



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

online, 12 - 13 July 2021

### **SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW**

#### **OF SIDE EVENTS**

*as submitted by the organizers*

*The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.*

*The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.*

#### **Monday, 12 July**

**Time:** 18:15-19:15  
**Venue:** online (Access info and link to the film will be shared with registered SHDM participants at <https://meetings.odihr.pl/resources>. Please log-in to access the links)  
**Title:** Joint ODIHR-RFoM Side Event: “Coded Bias” Discussion  
**Convenors:** OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media

Working language: English

**Summary:** The event will feature a discussion of the documentary “Coded Bias” which investigates bias in new technologies such as artificial intelligence. Illustrated by the example of facial-recognition software, the film highlights the unjust consequences for people less represented in datasets, or considered in algorithmic design, such as darker-skinned individuals or women. The film explores MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini’s discovery that facial recognition does not recognize dark-skinned faces accurately, and her journey to push for the first-ever legislation in the U.S. to govern against widespread bias in algorithms that impact our daily lives. Directed by Shalini Kantayya, the

film raises two essential questions: What does it mean when artificial intelligence increasingly governs our human rights, including freedom of expression and non-discrimination? And what are the consequences for the people AI is biased against? The event will consist of a moderated panel discussion with Q&A featuring high-level experts in the field of artificial intelligence and racial discrimination. A link will be provided to registered participants to watch the documentary online in advance or following the discussion.

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Nani Jansen Reventlow, Director Digital Freedom Fund
- Ms. Asha Allen, Policy & Campaigns Officer, European Women's Lobby
- Ms. Deniz Wagner, Adviser, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**Moderator:** Ms. Andrea Huber, Head of the Human Rights Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

## **Tuesday, 13 July**

**Time:** 09:00-10:00  
**Venue:** Zoom (Access info will be shared with registered SHDM participants at <https://meetings.odihhr.pl/resources>. Please log-in to access the link)  
**Title:** Shrinking digital space in the OSCE region – ways forward?  
**Convenors:** SOVA Center for Information and Analysis; ARTICLE 19

Working languages: English, Russian

**Summary:** While tech companies offer valuable spaces to connect, they also hold immense power over the information we see online. For years, civil society has been calling tech companies to operate in line with international human rights standards in their decision-making regarding content removal, without much success. At the same time, there have been growing risks to online speech due to repressive national laws that the companies increasingly comply with, without being transparent. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation, with some governments introducing restrictive measures that affect the right to freedom of expression online including overly broad definitions of ‘fake news’ on health-related issues. Every day we see more and more challenges emerging for digital rights and the worrying trend set by some countries in state regulation of online content risks contagion across the OSCE region. Our session will focus on the following questions: 1. How can we challenge overly broad national laws aimed at silencing dissent? 2. How can we ensure that companies' removal of content is legitimate under international human rights law? 3. How has the COVID-19 pandemic influenced these issues and what will be the challenges to freedom of expression online in post-pandemic world?

### **Speakers:**

#### **Dr. Yaman Akdeniz (speaker)**

Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University and one of the founders of the Freedom of Expression Association ([ifade.org.tr/en](http://ifade.org.tr/en)).

#### **Maria Kravchenko (speaker)**

Expert, SOVA Center for Information and Analysis ([sova-center.ru/en](http://sova-center.ru/en))

#### **Sarkis Darbinyan (speaker)**

Lawyer, Head of the Legal Department, Roskomsvoboda ([roskomsvoboda.org](http://roskomsvoboda.org))

#### **Artur Papyan (speaker)**

Director, Media Diversity Institute – Armenia ([mdi.am/en/home](http://mdi.am/en/home))

#### **Joanna Szymańska (moderator)**

Senior Programme Officer, Europe and Central Asia, ARTICLE 19 ([article19.org](http://article19.org))

**Time: 13:00-14:00**  
**Venue:** Zoom (Access info will be shared with registered SHDM participants at <https://meetings.odihr.pl/resources>. Please log-in to access the link)  
**Title:** How Remote Justice Violates Human Rights  
**Convenors:** Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Citizens' Watch; Moscow Helsinki Group ; Public Association "Dignity"; Interregional non-governmental organization "Man and Law"

Working languages: English, Russian

**Summary:** The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the introduction of information technology into legal proceedings. Remote justice has allowed courts to continue to hear cases and adjudicate despite travel restrictions, including visiting courts, and to reduce costs. There is another side to remote justice: the remote format does not always allow the implementation of the guarantees of the right to a fair trial provided for by international treaties. During the side event we will discuss: observance of the rights of vulnerable groups, including people held in places of detention, during remote hearings; compliance with the principle of publicity of court proceedings, grave for professional legal assistance, as well as civil control over the courts. NGOs from Russia and Kazakhstan will discuss these issues and present findings of monitoring: St. Petersburg NGO "Citizens' Watch", Moscow Helsinki Group, Human Rights Organization "Man and Law" (Russia), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland), Solidarity Group of the EU -Russia Civil Society Forum, Public Association "Kadir-Kasiet" ("Dignity").

**Speakers:**

Olga Borisova, HR NGO Citizens Watch (Russia)  
Anara Ibrayeva, Public Association "Dignity" (Kadir-Kasiet) (Kazakhstan)  
Dmitri Makarov, Moscow Helsinki group (Russia)  
Olga Salomatova, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
Elena Shakhova, HR NGO Citizens Watch (Russia)  
Olga Startseva, HR NGO Citizens Watch (Russia)  
Aida Zhusipaliyeva, Public Association "Dignity" (Kadir-Kasiet) (Kazakhstan)