



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

Vienna Austria, 16 - 17 May 2022

### **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, 16 May**

Time: **16:30-17:30**

Venue: **Meeting Room 533**

Title: **Covering war under threat: perspectives on reporting about Ukraine**

Convenor: Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna, Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE

Working language: English, Russian

*Summary:* During the time of armed conflict, the work of free and independent journalists and media actors is of critical importance. Accurate and timely news from the frontline allow for better understanding of the conflict, draw attention to the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and subsequently can significantly contribute to the achievement of justice and accountability. Safety of journalists in conflict areas is indispensable to that end, as highlighted in the Ministerial Decision adopted in Milan in 2018 on Safety of Journalists.

Unfortunately, since the start of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine, journalists and media actors are reportedly being directly targeted by the invading army. Numerous have been killed since 24 February 2022 while carrying out their journalistic work. The recent report under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism identified credible reports of detention, enforced disappearances and abduction of Ukrainian journalists and media actors, as well as concerning cases of other ill-treatment

and the use of methods amounting to torture against them. It is clear that Russia puts all its efforts to stop journalists and foreign correspondents from providing fact-based coverage of the war and from shining a light on the human suffering caused by its military aggression against Ukraine.

The side event organized by the informal OSCE Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists, which gathers 16 delegations: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, will provide an opportunity to discuss with journalists and media actors working in Ukraine on safety concerns for those covering the war, including those reporting from areas currently under Russian military control, and on concerns brought about by the temporary restrictions on freedom of expression due to declared martial law.

*Opening remarks:* Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

*Speakers:*

- Ms. Yulia Harkusha, Mariupol journalist, contributor to RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service
- Ms. Oksana Romaniuk, director of NGO "Institute of Mass Information"
- Mr. Vitaliy Portnikov, a Ukrainian editor and journalist

*Moderator:* Ms. Barbara Trionfi, Executive Director, International Press Institute (IPI)

The event will be streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/usosce>.

## **Tuesday, 17 May**

Time: **09:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**  
Title: **The Functioning of Courts in Times of Crisis**  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

*Summary:*

The side event will aim to raise awareness about the human rights and rule of law obligations of OSCE participating States during the states of conflict and emergency. It will highlight the shortcomings noted across the OSCE region in fulfilling these obligations as well as good practices in the observance of the rights to a fair trial and the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, effective remedy and accountability for serious human rights violations in the context of the Russian military attack on Ukraine and during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The event will provide the opportunity to promote recommendations made in ODIHR's 2021 policy brief on ensuring the right to a fair trial during public health emergencies.

*Speakers:*

- Ms. Edith Zeller, Judge at the Administrative Court of Vienna and President of the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)
- Ms. Nadiya Stefaniv, Judge at the Criminal Court of Cassation of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, President of the All-Ukrainian Association of Women Judges.

The event will be streamed online at <https://www.facebook.com/osce.odihr>.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: **09:00-10:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 533**  
Title: **NGO cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe during international crises**  
Convenor: Pantarey Foundation  
Working language: English

*Summary:*

Central and Eastern Europe has recently suffered many international upheavals. Many of them, such as the crisis of institutions of fundamental rights and freedoms within the framework of nation-state policies during the pandemic, armed conflict in Ukraine and the wave of refugee migration to the state bordering Ukraine affect all spheres of life, including new challenges for NGOs. At the event, we will want to talk about these challenges and opportunities for cooperation between NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe within the framework of the OSCE objectives.

The event will be streamed online at [https://www.facebook.com/100064620912336/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/100064620912336/live_videos/).

Time: **13:15-14:15**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 533**  
Title: **Crackdown of Russian civil society during the armed conflict**  
Convenor: Human Rights Center "Memorial"  
Working language: English

*Summary:*

In 2021 Russian civil society faced an unprecedented crackdown: dramatically active expansion of foreign agents registries; the liquidation of NGOs and independent media; active use and expansion of anti-extremist and anti-terrorist legislation to combat political opposition and human rights defenders. After the start of the armed conflict in Ukraine, the situation escalated rapidly and horribly. More than 15500 people were detained with multiple violations of their rights for anti-war protests or simply stating their opinion. All independent media had been either blocked or physically shut down. Stating anti-war opinion in any form became illegal after introduction of new — way more repressive — legislation. Even posting the words ‘war’ and ‘peace’ is now a punishable offence. More than 110 criminal cases have been initiated against anti-war activists. On top of this, foreign agents legislation is also being expanded to label all the dissent at once. This event will cover the cases and the instruments of current political persecution in Russia during the armed conflict and the ways of the OSCE framework to respond to this crisis.

The event will be streamed online at <https://fb.me/e/1v3Y3ZL5b>.

Time: **13:15-14:15**  
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**  
Title: **Five human rights issues during Russia's aggression against Ukraine: the position of the “Tribunal for Putin” initiative**  
Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties  
Working language: English

Summary: As part of the event, Ukrainian human rights organizations, united by the coalition “Tribunal for Putin” will present their conclusions on the prospects of international documentation and

investigation of war crimes of the Russian army during the invasion of Ukraine. The global initiative “Breaking the Circle of Impunity for Russia's War Crimes”; (short for “Putin's Tribunal”) was launched in response to Russia's full-scale aggression in February 2022. The participants of the initiative document the events that show signs of crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes) in all regions of the country that were attacked. The initiative is actively working at the international level to use existing mechanisms in the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the EU and the International Criminal Court to stop the brutality of these violations. The uniqueness of the initiative: its documentation methodology allows to almost daily reproduce the chronology of war crimes, starting from February 24, using the zoom principle (we go from the region to the smallest settlement). So far, this is the only initiative that has built a network based on regional organizations, each of which is responsible for a specific area, and worked there for years before the full-scale invasion.

Participants of the initiative: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Kharkiv Human Rights Group, Center for Civil Liberties, Truth Hounds, La Strada, Ecology - Law - Man, Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Organization Moloda Prosvita, Chuhuiv Human Rights Group, Northern Human Rights Group, Cherkasy Human Rights Group Center, Kherson Regional Fund for Mercy and Health, Kherson Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Territory of Success in Kropyvnytskyi, Odessa Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, NGO “MARCH” in Chernihiv, Educational House of Human Rights in Chernihiv, Podolsk Legal League, Law SICH in Dnipro, SIM Center for Legal and Political Studies in Lviv, Bakhmat NGO. UHHRU public receptions in Kramatorsk, Toretsk, Mariupol, Pokrovsk, Chernivtsi, Zaporizhia, and Uzhhorod also joined the initiative.

The event will be streamed online at <https://fb.me/e/2fatuCc7B>.

*Refreshments will be provided*