



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

online, 8 - 9 March 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, 8 March**

**Time:** 18:00-19:00

**Venue:** **online** (Access info will be shared with registered SHDM participants at <https://meetings.odihr.pl/resources>. Please log-in to access the link.)

**Title:** Another slice of salami - Polish media under pressure

**Convenor:** Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights Protection

**Working language:** English

**Summary:** For the last few years the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party has pledged to "re-Polishize" the domestic media. One big step in that direction was made in December, with announcement that Poland's state-controlled oil refiner PKN Orlen is buying local media group Polska Press from Germany's Verlagsgruppe Passau. This decision reigniting a debate about press freedom in the country. The decision, although controversial for many, was accepted by the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection. Just few weeks later another information triggered public discussion. The Polish government announcement that it wants to introduce a new tax on the media levied on income from commercials. Major private outlets unitedly protested against this measure with an unprecedented 24-

hour blackout. During the event experts and journalists will discuss how the new „media tax” would further undermine press freedom in Poland. Are that another signs that Poland follows Orbán’s Salami Tactics to overcome independent media? Why media freedom is now in the cross-hairs? What tools human rights defenders and journalists still have?

**Facilitator:**

-Adam Bodnar, Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland

**Speakers:**

-Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media  
-Sarah Clarke, Article 19, Head of Europe and Central Asia  
-Nik Williams, Media Freedom Rapid Response Coordinator  
-Piotr Stasiński, Deputy Chief Editor of Gazeta Wyborcza

## **Tuesday, 9 March**

Time: **13:00-14:00**

Venue: **online** (Access info will be shared with registered SHDM participants at <https://meetings.odhr.pl/resources>. Please log-in to access the link.)

Title: The role of women human rights reporters and defenders and how to overcome harassment and violence they are subject to

Convenor: Civic Solidarity Platform

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The role of women human rights reporters and defenders and how to overcome harassment and violence they are subject to Women play a crucial role in the global human rights movement. Reporting about human rights abuse is often a crucial first step in claiming and campaigning for those rights and for a more just a peaceful society. Contributions by women will usually add specific perspectives to this struggle that cannot be missed. The side event will present a number of cases and testimonies to deepen understanding of the forces at play and discuss how people, organizations and institutions can sustain and enhance gender equality in reporting and in discussions online and offline. A detailed programme will be announced ahead of the meeting at the Publications and Events Heading on the website of the Civic Solidarity Platform, <http://www.civicsolidarity.org/>.

**Speakers:**

**-Heidi Meinzolt, Germany, Coordinator of the Civic Solidarity Platform Working Group on Women and Gender Realities in the OSCE Region, WILPF Int. Board:** Introduction of CSP and the Working Group: Impact of an intersectional analysis on reporting and campaigning for women’s rights, meaningful participation and peacebuilding in the OSCE area.

**-Tolekan Ismailova, Kyrgyzstan, NGO Birduino, Vice President of FIDH:** Alarming trends, how culture and religion are used to justify violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan? Why does Gender Equality need media freedom in CA?

**-Gulnara Shahinian, Armenia, Democracy Today:** documentation of violence against women in war times and research on war crimes from a women’s perspective

**-Uzay Bulut, Turkey, Journalist, human rights activist:** How Turkey's military offensives affect women & minorities in the region and what kind of challenges journalists & rights advocates face while commenting or reporting on them

**-Julia Kharashvili, Georgia, NGO IDP Women Association Consent**

**-Annika Schabbauer, Sweden, Operation 1325:** Women's security work needs to be visible in media and why women in media are important for a peaceful and democratic society

**-Lana Dadu, Poland, women's rights activist:** Demonstrations in Poland, defending fundamental rights and freedoms of women- difficult relationship to (public) media

**-Maryna Korzh, Belarus, Fem group:** The struggle for equality and women's rights which is or should be part of a democratic uprising, comes up against the narrow limits of a thoroughly patriarchal society. Awareness raising, international feminist solidarity should make deficits visible.

## **Tuesday, 9 March**

Time: **9:00-10:00**

Venue: **online** (Access info will be shared with registered SHDM participants at <https://meetings.odihr.pl/resources>. Please log-in to access the link.)

Title: Gendered Gap in the Full Enjoyment of the Right to Information in the Digital World

Convenor: ODIHR, Human Rights Department

Working Language: English, Russian

This side event will take a closer look at the existing gendered gap when it comes to women exercising their rights. A prerequisite for the exercise of many human rights is access to information through information technologies. However, there is a lack of inclusion of varied gender perspectives in the development of new technologies and a gender bias inherent in these technologies, for example when it comes to machine learning, the most revolutionary technology of our times. The panelists will address the possible human rights impact related to this gender gap, including when exercising the right to information in the digital world. They will also reflect on the interlinkage of access to digital technologies and the ability of women to exercise their rights during states of emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The side event aims to generate recommendations to relevant stakeholders, including participating States and relevant OSCE Structures, to address it.

ODIHR research has found that women access information through digital technologies less than men, due to multiple factors that include limited opportunities and resources, lower digital literacy connected to education levels, gender norms and assumptions about the role of women. The exercise of rights, including access to healthcare and assistance in case of domestic violence is impossible without adequate information, accessible more and more through digital means. This gendered gap is especially problematic in emergency situations, when other means of communication and information-sharing may be limited and when measures restricting freedom of movement leave few alternatives, if any at all, to seek and receive information and communicate.

**Moderator:**

**Mr. David Mark**, ODIHR Human Rights Adviser, Capacity Building Co-ordinator

**Speakers:**

**- Dr. Gemma Galdon-Clavell**

**-Ms. Elisabeth Duban**