

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the convenors

19 – 30 September 2005

Warsaw, Poland

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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Monday, 19 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Strengthening Democratic Governance: ODIHR Strategy and Partnership
Convenor: ODIHR, Democratization Department
Language: English

Summary: This side event will take a closer look at how the ODIHR has developed its strategy, partnerships and activities in the field of democratic governance following the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar of May 2004 on "Democratic Institutions and Democratic Governance". A detailed presentation shall be made of the Political Institutions Interactive Assessment project - currently implemented in Georgia - as an example of one of the innovative activities in this field.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Participation of Roma and Sinti in electoral processes (OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, chapter IV. Enhanced participation in public and political life)
Convenor: ODIHR, Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI); Team of the Project "Roma use your ballot wisely"
Language: English, Romani

Summary: In spite of the fact that Roma people are the largest minority in Europe and represent one of the minorities in many countries from Central and South-East European countries, their political representation and participation in election is reduced. Reasons for such situation, although not limited to, are lack of school education, lack of civic education, voter registration - lack of civic registration and ID cards, low level of development of Roma political parties, mistrust in Roma leaders and authorities, etc. Nevertheless, the presence of Roma as national minority in the electoral processes is apparently increasing.

The side event will bring together beneficiaries of these processes (Roma MPs, mayors, councilors,) in order to further discussion of Roma participation in election and identify possible ways forward.

Also, this side event will bring together members of Governmental delegations to the OSCE HDIM, NGOs and intergovernmental organization- including the OSCE Institutions and Field Missions/Presences - involved in ensuring the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.30-14.45
Venue: EU Presidency Room (first floor)
Title: UK General Elections: ODIHR Report and UK Response
Convenor: Government of the United Kingdom
Language: English

Summary: The United Kingdom invited ODIHR to observe the General Election, which was held on 5 May this year. ODIHR has since published its report covering a wide range of issues related to the election and the British Government has responded. The purpose of this side event is to present the UK Government's approach to organising elections, to highlight the importance we attach to co-operating with ODIHR, and to discuss the contents of ODIHR's report and our response.

The Panel will consist of experts from the UK's Department for Constitutional Affairs, the UK Independent electoral Commission, a local electoral official from Manchester and the ODIHR elections advisor who was part of the assessment team. The event will be chaired by Philippa Drew, CB, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Director for Global Issues. Each member of the panel will give a brief presentation before taking questions and engaging in what we hope will be an interesting discussion.

The United Kingdom takes its OSCE commitments on elections very seriously. We recognise that our elections are not perfect and that we can learn from others, not least other participating States of the OSCE, and the impartial and professional staff at ODIHR. That is why following up on reports produced by the OSCE's election observation and assessment teams is vitally important for us, as it is for all participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

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Tuesday, 20 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: 15 Years of Domestic observation in the OSCE Region
Convenor: ODIHR, Elections Department
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The OSCE participating States have recognized the importance of credible and effective domestic non-partisan observation in enhancing the transparency of election processes. Several representatives of leading domestic non-partisan observer organizations will share their various experiences and discuss ongoing developments in this field.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Kosovo Roma: as minorities in Kosovo; as refugees and IDPs in OSCE areas – (OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, chapter VII. Roma and Sinti in crisis and post-crisis situation)
Convenor: ODIHR, CPRSI

Language: English, Romani

Summary: The side event on Kosovo Roma Refugees and IDPs is a follow up to different meetings where CPRSI has tried to lobby and raise awareness among the OSCE institutions and field missions about their contribution in solving the pending issues raised by the large number of Kosovo Roma refugees and IDPs in their search for finding realistic and durable solutions to the chronic, unsolved situations which they continue to be confronted in Kosovo, in the neighbouring countries and Europe-wide

This side event will bring together Roma representatives of Roma refugees and members of governmental delegations to the OSCE HDIM, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, including the OSCE Institutions and Field Missions/Presences, involved in ensuring the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Freedom of Association and Assembly in the Post-Soviet States
Convenor: International Leagues for Human Rights (ILHR)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Representatives of several NGOs from CIS countries will discuss the situation of freedom of association in the CIS region and recent developments, which threaten it. Special emphasis will be made on the region's human rights defenders and NGOs.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Hate Crimes and Discrimination: taking the bull by the horns
Convenor: Association for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Poland
Language: English

Summary:

- A) A glance at some of the possible ideological causes of hate-crimes coupled with how irresponsible journalism and, or, deliberate distortion of information influences public hostility against minority groups.
- B) Preventive measures against hate-crimes, discrimination, etc., through public education, information distribution, arts and culture by the Association of Exiles.

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Illicit drug policies compromising human rights of drug users in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union
Convenor: Soros Foundation of Kazakhstan, Open Society Institute
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The majority of heroin from Afghanistan is transported to Western Europe through the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The populations in these countries are experiencing severe and rapidly increasing problems related to drug use, including a major epidemic of HIV. Drug treatment in the region is either non-existent or of poor quality and in most cases, is based on punitive measures. The most effective treatment for heroin dependence – methadone maintenance therapy -- is largely unavailable. Instead, national drug policies of the former Soviet Union rely on incarceration of drug users as response to drug use, creating a culture of fear in which drug users do not access social and health care services. The withholding

of effective drug treatment, coupled with massive imprisonment, has created an explosion of HIV throughout this region. This panel will examine the drug policies of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, discuss the links between human rights violations and the HIV epidemic, and consider how policies should be reformed to address the public health reality.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Polling Briefing: Belarus and its Civil Society before 2006
Convenor: Pontis Foundation, Freedom House
Language: English

Summary: Briefing on possibilities of civil society before the 2006 presidential elections in Belarus based on qualitative and quantitative research.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Human Rights Situation in Central Asia
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The *Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights* will discuss the reform of the OSCE proposed by the Russian Federation and the events of Andijan.

The *Almaty Helsinki Committee* will comment on several new legislations in Kazakhstan: the Law "On Amendments to several legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan related to national security issues", the Law "On the Activities of Branches and Representative Offices (Separate Subdivisions) of International or Foreign non-commercial Organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan", and the Law "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions into Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Matters Related to Non-commercial Organizations". Additionally it will address the forthcoming presidential elections in 2005 and passed Senate elections on 19th August 2005.

The *Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan* will address the persecution of human rights defenders in the aftermath of Andijan.

Refreshments will be provided

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Wednesday, 21 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Uzbekistan: OSCE, Post-Andijan
Convenor: International Leagues for Human Rights (ILHR)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The International League for Human Rights will host a briefing devoted to urgent human rights issues in Uzbekistan following the May 2005 events in Andijan, "Uzbekistan: OSCE Policies Post-Andijan." The briefing will focus on the policies that OSCE should adopt towards Uzbekistan as a member state in the face of the Uzbek Government's refusal to allow an independent international investigation into circumstances surrounding the killing of as many as 1,000 civilians and recent attempts to silence domestic dissent through repressive measures aimed at human rights defenders, journalists, and political opposition.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Prevention of Torture in Closed Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Language: English

Summary: The IHF has been engaged in the project “Prevention of Torture in the Closed Institutions of Central and Eastern Europe” since autumn 2003. The project is directed at preventing torture and ill-treatment in several Central and East European countries – in prisons, pre-trial detention facilities, juvenile correction centers and psychiatric establishments.

The side event aims giving a brief overview on the situation in the closed institutions in respective countries, given by each of the participating Helsinki Committees: Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: State Secrets and Freedom of Journalism: From the US to the CIS
Convenor: OSCE Representation on Freedom of the Media
Language: English, Russian

Summary: In the US, the recent imprisonment of the White House correspondent of New York Times Judith Miller directed attention to the missing federal-level guarantees of journalists’ right to protect the sources of their information. In the CIS, on the other hand, journalists can be targeted by prosecutors even for publishing state secrets. Meet the cases and meet the standards.

Discussants:

Serge Schmemmann, Editorial Page Editor of the International Herald Tribune in Paris, Mikhail Fedotov, Dr., Prof., Ambassador, Executive Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists, Toby Mendel, Legal Director, Article 19

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Fear of Reform in Central Asia
Convenor: Freedom House
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Regional experts and human rights activists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will discuss the challenges facing human rights defenders and NGOs in promoting human rights and civil society development in Central Asia.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Human Rights situation in Afghanistan after the first Democratic Elections
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Language: English

Summary: Nearly four years after the Taliban regime was toppled from power the first parliamentary elections have taken place on September 18th with broad international support. The engagement of the International

Community continues on high profile.

How at the same time has the human rights situation developed in this war-torn country? Which chances do women have today to participate freely in all spheres of public life? Is there the danger, that the democratic process not only comes to a stop, but that corruption, war lords and drug production lead to the next round of destruction?

The *Cooperation Center for Afghanistan* works since more than ten years in the Human Rights field and is acknowledged partner of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Update on the Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan: New Hopes and Fresh Disappointments
Convenor: Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society
Language: English, Russian

Summary: This roundtable will be dedicated to discussing the current state of affairs in Kyrgyzstan six months after the 24 March popular uprising which toppled the government of Askar Akayev and one month after the new President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was inaugurated. The roundtable will host Kyrgyz NGOs, media and government representatives who will share their views on the most pressing challenges and problems. Among issues to be discussed are: constitutional reform; introduction of public television and reform of the election law. The participants will also discuss the possible impact of the Tulip Revolution on the Central Asian region in general, as well as the refugee crisis after Andijan events of May 13-14.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Freedom of the Media in Kazakhstan and Central Asia
Convenor: International Freedom Network
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The media played a crucial role in the break-up of the Soviet Union and, in recent years, media independence has played an instrumental role in the post-Soviet rose, orange, tulip and cedar revolutions. This seminar will explore how the Kazakh authorities are applying the experience of other countries, particularly neighbouring Kyrgyzstan, to avoid popular unrest and secure a third term for the incumbent president in the forthcoming elections.

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Thursday, 22 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture: Unlocking the Closed Institutions of OSCE Participating States
Convenor: ODIHR, Delegation of Denmark to the OSCE, Swiss Delegation to the OSCE, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: This side event will address issues of monitoring of human rights in detention as a means of prevention of torture and other types human rights abuse; the issue of minimum standards and the issue of Optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Degrading Treatment or Punishment. There

will also be a presentation of the "Manual for Prevention: OPCAT" published by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Six years of the Second Chechen War: Why is there still no progress?
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The second Chechen war has continued for six years, and there seems to be no end in sight either to the conflict itself or to the human rights abuses. Clashes between Russian and Chechen security forces and armed opposition groups take place all over Chechnya. The conflict has spilt over to Ingushetia and other North Caucasian republics.

As part of Russia's policy of "Chechenization" of the conflict, pro-Moscow Chechen forces have begun to play an increasingly active role, gradually replacing federal troops as the main perpetrators of "disappearances" and other human rights violations.

Chechen armed opposition groups also commit severe violations of international humanitarian law. They target civilian members of the Chechen administration, are responsible for kidnappings, and execute captured members of the Russian armed forces. Such violations and abuses, many of which constitute war crimes, are overwhelmingly committed with impunity, as very few perpetrators are ever identified and brought to justice.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Freedom of Expression, free media and information in Post-Soviet States
Convenor: International Leagues for Human Rights (ILHR)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Representatives of ILHR and NGOs from several CIS countries will discuss issues relating to freedom of expression, including freedom of mass media in CIS countries.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Democratic Movement in Central Asia
Convenor: Eurasian Transition Group (ETG)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Democracy in Central Asia: an unfulfilled Dream? ETG will discuss the issues of upcoming elections in Kazakhstan together with the party leaders of the Democratic Movement in Central Asia

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Uzbekistan: The events in Andijan on 13 May 2005 – only an independent investigation will reveal the truth
Convenor: Amnesty International
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Prevention of Torture is to be discussed in the plenary of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 22 September 2005. Amnesty International would like to use this opportunity to place additional emphasis on calls for an independent investigation into the events of 13 May 2005 in Andijan, Uzbekistan.

The side event will take the form of a panel discussion with the title “Uzbekistan: The events in Andijan on 13 May 2005 – only an independent investigation will reveal the truth”. Brief statements by the panellists will be followed by a discussion among panellists and the floor.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Human Rights Situation in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
Convenor: International Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (IHF)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The human rights situation in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine will be presented by three organizations that are members of the IHF: the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republic of Moldova and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

The Belarusian Helsinki Committee will address the progress made with the four OSCE criteria for Belarusian elections, which include improvements in electoral legislation, strengthened functions of the parliament, media freedom and non-harassment of opposition figures.

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova will address the issue of the Transnistrian regime that is supported by the Russian Federation. The regime is an instability and insecurity factor in Europe that influences political, social and economic processes in Eastern Europe.

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union will address the election issue in Ukraine - reform of the election system; criminal cases regarding alleged election violations; and steps of the new government to change the election law (right to independent election observation by registered NGOs and freedom for the media to report and comment on political issues and elections). Reform the judicial system will also be discussed.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Standstill moments (a play)
Convenor: Association for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Poland
Language: English, French, Polish

Summary: Standstill Moment: The play which is a musical spectacle, depicts the beauty and bestiality that reign in every city with a special focus on cultural pluralism. In chronological order the actresses and actors replay incidents of mourning which could only be experienced in reality. Beside other credits, the play scores high in successfully recreating ‘reality effects’, which the audience can easily identify with. A reaction from a member of the audience when the play was premiered at the National Ethnographic Museum sums it up: “The real and deep piece of truth about each of us you can’t read it if you are not strong enough to change yourself. I wasn’t aware that I was crying during this play. Thanks for this standstill-moment which made me think about one key-thing - what’s the most important in my life.”

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Friday, 23 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Anti-Phobia
Convenor: Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH)
Language: English

Summary: Anti-phobia is a joint project launched by KPH, Jewish Association Czulent and Szterndlech. Realizing that both Jews and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender (LGBT) people are often the first targets of discrimination and oppression in Poland and many other countries, this project seeks to address both issues of homophobia and anti-Semitism simultaneously. Its first aim is to bring the Jewish and LGBT communities closer together in Poland so they support each other. It will then progress to various projects which educate the public on these two social ills which seem to have been increasing for the past few years. This event will highlight the activities which have already taken place, most specifically a panel session which occurred in April and a study visit by members of Israeli Gay Youth. We will examine how people view these two issues as a potential example of coalition building that serves to avert other forms of discrimination. Are homophobia and anti-Semitism linked? Do they have the same roots? Does it serve either community well to link the issues in a time of increasing xenophobia?

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Independence of the Judiciary and Right to a Fair Trial in Post-Soviet States
Convenor: International League for Human Rights (ILHR)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Representatives of ILHR and NGOs from CIS countries will discuss the situation of the right for fair trial and independence of the judiciary in CIS countries. We plan to have representatives from Belarus and Azerbaijan.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Human Rights Situation in the Caucasus
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The human rights situation in the Caucasus will be presented by the Helsinki Committee of Armenia, the Georgian Helsinki Committee and the Human Rights Centre of Azerbaijan.

Helsinki Committee of Armenia will tackle the situation of the amendments to Armenian constitution and the implementation of obligation before the Council of Europe, the violation of the right to property, and the situation of the law on demonstrations, marches and meetings.

Human Rights Centre of Azerbaijan will discuss the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, with special emphasis on huge increasing number of registered candidates and division in the ruling team, as well as in the opposition block, which has created very interesting, but dangerous political situation.

Georgian Helsinki Committee will address the current human right developments in Georgia in general with special emphasis on issues such as the rule of law, freedom of media and local elections.

Refreshments will be provided

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Monday, 26 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Lives on Hold: The Human Cost of Statelessness
Convenor: Refugees International
Language: English

Summary: Statelessness, or the lack of nationality or citizenship, affects more than 11 million persons globally. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees everyone the right to a nationality. The 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness were established to regulate the legal status and treatment of stateless persons and help avoid statelessness. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN agency mandated to deal with issues of stateless people, presently has two individuals focused full time on this work.

Earlier this year, Refugees International released a report "Lives on Hold: The Human Cost of Statelessness" that takes a closer look at how the denial of the right to a nationality deprives individuals of access to education, formal employment, health care, and the right to vote, to travel, to marry or to obtain the citizenship of a new country. Please join us for a conversation about this important issue, about what lack of effective citizenship means in the daily lives of people who face it, and what the OSCE can do to help prevent and end statelessness.

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Canada's new Action Plan Against Racism
Convenor: Department of Canadian Heritage
Language: English, French

Summary: The Multiculturalism Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage invites the participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to its presentation on "A Canada for All: Canada's Action Plan against Racism". Released in March 2005, the Action Plan aims to strengthen social cohesion, further Canada's human rights framework, and demonstrate federal leadership in the fight against racism and hate-motivated crime. Building on Canada's existing legal framework, and on the policies and programs currently in place, the Action Plan establishes a horizontal approach across federal departments and agencies, and outlines a significant number of new and continuing commitments to combat racism. The Action Plan is organized into six areas identified as key priorities. These are:

1. Assisting victims and groups vulnerable to racism and related forms of discrimination
2. Developing forward-looking approaches to promote diversity and combat racism
3. Strengthening the role of civil society
4. Strengthening regional and international co-operation
5. Educating children and youth on diversity and anti-racism
6. Countering hate and bias

The presentation will examine the context in which the Action Plan was developed and provide an overview of its objectives and specific initiatives. A questions and answer session will follow the presentation.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Presentation of the OSCE Human Rights Education Pilot Project
Convenor: OSCE Task Force, MFA, Slovenia
Language: English

Summary: With the objective of contributing to the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the area of human rights education, Slovenia as the OSCE Chairmanship in 2005, has offered a new teaching tool "Our rights" to be used in a pilot project for schoolchildren in the OSCE area. It is currently conducted in 16

languages and the main goal is to develop knowledge and values, as well as skills in respecting and implementing human rights among the young, which should contribute to combating intolerance, prejudice and hatred.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: The International Criminal Court
Convenor: Coalition for the International Criminal Court
Language: English

Summary: The event aims at facilitating discussions among government representatives from the OSCE region, international organisations and civil society on the importance of creating an effective system of international justice, whereby national courts, the International Criminal Court (ICC), as well as other international justice mechanisms complement their efforts to ensure accountability for serious international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The entry into force of the Rome Statute of the ICC on July 1st 2002 represents, probably, the most important achievement in the past decades for the protection of human rights and the fight against impunity. Yet, as the ICC begins to exercise its judicial functions, full support by its 99 States Parties, as well as by the international community as a whole is more than ever needed.

While universal ratification remains a clear priority, the development of domestic legislation will be a long term project if we want international justice to be sustainable and effective. As of today, unfortunately, the failure of states to enact effective implementing legislation is a worrisome trend that may severely affect the ability of the Court to perform its mandate as well as that of States to fulfil their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

States, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders have an important role to play not only in supporting the ICC and promoting its values worldwide, but also in advancing the system of international justice as such, by enhancing the development of strong national judiciaries, the enactment of laws compliant with international standards, by providing technical, legal and financial assistance to third countries and, not least, by creating effective reparation programmes for victims.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Transitional justice in Serbia and Montenegro - Truth and Accountability
Convenor: Humanitarian Law Centre
Language: English

Summary: In light of 10 years after Srebrenica, this side event will present recent developments in transitional justice and the acknowledgement of truth and accountability in Serbia and Montenegro. Particular emphasis will be placed on the crucial role of NGOs in support of transitional justice.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Hidden sorrows: The Persecution of Romanian Gypsies during WW II
(demonstration of film)
Convenor: US Fulbright Fellow
Language: English, Romani

Summary: Hidden Sorrows: The Persecution of Romanian Gypsies During WWII
Producer/Director: Michelle Kelso, Executive Producer: Alexandru Alexe
This documentary chronicles the never before told narratives of Gypsy survivors of Nazi persecution in Romania as they remember their experiences during WWII in the context of their lives today. Their story is both historical

and contemporary. The plight of the Gypsies during the war provides an excellent springboard from which to understand their situation today, as Europe's largest minority group and one that faces continued discrimination. Hidden Sorrows reveals the continued struggle of Gypsies for equality in a society that views them as second-class citizens. It examines the present impoverishment of the survivors and their descendants as well as discrimination facing them daily.

The 57-minute documentary is in both Romanian and English, with English subtitles.

The research and production of this film and this side event were made possible by a generous grant from the U.S. Fulbright Fellowship Program, administered by the Institute of International Education. However, neither the Government of the United States nor any agency representing it has endorsed the conclusions or approved the contents of this film.

Tuesday, 27 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Participation of Women in Democratic Processes in South Caucasus and Central Asia
Convenor: ODIHR, Democratization Department
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The NGO Expert Panel on Gender Equality comprising fifteen civil society experts working to promote women's leadership, gender equality and increased role of women in decision making in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, has been established through the support of the OSCE/ODIHR in 2004 as part of its long-term Democratization Programme. The Panel is a unique cross-regional initiative, designed for exchange of local expertise and know-how in the field of gender equality and women's participation in democratic processes.

At the side event titled "Participation of Women in Democratic Processes in South Caucasus and Central Asia" experts will discuss ongoing developments in their respective regions and will analyze their implications on women's status and equal opportunities, highlighting the significance of building strong local expertise among national stakeholders for achieving greater progress in the field of gender equality. Concrete examples of successful initiatives of women's leadership and coalition building, cooperation with governments for creation of viable institutional mechanisms for gender equality, as well as areas posing challenges on the road of increasing women's equal participation will be discussed.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Is the return of trafficked victims always safe?
Convenor: ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Program
Language: English

Summary: The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children requires that victims of trafficking should only be repatriated to their countries of origin 'with due regard to the safety of that person...' The OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking equally requires participating States to consider the safety of a trafficked person on repatriation and ensure the effective application of the principle of *non-refoulement*. But how well are States complying with these commitments?

Reports indicate that the identification of trafficked victims in destination countries remains inadequate. There are also concerns that trafficked victims will increasingly become the victims of expedited deportation processes. Measures to ensure the rapid removal of 'illegal migrants' can obscure the need to identify trafficked victims and may lead to their detention and summary deportation, sometimes within hours. Considerations for the safety of

trafficked persons in these circumstances are rarely taken into account. On the other hand, where trafficked victims have been identified, practice differs as to how that person's safety is assessed before their return. What exactly needs to be established and how this is best achieved is an issue of growing concern.

This side event aims to explore the experience of return from the country of destination to the country of origin and raise awareness of the relevant concerns. It will consider the systems in place to identify and assess risks to trafficked persons safety on return and present the experiences of returnees.

The side event will bring together practitioners from Moldova, Poland and Switzerland to discuss: concerns with the return of trafficked persons and implications for countries of destination and origin; the conduct of return and the lessons learnt; the steps needed to ensure that return is always conducted with due regard for the safety of the trafficked person.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: HIV-related stigma and discrimination in Europe: Whose security is threatened?
Convenor: European network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Language: English

Summary:

1. Epidemiological situation in Europe and Central Asia
2. Touch on issues surrounding:
 - HIV stigmatization imposed on existing forms of stigma and discrimination
 - Migration, PLHIVs migrating from countries with limited treatment to those which universal access,
 - Lack of access by migrants to health care services in receiving countries
 - HIV and the Roma people, exclusion from prevention and treatment programmes
 - Human trafficking
 - HIV in prisons
 - Criminalization of transmission
 - Getting PLWHA up to speed on using local government administrative remedies for complaints.
3. The future crisis – who funds treatment in the region when the GFATM withdraws in 2008?
4. Followed by discussion

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Monitoring National Policies on Roma: Poverty Reduction and Gender Dimensions
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department (TND), Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI), Open Society Institute (OSI) – Women Network Program, Minority Rights Group International (MRG)
Language: English, Romani

Summary: This side event will try to link the gender dimension with issues discussed in other side events on Roma, for example refugees and political participation. It will look at how the multiple roles played by a Romani woman affect her participation in decision making in her community and access to resources. It will also look at how to talk about racial discrimination in connection with gender discrimination in a way that does not enhance the stereotypes about Roma.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: UNSCR 1325 – a challenge for the OSCE

Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE
Language: English

Summary: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 requires the UN to include a gender perspective also in its peace keeping missions and other security policy related work. It underlines that women need to be present in peace negotiations and in the institutions set up to implement peace agreements and assure a post conflict transition to peace. It also stresses the importance of including women in missions that carry out the efforts by the international community to support conflict resolution and transition. This should also be taken account by the OSCE in its activities. But the OSCE has only just started this work. The OSCE adopted an Action Plan for Gender Equality last year. How do we put that plan and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 into practice?

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Canadian Muslim Women: Culture, Identity and Struggle for Social Justice
Convenor: Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Language: English, French

Summary: The Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW), established in 1982, is a national organization of believing women committed to the equality, equity and empowerment of Muslim women's identity in the Canadian context.

Muslim women in Canada are diverse and distinct, one from the other, yet stereotypes and myths about Muslim women abound in the popular media and within the larger Canadian society. CCMW is committed to promoting Muslim women's identity in the Canadian context and to contribute to Canadian society the knowledge, life experiences and ideas of Muslim women for the benefit of all. To meet these objectives CCMW undertook three groundbreaking studies that attempt to dispel the myths and stereotypes and provide facts that acquaint the broader Canadian society and Muslim women themselves with the diversity and potential of this growing segment of the Canadian population. The session will explore what prompted CCMW to undertake these studies in the first place and the work the organization continues to do to address the issues identified. Topics to be explored include: civic and political participation, discrimination and bias, community activism/mobilization and relationship building with equality-seeking seeking partners across Canada and around the world.

Beverages will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: We are fair game-Evidence from Scotland on the incidents of disability as a bias ground for hate crimes
Convenor: Capability Scotland
Language: English

Summary: Capability Scotland is the country's leading disability organisation working for a just Scotland. We work with children, adults and families living with disability to support them in their everyday lives and to influence policy, legislation, practice and attitudes.

Kate will present findings from research undertaken by Capability Scotland and The Disability Rights Commission on how disabled people have been victims of hate crimes. Kate will also outline how the Scottish Government (Scottish Executive) is addressing the issue. There will then be an open discussion and question and answer session.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 28 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Rights and Protection of Persons Belonging to National Minorities - Current Issues of Interest for the OSCE and the Swiss Experience
Convenor: Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Language: English, Russian

Summary The topic of National Minorities is to be discussed in the plenary of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 28 September 2005. Switzerland would like to use this opportunity to place additional emphasis on the importance of issue relating to national minorities by organising a side event on the same day at 1 pm.

This side event will take the form of a panel discussion with the title “Rights and Protection of Persons Belonging to National Minorities – current issues of interest for the OSCE and the Swiss experience”. Invited panelists include the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the director of the Minority Rights International organisation, as well as two Swiss experts with extensive experience in relevant fields. Brief statements by the panelists will be followed by a discussion among panelists and the floor. The panel will be moderated by the head of the Swiss delegation to the OSCE.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: How to Match Words with Funds: Equal Access of Roma to Housing and Residential security and to Quality Education
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI and CoE (as joint Secretariat of the Informal Contact Group of Roma of the IGOs)
Language: English, Romani

Summary: The meeting’s purpose is to:

- Stimulate the exchange of information and debate between the various national and international participants to the side event, toward identifying concrete ways of financing and making operational the implementation of the Roma-related policies on the field of Equal Access of Roma to Housing and Residential security and to Quality Education.
- Assess the implementation of the Roma-related national policies and their connection with the international initiatives toward Roma, such as:
 - National Strategies for Roma;
 - Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, specifically the Decade National Action Plans;
 - OSCE Action Plan on Improving the situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area;
 - National Development Plans for Structural Funds of EU;
 - Council of Europe’s recommendation on Roma.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Inter-Religious Dialogue vs Hate Crimes
Convenor: The Union “Century 21”
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The issue of the religious intolerance and discrimination in Georgia is becoming an increasingly important issue, especially following some steps in the legal field taken by the government in terms of improvement of religious minority rights in Georgia. It is evident that there is a need for larger campaigns dedicated to tolerance and non-discrimination. The members of the union “Century 21” would like to draw

public attention the importance of inter-religious dialogue in relevance to the hate crimes' phenomenon in Georgia. The **Youth Network Against Intolerance and Discrimination** will be shown as an example dealing with all forms of intolerance and discrimination. It will present the Network's programmes in relevance to conflict prevention, democratic citizenship and tolerance promotion.

The event will introduce a new initiative of the union "Century 21" and WCRP to establish a **European Inter-Religious Youth Network** which will cover East European countries to begin with.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Religious Dress and Symbols
Convenor: Oslo Coalition
Language: English

Summary: The four panelist: Lena Larsen, Jeremy Gunn, Alain Garay, and Tore Lindholm will briefly address:

- (1) *Leyla Sahin v. Turkey* before the ECtHR (Application no. 44774/98);
- (2) Religious Dress and "Islamism" in some recent ECtHR judgments;
- (3) *Hijab* and Freedom of Religion or Belief from a Gender Perspective;
- (4) Freedom of Religion or Belief and Recent French Developments.

The above introductions will be concluded by presenting a new scholarly homepage dedicated to the study of religion-related cases before international human rights institutions. At least 30 minutes will be available for discussion. This side event addresses very important and hotly contested issues. Hence, constructive ideas, and criticisms, are invited!

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Reaction of Polish law against anti-Semitism and discrimination of Roma minority in contemporary Poland
Convenor: Society against Xenophobia, Racism and anti-Semitism "Otwarta Rzeczypospolita"
Language: English

Summary: Polish law penalizes propagation of anti-Semitism, discrimination practices and racism – in theory, which is included into codices of law and the constitution. But the practice is different. Anti-Semitic printed materials are freely circulated; one can buy them in some books-stores. Anti-Semitic activists are not punished. Discrimination of the Roma is common fact. Their physical security is badly protected. They are often attacked by the bands of skinheads, neo-Nazis and radical rightists. A paper will be presented, giving examples of the obstruction of the law institutions in contemporary Poland and the sources of such practices, which is partly connected with the post-war anti-Semitic campaigns, and partly with the tolerance of xenophobia and especially anti-Semitism from the side of the Polish Catholic Church and the rightists' parties.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: May discrimination grounds decide the legal gravity of the act of discrimination?
The hierarchy of the discriminated and the European human rights regime.
Convenor: The Norwegian Human Rights Alliance
Language: English

Summary: Is it discriminating to differentiate the legal protection against discrimination according to discrimination ground or the victim's personal characteristics? Is a legal hierarchy between discriminated

persons contrary to the prohibition against discrimination found in European human rights regime? A number of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights must here be considered. If it is possible to claim that the discrimination ground is not a decisive factor as to how severe the national legislation may consider the various acts of discrimination, we have a great potential in the fight against discrimination, not least against discrimination on multiple grounds. People discriminated on any ground may thus claim the ultimate form of legal protection provided against discrimination on any ground.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Tolerance and non-Discrimination Information Base
Convenor: ODIHR TND
Language: English

Summary: This side event will allow the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme with ODIHR to present the new Tolerance and Non-Discrimination information base. This information base is a collection of reports, documents, actions plans and other materials as well as information about practical initiatives related to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. The collection is based upon materials and information received from participating States and is still under development. The information base will be made available from the official OSCE website.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The status of non-believers in Europe
Convenor: European Humanist Federation together with Centre d'Action Laïque (Belgium), Prometheus Society (Slovakia), Unie Vrijzinnige Verenigingen (Belgium), Unione degli Atei e degli Agnostici Razionalisti (Italy).
Language: English, French

Summary: In the last decade both individual States and the European Union have recognized a role for churches at institutional level, thus introducing a non representative player in the democratic process. Since the separation of churches and states guarantees the equality of citizens and is a tenet of the rule of law, the EHF/FHE wishes to discuss with representatives of ODIHR, participating States and NGOs the follow up of the resolution adopted by OSCE member states at the 1989 Vienna Conference which states:

(16) In order to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practise religion or belief, the participating States will, *inter alia*,

(16.1) - take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals or communities on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life, and to ensure the effective equality between believers and non-believers.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: The Shared Space of Human Rights & Religious Freedom: three short films for religious freedom training at the grassroots in four non-EU countries
Convenor: International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF)
Language: English

Summary: Viewing of three dramatized religious freedom-related narratives to be used in community workshops in Bangladesh, India, South Africa and Philippines, with participants from a variety of faith traditions led by trained facilitators.

An interactive session follows each showing. Though the films were produced for the above countries, they will enable reflection on the methodology used and the issues raised in them, which may be relevant for EU work

Thursday, 29 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Education promoting respect and diversity – Experiences and Prospectives
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme
Language: English

Summary: The panelists (Stacy Burdett, Anti Defamation League, Jolanta J. Ambrosewicz, University Krakow and Majella O'Shea, The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Ireland) will share their experience and expertise with the audience in the context of tolerance education. *The Website Guide to Tolerance Education* containing 198 examples of institutions providing good practices in different parts of the world will be presented as well as training and awareness raising of the 'classroom of difference' initiative. A proposal for an expert-level seminar will also be introduced with the aim to conceptualize what is meant by the term 'Tolerance Education' and to evaluate models of successful tolerance education programs, approaches, strategies and tools in order to determine what works and why.

The challenges in the field of tolerance education are to identify the most promising instruments and methodologies to achieve a tangible impact on pupils and students.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Minority within a minority: Multiple ground of discrimination against the LGBT commitments
Convenor: ILGA Europe
Language: English

Summary: This side event will focus on 'common denominators' of forms of intolerance and discrimination, related to members of minority groups, who are also gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. Examples of forms of multiple discrimination against LGBT communities (Jews, Muslims, Roma, Black, Lesbian and Gay transgender persons) will be given: reports, research and indicative findings. Presentations will be followed by a discussion on equalizing recognition of different grounds of discrimination within international organisations, such as OSCE, as well as discrimination of one minority group by another.

The outcome of the side event will be developing strategies to counter multiple forms of discrimination: such as inclusive policies and examples of projects from different countries.

Indicative speakers: representatives of KPH, Christine Loudes (ILGA-Europe, LGB transgender persons), LGBT Muslim Projects (the Netherlands), a representative of the European Roma Rights Centre.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: How to teach about the experience of Roma during the WW II – (OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, chapter V: Improving access to education)
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues and Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Council of Europe
Language: English, Romani

Summary: Even though recognized and proofed to have taken place, the mass murder of Roma during the Second World War has not yet entered the canon of modern history curricula. It is interesting that even after 60 years from the war; the facts of what happened to the Roma minority are not registered in any way in school and university history text-books.

Roma leaders and organizations from different European countries have started to change this by creating a broader historical awareness. They have begun to demand recognition of the holocaust of Roma, and a worthy place for Roma among the victims of Nazism.

This side event will bring together Roma people who have expertise in this field and members of Governmental delegations to the OSCE HDIM, NGOs and intergovernmental organization- including the OSCE Institutions.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Populism of power as one of the causes of the growth of xenophobia in Russia
Convenor: Citizen's Watch, ILHR Centre for Information and Analysis SOVA
Language: English, Russian

Summary: Authorities' official attitudes towards discrimination on ethnic grounds. Actual attitude of authorities towards the problems of discrimination

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Sport as an Anti-Discrimination Tool
Convenor: Never Again Association (Poland), Association of Asylum Seekers (Poland), Football Against Racism in Europe, FATIMA (Moldova)
Language: English

Summary: The aim is to present various experiences of using football as an anti-discrimination tool in different countries and contexts as well as examples of cooperation between NGOs in this field (working against different kinds of discrimination: racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia). It is hoped the event will bring together innovative and creative perspectives and ideas for combating discrimination.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Anti-Semitism in immigration societies in Western Europe – a challenge for education and local authorities
Convenor: Kreuzberger Initiative gegen Antisemitismus
Language: English

Summary: Presentation and discussion of new approaches in education and local communities against anti-Semitism in immigration societies in Western Europe. Migrants in Europe are often victims of racism, even though they can become perpetrators of anti-Semitic acts. A Muslim or Arab identity seems to be used by political Islam to transport hate towards Jews and to endorse conspiracy theories.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Ethnic Profiling by Law Enforcement in Europe: Recognizing the Problem and Proposing Solutions

Convenor: Open Society Justice Initiative
Language: English

Summary: Ethnic profiling – a shorthand screening process utilized by law enforcement agents whereby generalizations about a group of people based on their ethnicity result in higher instances of stops, searches, and often arrests – is a growing problem in Europe. The Open Society Justice Initiative has launched a project to address the problem in three countries – Bulgaria, Hungary and Spain. Through a combination of meetings, research, and the development and implementation of data collection systems, the project advocates the expansion of good practice in non-discriminatory policing.

The Justice Initiative has organized a side event titled “Ethnic Profiling by Law Enforcement in Europe: Recognizing the Problem and Proposing Solutions” to discuss the problem of ethnic profiling in Europe with participants at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The side event will include reports from researchers and advocates on the problem of ethnic profiling as manifested in the three project countries, as well as a presentation on best practices by law enforcement officials from other countries. The side event will also include a general discussion among all participants on possible solutions to the problem of ethnic profiling.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Facilitating Multi-Lateral Dialogue and Cooperation on Freedom of Religion or Belief Between Supra-State and State Actors and NGOs
Convenor: Human Rights Without Frontiers
Language: English

Summary: For a long time, freedom of religion or belief has been high on the agenda of the U.N., the OSCE, a number of European supra-state actors and the U.S. Each actor has developed its own policy. The U.N. has appointed a Special Rapporteur on Religion or Belief; the OSCE has put this issue on the agenda of its annual HDIM and has put in place a panel of experts which has set a number of internationally recognized standards; the European Parliament publishes an annual report on human rights in the world; the European Commission has elaborated Action Plans including a human rights agenda for states involved in the European Neighbourhood Policy; the European Council has a human rights cell; the Council of Europe has developed mechanisms of implementation of human rights standards to which its member states have committed themselves.

These institutions are invited to expose to NGOs what they do to improve freedom of religion or belief and NGOs will expose what they expect from them.

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int. will stimulate a multi-lateral dialogue to lead to better collaboration between the various actors.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: EU Presidency Room
Title: Recording and responding to racist violence and crimes: Experience of member States
Convenor: EU European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)
Language: English

Summary: The topic of tolerance and non-discrimination is to be discussed in the plenary of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 29 September 2005. The UK in its capacity of Presidency of the European Union (EU) and the EU’s European Monitoring Centre on racism and Xenophobia would like to use this opportunity to place additional emphasis on the importance of issues relating to tolerance and non-discrimination by organising a side event on the same day at 6 pm.

The side event will take the form of a panel discussion with the title “Recording and responding to racist violence and crime: Experiences of EU Member States”. Invited panelists include the UK Director for Global Issues and Head of UK delegation, FCO, UK Ambassador to the OSCE, Head of Communication and External Relations (EUMC), EUMC expert on criminology and an expert with extensive experience in field. Brief statements by the panelists will be followed by a discussion among panelists and the floor. The panel will be moderated by the Head of the UK delegation.

Refreshments will be provided
