic sympathy of a particular category of people. According to this ideology, citizens of Turkey, Arab or Asian countries living in Europe become victims of discrimination and are excluded from society. Islamophobia is religious discrimination, this concept is used to describe prejudices and repudiate Muslims. Islamophobia is officially denounced in 1997, when the British antiracist organization Runnymede Trust published a document entitled Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All. But it spread in the media language primarily from the attacks of September 11, 2001, in New York and the 11 March 2004 in Madrid and London bombings of July 2005, which provoked negative reactions towards Muslims in several countries, mainly Westerners. Today, as everyone knows the word Islamophobia, fear arises because of poor knowledge of Islam. The fear legalizes discrimination in everyday life in Europe. Despite the fact that Islamophobia is discriminatory behaviour of individuals or groups of people, nevertheless they get their support from political parties, governments and media what causes more violence. Islamophobia and racism provoke abuse and violence, psychological or physical injury and even death. In 2010 organization COJEP International in cooperation with other associations and representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) proposed a definition of Islamophobia: it is "a form of intolerance and discrimination motivated by fear, distrust and hatred of Islam and its adherents. It is often manifested along with racism, xenophobia, anti-immigrant sentiment, and religious intolerance".<sup>1</sup> Racism is fully recognized as a threat on the European and international levels. The main European Union instrument of fight against discrimination is Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Chapter 3 of the Charter deals with the "equality", Article 21 states the principle of the prohibition of discrimination. It lists some discriminatory grounds such as those based on ethnicity, race or religion. Taking in account all these ideas and actions, ORIW supports and assists to people whose moral and legal values of life are in danger because of racist or Islamophobic actions in Francophone countries (France, Belgium, Switzerland). ORIW also produces monthly and annual reports to draw attention on Islamophobia and racism in everyday life and to become free of prejudice. Warsaw meeting/side event, on October 1st, will be dedicated to the announcement of the annual report of ORIW.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**  
Title: The Role of Media in the Integration of Society  
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE  
Working English  
languages:

Summary: Organised by the Permanent Delegations of Latvia, Sweden and Norway to OSCE, Vienna OSCE HDIM 2015 Side-event: The Role of Media in the Integration of Society



Thursday, October 1 at 13:00-15:00, Meeting room 1 The integration of society, in its highest form, means fostering mutual understanding among individuals and groups, harmonising their interactions within a state, creating a common identity, where language and culture are its core values, while simultaneously preserving the nation's cultural diversity and the identity of ethnic minorities. To fulfil this goal, governments may employ a range of different policies and mechanisms. One of the strongest and most important resources is the media, both traditional and modern, which have an intermediary role to play, to ensure that public opinion be freely expressed, while fostering a media environment that is conducive to an open and diverse society. Divided societies pose a threat to national security, democracy, peace and stability. In divided societies, both left and right-wing extremists pose a threat to society as a whole. The aim of this discussion is to aid in the creation of a space for the exchange of best practices. Panelists will highlight the positive practices in Latvia, Sweden and Norway), with regard to the role of the media in the process of social integration. Experts will discuss the existing national framework, raise questions on the availability of media for ethnic minorities and if these rights are fully utilised by ethnic minority groups. Topics to focus on include: The impact of the media on society; the promotion of minority groups` participation and interaction; the extent to which the particular resource – broadcasting in minority languages- is used as an integration policy tool; the purpose of the mass media, including a bilingual media, in facilitating social integration, with the aim of ensuring equal access to quality information for minority groups, as well as to promote minority participation and awareness of their role as a stakeholder. Format: National related presentations on each country's media policies and practices followed by discussion with the audience).

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **13:30-14:30**  
Venue: **Plenary Hall**  
Title: Roma and Sinti Youth: Activism, Participation, Security  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: Active participation of Roma and Sinti youth remains a priority in OSCE's capacity building mandate under the 2003 Action Plan for Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, enhanced in 2013 with the focus on youth in the Ministerial Council Decision 4/13, particularly focusing on Roma and Sinti women, youth and children. At the same time, a focus on youth has featured prominently in the two consecutive Chairmanships-in-Office of Switzerland and Serbia. The OSCE/ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues continues its engagement on empowering young Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region, including the organization of the "Roma and Sinti Youth Conference: Activism, Participation, Security" in Belgrade, in December 2014, gathering over 40 young activists from 17 OSCE participating States. This side event aims to present the conference publication, including essays by young Roma and Sinti activists and scholars, and to continue with further discussion on the topics of activism and volunteerism, public and political participation, as well as security of Roma and Sinti communities, from the angle of Roma and Sinti youth, and with their active engagement. The event will feature as speakers young Roma and Sinti activists from the OSCE participating States.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 3**  
Title: Governance, tolerance, and protection of minorities: The human dimension of the Responsibility to Protect  
Convenor: Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, Hungary  
Working languages: English

Summary: The ODIHR defines human rights, rule of law, and democracy as the “human dimension” of the OSCE security strategy. Promotion of this human dimension is indeed a key element in the consolidation of international peace and security. In the context of the Responsibility to Protect, the human dimension can be considered an umbrella category encompassing all medium- to long-term strategies for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. Historical events and current crisis have proven that no country is immune from mass atrocity risk, and therefore long-term preventive strategies should be implemented in all contexts at all time. This is especially the case for those countries hosting large minority groups that to some extent face overt or cover forms of discrimination. Policies to build inter-group dialogue, foster tolerance, and ultimately protect the rights of minority members are central to the construction of resilient societies and to the dissipation of mass atrocity risk. In light of the above, and by marking the 10th anniversary of the creation of the normative principle, the Budapest Centre wishes to discuss the “human dimension” component of the Responsibility to Protect in the context of the ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. In particular, the Budapest Centre wishes to highlight the importance of applying a mass atrocity lens to policy actions taking place in situations where the risk is low, yet constantly present, such as most OSCE member states. A panel of three experts, respectively from civil society, academia, and diplomacy, will engage in a discussion on best practices, lessons learned, and future challenges in the implementation of the human dimension of RtoP. Discussion will be moderated by a Budapest Centre in-house expert.

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**  
Title: Xenophobia, Racism and anti-Semitism in Europe  
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development  
Working languages: English

Summary: European Center for Democracy has prepared a Report on the problems of Xenophobia, Racism and anti-Semitism in January-June 2015 in the next countries: UK, France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine and Greece. This Report prepared by the leading experts of the European Universities and research centers, will be presented on the Round table. After that we have to discuss this issue in an open debate. The experts, representatives of NGOs and international organizations, as well as other participants who are concerned about this problem are invited .

*Refreshments will not be provided*

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Time: **18:00-20:00**  
Venue: **Opera**

Title: Public and Political Participation of Roma and Sinti, with a Focus on Roma and Sinti Women

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Permanent Mission of Romania to the International Organizations in Vienna, Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE

Working languages: English

Summary: The 2003 OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area acknowledges the particular situation of Roma and Sinti women, and calls for women's participation in consultative policy-making processes, as well as systematic mainstreaming of Roma women's issues. Several decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council also reaffirm commitment to issues affecting the human rights situation of Roma and Sinti women – Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08, and especially the Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/13, with its focus on Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, recalling the commitments outlined in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which make direct relevance to the situation of Roma and Sinti women and girls. This side event is organized by the OSCE/ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, together with the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE and the Permanent Mission of Romania to the International Organizations in Vienna, with the objective to promote the public and political participation of Roma and Sinti, especially Roma and Sinti women, and raise awareness of their potential and the challenges involved. The discussion would also include the issues of rights awareness, activism and meaningful participation. The side event would feature as speakers Ms. Sarita Friman-Korpela (Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland), Mr. Daniel Vasile (President, National Agency for Roma, Romania), as well as Roma and Sinti women activists with experience in public and political participation on local, national or European level.

*Refreshments will be provided*