

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS
As submitted by the organisers
24 September – 05 October 2007
Warsaw, Poland
(As of 20.09)

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 Implementation Meeting on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The content for each meeting was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE, ODIHR.

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Tuesday, 25 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: **Equal Opportunities for Minorities: Economic & Social Inclusion**
Convenor: European Centre for Minority Issues
Working language: English

Summary: European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) founded in 1996 by the governments of Denmark, Germany and Schleswig-Holstein, as an independent, non-partisan foundation is mandated to advance majority-minority relations in the wider Europe. Located in Flensburg, at the Danish-German border in order to draw on the positive experience of peaceful co-existence and co-operation of different ethnic groups in this area, the Centre supports the stabilization of areas of ethno-political conflict and post-conflict transformation; contributes to the strengthening of relevant legislation and best practices in governance. ECMI combines a strong research base with an action-oriented approach. ECMI provides an extensive documentation and information on various aspects of majority-minority relations; offers public access to its specialized library (incl. On-line facility). Based on the strategic and programmatic assessments, ECMI addresses key elements of majority-minority relations in four interlinked areas:

1. Political Participation;
2. Social and Economic Inclusion;
3. Conflict Transformation;
4. Language and Culture Diversity.

In addition as cross-cutting issues, Programme for the Integration of Roma's and Institution Building combined with legal aspects are incorporated in all strategic programmes, aiming at ensuring Equal Opportunities for majorities and minorities alike.

Refreshments will be provided
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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: **A Discussion on the theme: Cultic tendencies: a challenge to democracy and human rights**
Convenor: **FECRIS (European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Sectarianism)**
Working languages: French, English

Summary: (European Federation of Centres FECRIS of Research and Information on Sectarianism) founded on 30 June 1994 in Paris. It is a charitable association based on the French law of 1901 and does not espouse any philosophical, religious, political or economic points of view.

It was conceived for Europe but is, nevertheless, an open window on the world and now consists of 22 members and 28 correspondents – 5 geographically outside Europe – and on the whole covers 51 associations in 30 countries.

Since July 2005 FECRIS has become one of 400 International Non Governmental Organisations (INGO) which have participative status with the Council of Europe

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Christianophobia as a concerning phenomenon in Europe – Case & Remedies
Convenor: European Observatory on Christianophobia and Intolerance
Working language: English

Summary: More than twenty recent UN-documents mention the term “**Christianophobia**”, i.e. fear and hatred of Christians. The OSCE has a Personal Representative of the Chair in Office focussing on also intolerance and discrimination against Christians. As an **ecumenical response** to a number of occurrences of Christianophobia and Intolerance, Europe for Christ was recently established on a non-governmental basis in Vienna.

Dr. Martin Kugler, historian and board member of Europe for Christ, will present exemplary cases and discuss possible remedies with those interested. The meeting will be held in English. For further information, please visit www.christianophobia.eu or contact Dr. Kugler at martin.kugler@kairos-pr.com

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims – Youth and Education
Convenor: COJEP International
Working languages: French, English

Summary: "Cojep International is an international NGO which operates in 14 countries. The main activity areas of Cojep International are; human rights, democracy, youth, fight against racism and discrimination and xenophobia. Cojep International has started a project in 2006 which aims to raise awareness at the political level regarding intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. The initial phase of the project consists of a series of conferences organized in the premises of various international organizations. The first conference introducing the general theme of Islamophobia as a form of intolerance and discrimination was held in UNESCO (Paris) and followed by more focused ones in the United Nations (Geneva) on the media and in the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) on politics.

Cojep International continues the project with a side event during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE in Warsaw. The side event will have the title of “**Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims – Youth and Education**”. Youth is one of the priorities of the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship in 2007. A Youth Forum is expected to take place in Madrid early November. The Chairmanship will also organize a Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims between 9 and 10 October 2007 in Cordoba.

Therefore, the side event will constitute an opportunity to discuss how the OSCE can further contribute to the efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims in particular through mobilizing the youth as the engines for positive change as well as through public and private educational strategies in order to promote mutual respect and understanding while raising awareness of the positive contributions of Muslims to society. Participants will be encouraged to present good practices related to youth and education in fighting intolerance against Muslims. Members of other religious communities are also welcome to share their experiences and make proposals on how to work together in solidarity against all forms of intolerance and discrimination.”

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: EU Presidency Room
Title: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Convenor: European Union Portuguese Presidency
Working language: English

Summary: Since 1 March 2007, the European Union has a new Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). FRA is an independent body of the European Union. It was established to provide assistance and expertise to the EU and its Member States on fundamental rights matters. The Aim is to support them to respect fundamental rights when they implement European Community law.

What is the role of this new body within the wider European human rights architecture? How can it cooperate with other international organizations? How can civil society contribute to, and benefit from its work? To discuss some of these questions, the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union has invited representatives of the Fundamental Rights Agency, the ODIHR, the Council of Europe, and the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights to this side-event.

Publications of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights will also be made available to the participants of the HDIM

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The integration of LGBT – emancipation in education
Convenor: COC Netherlands
Working language: English

Summary: Through research examples and based on real life cases participants of the side event will be given a view on the position of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in Dutch schools. Furthermore the side event will focus on how COC Netherlands – the oldest still existing LGBT organisation in the world – integrates LGBT-emancipation in the Dutch educational system.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: General notions about human rights and fundamental freedoms: how cults inverse these values in their own favour
Convenor: FECRIS (European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Sectarianism)
Working languages: French, English

Summary: (European Federation of Centres FECRIS of Research and Information on Sectarianism) founded on 30 June 1994 in Paris. It is a charitable association based on the French law of 1901 and does not espouse any philosophical, religious, political or economic points of view.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Separation of Church and State, of Religion and Governance, of Dogma and law
Convenor: European Humanist Federation
Working languages: English, French, Italian

Summary: Humanists and secularists who support separation of church and state and, more generally, people who cherish democracy are concerned by the role churches are re-asserting for themselves in public life. Confirmation of this is to be found in the new European Reform Treaty as well as in most states that have a concordat with the Catholic church. With few exceptions, politicians and the media support the churches' moves, which means, that the public at large is barely

conscious that our democracies are being reshaped by non-elected bodies - whose principal loyalty is to their religion - becoming involved in the democratic process and in the delivery of public services hitherto provided by secular public bodies. This starts by giving undue influence to unrepresentative bodies and ends by changing the very nature of democratic legitimacy. Moreover, conceding such power to the major churches, which are usually unrepresentative even of their claimed members, disturbs the scales of democracy and discriminates not only against followers of other religions but also against what is often the majority group in society, namely atheists, agnostics, freethinkers, and citizens who simply do not care about religion. The EHF wishes to discuss with ODIHR, government, and NGO representatives the distinction between the private and the public domain and the principle that public governance pertains exclusively to individuals and bodies elected according to the standards of democratic representation. Like all other civil society associations, churches are private bodies entitled to express themselves freely in public and be consulted by government but not to have any formal involvement in public decision-making.

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Wednesday, 26 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Implementation of policies on Roma, Sinti and Travellers
Convenor: Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), ODIHR/CPRSI, CoE Roma and Travellers Division
Working languages: English, Romani, Hungarian

Summary: The main aim of this side event is to address the issue of policy implementation on Roma, Sinti and Travellers in order to call attention to the need for increased efforts on the part of States across Europe to step up implementation of Roma-related policies. This event is a continuation of the dialogue that began at the two international conferences and as a forum to discuss the recent status report drafted by the OSCE ODIHR on implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. The panellist will highlight and briefly discuss practical implementation of policy, the joint OSCE ODIHR, CoE and the FRA initiative to develop questionnaire on Roma policy implementation and the upcoming CoE Recommendation on governmental policies on Roma and/ or Travellers in Europe. Country examples of policy implementation will be used throughout the discussion

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Conscientious Objection to military Service in OSCE Countries
Convenor: European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witness
Working language: English

Summary: In the OSCE sphere of influence, most countries have introduced an alternative civilian service option where applicable. However there remain some dark spots, including Armenia and Turkmenistan. This side event will draw attention to the current situation in those countries.

Armenia continues to arrest and imprison male Jehovah's Witnesses of military age for their conscientious objection to military service on religious grounds. During the past 12 years, 288 young men who are Jehovah's Witnesses have been imprisoned as conscientious objectors to military service. Although the government of Armenia has organized non-military work assignments, alternative service is under military control and supervision. Currently, there are 82 Jehovah's Witnesses who are in prison for their conscientious refusal of military service on religious grounds.

Since June 2007 Turkmenistan has resumed prosecution of conscientious objectors. A number of young Christian men have been given up to two years suspended sentences. However, on August 7, Suleyman Adayev was sentenced to 18 months in prison for his conscientious objection and he was taken into custody immediately from the courtroom.

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Turkmenistan: Steps forward, reform?
Convenor: IHF
Working languages: English/Russian

Summary: Independent human rights activists and researchers will analyze and evaluate changes in the human rights situation in Turkmenistan since the death of President Niyazov.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools
Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The *Toledo Guiding Principles* were developed by the ODIHR Advisory Council of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, together with leading experts and scholars.

The *Toledo Guiding Principles* have been prepared in order to contribute to an improved understanding of the world's increasing religious diversity and the growing presence of religion in the public sphere. Their rationale is based on two core principles: first, that there is positive value in teaching that emphasizes respect for *everyone's* right to freedom of religion and belief, and second, that teaching *about* religions and beliefs can reduce harmful misunderstandings and stereotypes.

The primary purpose of the *Toledo Guiding Principles* is to assist OSCE participating States whenever they choose to promote the study and knowledge about religions and beliefs in schools, particularly as a tool to enhance religious freedom. The *Principles* focus solely on the educational approach that seeks to provide teaching *about* different religions and beliefs as distinguished from instruction in a specific religion or belief. They also aim to offer criteria that should be considered when and wherever teaching about religions and beliefs takes place.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Protection of the Rights of Migrants and Their Families
Convenor: Turkish Mission to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: The OSCE has recognized the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers and their families as "common concern to all participating States" (Copenhagen 1990, Paris 1990). In recent years, with a steady increase in migration flows and the governments' renewed efforts to tackle with complex challenges accompanying immigration, protection of the migrants' rights and their integration in host societies have gained new dimensions and significance at the national and global levels. However, the current trends in the migration debate often result in policy formulation where the rights, the needs and the vulnerabilities of migrants are increasingly being obscured. The Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in July in Brussels, despite the announcement of new initiatives and partnerships, was much criticized by civil society for putting "so little attention to international human rights principles and standards." As a matter of fact, lack of interest in a rights based approach towards migration constitutes one of the reasons why none of the destination countries signed and ratified the UN Migrant Workers' Convention. With a renewed focus on "temporary" or "circular" labour migration and on "economic" rather than "human" development, there is a growing risk that migrants will continue to be regarded as "agents of development" by both sending and receiving States with disregard for their human rights, including the right to participation, information, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment. On the other hand, increasingly hard immigration laws as well as rigid and inflexible entry regimes further impede freedom of movement and the right to family unity, thereby increasing the vulnerability of these migrants to trafficking.

Against this background and with the participation of the representatives of migrant communities, the side event will aim to contribute to the debate on the situation of migrants in the OSCE region and will draw the attention of participating States to the urgent need to protect and promote their rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Presentation of a Study on Access to Pertaining Rights and (Re)integration of Displaced Population in Croatia , Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in 2006

Convenor: NGO Group 484 Serbia; Centre for Peace Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance
Vukovar, Croatia; Regional Project MPDL on behalf of the informal Regional Legal
Assistance Programme NGO network, under the auspices of the OSCE Mission to Serbia

Working language: English

Summary: This Study was elaborated by the regional network of twelve NGOs of the three states: BiH, Croatia and Serbia. The report covers the period from 5 October 2005 until 5 October 2006. The project was implemented under the auspices of the OSCE Mission to Serbia with financial support of the Government of the United States of America. The basic objective of the project was to facilitate access to rights by and local (re)integration of displaced population through provision of legal aid and permanent monitoring of the selected group of rights and specific legal areas pertaining to refugees/IDPs at the regional level.

The Study provides analysis of the existing legal frameworks and practices in relation to access to rights by refugees/IDPs in the region and in that connection the existence of the political will to establish redress mechanisms which would provide for resolution of the outstanding issues, make the existing legal frameworks effective and enable final closure of the refugee file in the region.

The main aim of this side event is to present findings of the report and underline the problems still faced by the displaced population in the region. This presentation is a follow-up of the similar events which have been organised by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively, where the Study was presented to international community, representatives of the respective governments and civil society.

This side event is a continuation of this dialogue with all stakeholders in order to assist in finding adequate mechanisms to accelerate resolution of the refugee crises in the region. The panellist will highlight findings of the Study which are of the outmost importance for final closure of the refugee chapter and which require further engagement of the respective governments in providing an adequate redress mechanism or the efficient implementation.

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Thursday, 27 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Roma Politicians Influence on Political Processes
Convenor: ODIHR/CPRSI, PER, NDI
Working languages: English, Romani, Hungarian

Summary: As a fundamental human right and essential for sustainable integration, political participation is both a civic right and obligation for governments and Roma citizens. For many of the countries with large Roma populations and particularly those who have recently acceded to the European Union, stable political institutions and the guarantee of political rights have been at the forefront of respecting minority rights. However, the last years has seen a disturbing trend of hate speech political discourse and political campaigns of extremist /nationalist parties mounted on anti-Roma feelings pointing to alleged threats that Roma are posing to the society. Yet voter turnout among Roma communities has tended to be below average. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of Roma individuals elected in national parliaments, including the two Romani women elected as members of the European Parliament. Given the importance and the positive impact that political participation can provide for a minority in representing its interests and fight exclusion and discrimination, it is crucial that Roma become active political stakeholders in the democratic process of their countries. The objectives of this side-event are to discuss the existing barriers for Roma to participate in their countries political process; as well as explore the current challenges and trends regarding participation of Roma in public and political life from the perspective of politically elected officials, Roma and non-Roma, as well as Roma representatives. In addition, the side-event will serve to identify the best ways for Roma and Sinti communities to mobilize for political participation and increase their participation in public life.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: European Roma Rights Charter – A guide for ERTF Roma related policies
Convenor: European Roma and travellers Forum ERTF
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: During the past few years there have been a number of new initiatives, which have changed the Roma and Sinti related frontier of actors. “Nothing for Roma without Roma” - is the CoE-ERTF message, which was launched during the establishment process of the European Roma and Travellers Forum and aiming to increase the participation of Roma, Sinti, Travellers and other related groups. ERTF, is the first democratically elected pan-European body- 'the voice'- representing Roma in 46 countries, many of which are OSCE participating States. The Roma Rights Charter is a guideline drawn up by reports of the ERTF Roma delegates in the Second Plenary Assembly of the Forum, in 2006, and addressed primarily to ERTF itself. However, it should also be used in the larger European context to mobilize Roma participation in public and political life. Mutual integration is a two-way process aiming towards intercultural dialogue in a society where all should be equally respected and accepted. The ERTF Executive Committee has prepared the European Roma Rights Charter for the review of the CoE Committee of Ministers as a kind of road-map to Roma Policy makers.

The purpose of holding this HDIM side-event is to increase the awareness of participating States of their commitments with regard to the human rights situation of Roma, particularly with regard to the level of implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. In addition, the aim is to evaluate the extent of **equal participation** of Roma in issues related to them and the need for protection of Roma and Sinti in civil crises situations throughout Europe- which they have experienced during the last decade, particularly in the Balkans. This event also provides an opportunity to elaborate on the OSCE Code of Conduct, especially the human rights-related provisions, and for participating States to share views and best practices regarding their implementation. The event also aims to strengthen the linkages between the different political agendas of various international institutions such as CoE-ERTF, OSCE-ODIHR, and EU-FRA by exploring the possibilities of a comprehensive and more Roma inclusive concept and closer cooperation between all these actors.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Death Penalty: United Nations Resolution for a Moratorium on Executions
Convenor: Penal Reform International/Amnesty International/World coalition against the Death Penalty
Working languages: English, Russian, French

Summary: This event will bring together government representatives, members of international and national organisations to discuss the death penalty in the context of the forthcoming resolution to the UN General Assembly calling for a worldwide moratorium on executions. The aim is to build support for the resolution and facilitate an exchange of views between governments and civil society on abolition. There will be testimony from a person who has been directly affected by the issue as well as speakers from Amnesty International and Penal Reform International.

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Friday, 28 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Prospects for Human Rights Progress including Abolishing the Death Penalty in Central Asia
Convenor: IHF
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The so-called Tulip revolution in Kyrgyzstan, the Kazakh bid for OSCE Chairmanship and the death of President-for-Life Saparmurat Niyazov in Turkmenistan have all given rise to expectations for democratic reforms and human rights progress in Central Asia, a region plagued by persistent human rights problems in the years since the fall of the Soviet Union.

This side event will take a closer look at such expectations, assessing opportunities for as well as obstacles to positive change in the Central Asian countries. Particular emphasis will be placed on international strategies for abolishing the death penalty. The IHF intends to invite officials from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to discuss their efforts in regard this question, which is also a tactic to help establish dialogue on other human rights issues.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: The Rights of Romani Children in the Child Protection System
Convenor: ERRC
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will focus on the vulnerable situation of Roma vis-à-vis child protection systems in several countries in Europe. In particular, the speakers explore the role and impact of social workers from the basic care level on the institutionalization of Romani children and will address issues of over-representation of Romani children in state child care facilities. The speakers will present the results of projects in Hungary and Czech Republic, and will present recommendations to begin reducing the number of Romani children forcibly removed from their families and raised in an institutional setting.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Effects of the ICC in the OSCE area: development of new legal tools
Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee & Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will focus on some of the positive effects of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the OSCE area in terms of strengthening national capacity to investigate and prosecute core international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes). According to the complementarity principle of the Rome Statute of the ICC, states have the primary responsibility to prosecute such crimes; the ICC only being able to exert jurisdiction over a case when a state is unwilling or unable to prosecute genuinely. This principle has created a dynamic of legal reform and capacity building in some of the OSCE participating states which have ratified the Rome Statute.

The side event will give examples of some of these effects. A major part of the event will be devoted to a presentation of the Legal Tools Project, a unique legal services in international criminal law developed by the ICC. The presentation will be on the Legal Tools Project in a broader perspective as well as the actual work of the outsourcing partners of the ICC. In addition, a presentation of the Case Matrix application will be given. The Case Matrix is powerful software, which helps organising information and legal arguments to build cases of international criminal law. It may be used as a monitoring tool as well as a case-management tool. There will also be a presentation of how the Case Matrix can be customized to suit the needs of the users, for example as a tool for safeguarding common legal standards in the legal process

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Practices and Prevention of Torture in Central Asia
Convenor: Freedom House,
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side-event titled *Practices and Prevention of Torture in Central Asia* is planned to cover several aspects of this issue. First, it will look into the details of each country's implementation actions of the Convention Against Torture and the ratification of the Optional Protocol for the Convention Against Torture in the present and in the future. Second, it will cover the practice of torture in Central Asian countries generally and the problems of reporting and investigation. This will be demonstrated by results from recent Freedom House projects in the region. Third, it will cover some of the issues mentioned at Session 9 of the Conference regarding torture in the legal framework of the countries and their conformity with the relevant international instruments.

Refreshments will be provided

Monday, 01 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security – Implementation in Practice
Convenor: OSCE Chairmanship
Working language: English

Summary: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), UNSCR 1325, recognizes the importance of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women for the promotion and the achieving of peace and security. States are faced with the challenge of translating the provisions of UNSCR 1325 into practice at national level. In an effort to materialize the UNSCR 1325 a number of OSCE participating States have developed specific National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325 implementation. However, it is important that more States take responsibility for the systematic and successful implementation of UNSCR 1325, and ensure its provisions are integrated into their respective national policy framework.

The development of an action plan provides an opportunity to define and initiate strategic actions, identify priorities and resources, and determine responsibilities and timeframes. The process of developing an action plan is also in itself a process of awareness-raising and capacity-building for addressing challenges to the full implementation of UNSCR 1325. This side event aims to bring forward concrete and practical examples of *how* UNSCR 1325 implementation can be enhanced by States in practice. More specifically, presentations will be made of the challenges, successes and benefits of the development of National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325 implementation in various participating States and how these are further realized.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Together in the combat against trafficking in human beings – co-operation at all levels
Convenor: KOKe.V.
Working languages: English/Russian

Summary: KOK is a nation wide NGO association made of 37 member organizations, which have committed themselves to combat trafficking in women and violence against female migrants.

As NGO network, KOK co-ordinates between NGOs at national and international level, networks between the partners involved, such as governmental institutions and the police, and the lobbies at regional, federal and international level.

KOK is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Woman & youth.

KOK would like to present its structure, its work, its achievements and its future aspirations to representatives of NGOs and governments. It had been proved in Germany that the combat against trafficking in human beings can only be effective and sustainable if all partners co-operate. This best practice example should serve as a role model throughout Europe

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Security Sector Reform and Gender – How to integrate Gender into National Security Policy
Convenor: The Centre for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces & International Alert
Working language: English

Summary: Ensuring that gender issues are integrated into security policies will increase their inclusiveness, effectiveness and sustainability. In principle and in practice, a gender sensitive national security policy ensures that men and women are equal beneficiaries from its implementation. A national security policy sets out the overarching policy for providing security for a state and its population, and is critical for framing security sector reform (SSR). It is therefore similarly important that the entry-points for integration of a gender perspective are employed systematically throughout the policy-making process, to ensure that the national security policy addresses the security needs of both men and women.

ODIHR is, in cooperation with DCAF and UN-INSTRAW, developing a *Gender and SSR Toolkit*, which aims to generate new, practical research on gender and SSR, build the capacity of SSR practitioners, security policy-makers and parliamentarians to mainstream gender into SSR initiatives, as well as to strengthen understanding of linkages between the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and SSR. One of the Tools in the Toolkit addresses ‘National

Security Policy Development and Gender'. As an example of integration of gender perspectives into SSR, this side event will highlight the relevance of, and system for, integrating a gender perspective into development of national security policies

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 02 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Irregular Migrants are also people and all people are covered by human rights
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee & National Foundation for the Support of Undocumented People
Working language: English

Summary: Irregular migrants are people that are not officially registered, their existence is often ignored and, worst of all, they are completely deprived of human rights. A lot of states in the OSCE region violate and ignore the fundamental rights which also apply to these persons. Rights to which these states have committed themselves by ratifying several international treaties. It is because of this, that these persons become extremely vulnerable and are increasingly the target of exploitation and organised crime.

A large number of irregular migrants are living in the OSCE region and will definitely be one of the most serious human and social tragedies in the years to come. Drs. **Ed van Thijn** will speak about his report '**Human rights of irregular migrants**' and about the importance of this issue for all those partner States that are confronted with irregular migrants.

Afterwards Mrs. Rian Ederveen will share her practical experiences from her work for the National Foundation for the Support of Undocumented People. This non-governmental organisation is concerned with the living conditions of undocumented people in the Netherlands, shares information about their living conditions and tries to be of support to those (varying from social workers till housing corporations and local authorities) that are concerned with undocumented people. Other topics that will be discussed are labour rights and the work of the European umbrella Organization: The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants.

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Equality and tolerance: the work of NGOs, the duty of Governments
Convenor: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This event will explore the challenges faced by NGOs when working with Governments. It will focus particularly on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organisations in the OSCE region. Chaired by Susan Hyland, Head of the Human Rights, Democracy & Governance Group at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Panellists from Government, NGO and Trade Union backgrounds will lead the debate by sharing personal experiences and highlight what they see as good practice.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 03 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Elections, fair trial, and people with disabilities
Convenor: Mental Disability Advocacy Centre
Working language: English

Summary: Through the 1990 Copenhagen Declaration OSCE participating States agreed to guarantee the fundamental right to suffrage without discrimination of any kind. For many people with disabilities this guarantee remains ineffective rhetoric. MDAC's side event will draw to the attention of OSCE community, possibly the least understood threat to human rights, namely guardianship. MDAC will also highlight two other OSCE areas implicated by guardianship, namely: detention; and the right to fair trial.

A proportion of those attending the 2007 Human Dimension Meeting will at some time in their lives need support in making particular and personal decisions. This will be the result of, for example, degenerative diseases such as dementia or Alzheimer's, intellectual disabilities, brain damage and/or forms of 'mental illness.' They may well find themselves under 'guardianship', the imposition of which usually follows a court hearing or administrative process. Once guardianship is imposed an adult's ability to exercise legal capacity is withdrawn or restricted. As a consequence they invariably lose the right, for example, to manage their finances, to choose where to live, to work, to marry, and to access courts. The hearings or administrative processes themselves are often unfair with adults unable to challenge evidence, and are often not even present and/or represented by legal counsel.

Adults under guardianship also are denied the right to vote. The side event will demonstrate how not only physical, but also legal (to date ignored by the OSCE) barriers to suffrage exist and how these barriers serve to perpetuate the inability of people with disabilities to fully participate in society.

Experts on disabilities will give presentations detailing how guardianship should be addressed by the OSCE and its participating States. Media packs and fact sheets will be available and the experts will be available to answer specific questions.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: **Book Presentation: Reclaiming Democracy. Civil Society and Electoral Change in Central and Eastern Europe**
Convenor: **The German Marshall Fund of the United States**
Working language: **English**

Summary: A remarkable sequence of democratic changes has swept through Central and Eastern Europe in recent years. In Slovakia and Croatia, Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine, post-communist politics had increasingly departed from the democratic reforms initiated after 1989. Instead, semi-authoritarian regimes had emerged that openly manipulated democratic processes and abused the human, civic and political rights of their citizens. Yet on the occasion of national elections, neo-autocrats in the five countries found themselves challenged by democratic alliances of opposition parties, civil society groups and citizens at large. These asserted a democratic choice over the future of their countries and, by way of peaceful mobilization, returned democratically elected governments to office.

Variouly labelled "colour revolutions", "transitions from post-communism" or "electoral breakthroughs", and for some representing even a new "wave of democracy", the recent changes in the five countries have fascinated scholarly observers and democratic activists alike. For this reason, this book provides a cross-section of perspectives on recent democratic breakthroughs in Central and Eastern Europe. Case studies drafted by civic leaders present inside accounts of how civil society helped to assert democracy, while comparative analyses by academic experts shed light on a range of further factors that facilitated these changes, including the semi-authoritarian nature of post-communism, economic aspects, civil society strategies and resources, and youth participation.

Free copies of the book will be available at the presentation. The book is also available online at www.gmfus.org.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: **Elections – 2007 in Kazakhstan: Violations and Falsification**
Convenor: **People's Party "Alga"**
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: On August 18, 2007, Kazakhstan held elections to the Parliament and Maslikhats (local representative bodies) that some officials in Astana claim helped their bid to chair the OSCE, but critics say the poll simply demonstrated that Kazakhstan is not ready. The independent candidates were subjected to various violations by the authorities, including multiple voting and ballots falsification to steal their victory. As a result, the new Parliament is now represented by a single pro-government party, Nur Otan.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Protecting human rights defenders fundamental freedoms in OSCE member States
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights and World Organisation Against Torture
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In a context of strong tendencies of repression designed to hamper or even strike down independent civil society's capacity for action in many OSCE countries, the side-event will be the occasion:

- to provide an update on the situation of human rights defenders in OSCE countries, with a particular focus on Belarus, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan;
- to discuss ways in which the OSCE could enhance its action in order to protect human rights defenders' freedoms of expression, assembly and association, in particular through the newly created Focal Point.

Drinks will be provided

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Thursday, 04 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Human Rights Defenders at Risk
Convenor: IHF
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Manifestations of intolerance and discrimination based on race, sex, language, religious or belief, national or social origin, sexual orientation, disability or other similar grounds may take the form of acts of violence. Hate-motivated crimes represent the severest expression of intolerance. It may also take the form of speech only. The RFOM and ODIHR agree that hate-motivated speech sometimes precedes hate motivated crimes. However, speech must be treated as distinct from crime, even if certain forms of speech are crimes in certain states. It is important that the two concepts remain distinct. Universally applicable measurements for legitimate speech limitation do not exist. The Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme (TnD) promotes activities to combat intolerant and hate-motivated speech, but the extent to which speech should be subject to government regulation remains controversial. Ultimately the possibility of developing a common approach to hate-motivated speech regulations depends on an increased understanding of the different views that currently exist.

This event focuses on, and invites discussion of, a joint paper produced by the office of the Representative of the Media and the TnD programme which sets out a common approach to hate motivated speech.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Fundamental Freedoms of assembly and Association in Russia
Convenor: International Youth Human Rights Movement, Green Alternative (GROZA), Interregional Human Rights group – Voronezh/Chernozemye
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will present the situation with freedoms of assembly and association in Russia, where the situation is typical for all of NIS. The part dealing with freedom of assembly will particularly focus on illegal bans and forced dispersals of peaceful assemblies and persecution of its participants. The part dealing with freedom of association will describe the influence of the new legislation on NGOs and discuss its impact on the civil society. Attention will be given to particular cases of NGOs being closed under the new law. The side event will also include presentation and discussion on recommendations for improving the situation with these two basic freedoms in the NIS using Russian situation as an example. During the side event detailed written reports on the observation of freedoms of assembly and association would be distributed among participants both in English and Russian.

Side event will be held by the International Human Rights Movement, recently closed by Russian authorities, Green Alternative Movement (GROZA) and Interregional Human Rights group- Voronezh/Chernozemye.

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Muzzling the Media: Press Freedom in the CIS
Convenor: Freedom House
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Only a decade and a half since the end of the Cold War, freedom of the press for millions of people across the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has come nearly full circle. The repressive media landscape in the former Soviet Union is illuminated by the fact that 10 of the 12 non-Baltic post-Soviet states are ranked as Not Free in *Freedom of the Press 2007: A Global Survey of Media Independence*, an annual index published by Freedom House since 1980. Of the 195 countries and territories examined in the global survey, three of the 10 worst press freedom abusers Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are found in the former Soviet Union.

The media landscape across most of today's CIS in some aspects differs from that of the Soviet era, but in important ways is imposing a no less repressive news media environment. This side event will shed light on contemporary forms of censorship, achieved through a mix of subtle and overt forms of intimidation.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Freedom of Expression and hate speech; combating intolerant discourse within a human rights framework
Convenor: Representative of Freedom of the Media, ODIHR/TND
Working language: English

Summary: Manifestations of intolerance and discrimination based on race, sex, language, religious or belief, national or social origin, sexual orientation, disability or other similar grounds may take the form of acts of violence. Hate-motivated crimes represent the severest expression of intolerance. It may also take the form of speech only, sometimes such speech is criminalized in the legislation of some OSCE states.

Universally applicable measurements for legitimate speech limitation do not exist. The Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme (TnD) promotes activities to combat intolerant and hate-motivated speech, but the extent to which speech should be subject to government regulation remains controversial. Ultimately the possibility of developing a common approach to hate-motivated speech regulations depends on an increased understanding of the different views that currently exist.

This event focuses on, and invites discussion of, a joint paper produced by the office of the Representative of the Media and the TnD programme which sets out a common approach to hate motivated speech.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: EU Presidency Room
Title: EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders
Convenor: European Union Portuguese Presidency
Working language: English

Summary: Support for human rights defenders is a long established element of the European Union's human rights external relations. The objective of this side event is to present and discuss the European Union guidelines on human rights defenders and reiterate the EU's strong Commitment and support to the work carried out by those under threat or prosecution to guarantee the respect for human rights.

The EU personal Representative of the EU HR Javier Solana for Human rights, Ms. Riina Kionka, will present the EU Guidelines. Ms. Mary Lawlor of the NGO Front Line will then comment on the guidelines from NGO perspective.

A brochure of the EU human rights guidelines will also be distributed to the participants of the HDIM

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Human Rights in Kazakhstan in the context of the OSCE Chairmanship Bid
Convenor: IHF
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: During this side event, the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF), together with Kazakh civil society representatives, seek to assess the state of human rights in Kazakhstan in light of their international commitments and their bid to chair the OSCE. Special emphasis will be placed on the right to housing, freedom of the media and freedom of religion

Refreshments will be provided

