

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS
As submitted by the organisers
02 – 13 October 2006
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, 02 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Self-Regulation in the OSCE region
Convenor: OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side-event will highlight the Representative on Freedom of the Media's focus on supporting media self-regulation, through assisting OSCE participating States to create or enhance self-regulation mechanisms. The invited experts will explore the merits of self-regulation for developing quality of the media while maintaining editorial freedom. They will analyze some of the typical challenges encountered when establishing journalists' self-regulation bodies. In new democracies, self-regulatory bodies emerged after 1989, often following the model of Western countries. This trend fostered a consensus around the essential role that media accountability systems play in guaranteeing freedom of the media. Unfortunately, many of these new self-regulatory mechanisms are still striving to overcome initial shortcomings. In some OSCE participating States, self-regulatory systems are not in place.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Building Coalitions among Roma Representatives to Formalize Informal Settlements
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI; UN Habitat, Warsaw Office; Council of Europe; UNDP (Bratislava)
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: The framework of the side event is given by the OSCE Roma and Sinti Action Plan, namely by its provisions under the Chapter IV. Addressing socio-economic issues /Housing and living conditions, respectively the art. 43-47, addressed to OSCE participating States and to OSCE Institutions.

Art. 43: Put in place mechanisms and institutional procedures to clarify property rights, resolve questions of ownership and regularize the legal status of Roma and Sinti people living in circumstances of unsettled legality (e.g. Roma neighbourhoods lacking land rights or which are not included in the urban plans of the main locality; families and houses without legal residence status in settlements where the people have been living de facto for decades)."

The side event will address the issue of urban upgrading and legalizing informal settlements of Roma and Sinti in order to review the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. The event will host

presentations of good practices and initiatives, as implemented in various countries throughout OSCE area, and discussions about follow up actions needed to address the issue of housing and living conditions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Mass Media in Belarus: current situation, problems and development prospects
Convenor: International League for Human Rights; Belarusian Association of Journalists; Viasna Human Rights Centre
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: A representative of the Belarusian Association of Journalists and Viasna Human Rights Centre will report on the current situation of independent mass media in Belarus

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 03 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Recent developments in the protection and assistance to trafficked persons, including children
Convenor: Anti-Slavery International; Terre des Hommes; ECPAT; La Strada International; ODIHR Anti-Trafficking
Working language: English

Summary: The protection of and assistance to trafficked persons is not negotiable. States need to ensure that police, workers in shelters and others likely to come into contact with persons who have been trafficked (including children) are aware and sensitised as to their needs. Also they need to ensure that the appropriate support is always available. The ODIHR supports establishment of multi-agency structures, in the form of national referral mechanisms to achieve these aims. This event provides a number of leading NGO's with a forum to present recent project activity and lessons learnt on identification and protection of trafficked persons for both labour and sexual exploitation. The event will highlight good practices in ensuring protection of trafficked persons rights alongside continuing challenges in this work. It will also contribute to developing a number of recommendations for future action on the issues raised.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Political abuse of Juridical System in Moldova: Valery Pasat Trail
Convenor: Infomost Communications
Working language: English

Summary: Valery Pasat, Moldova former Minister of Defense was arrested in 2005 and sentenced early in 2006 for 10 years in hard labor penal camp for selling, back in 1997, at too low price Moldova's 21 MiG-29 nuclear capable fighter planes to the USA instead of selling them to intermediary who was believed to represent Iran. A Moldovan Court appears to have violated Pasat's basic human rights, refusing to hear evidence favorable to the accused, particularly depositions made with U.S. Government approval by Mr. E. Wayne Merry and the US Ambassador to Moldova at the time of the sale, John Todd Stewart. Mr. Merry, the US official responsible for the purchase of MIG-29s under the Nunn-Lugar program, makes serious allegations in a letter to the Financial

Times of 04/02/2006. He clearly states in his letter that the transaction was entirely fair, that the competing tender for \$55 million was phantom and that the final decision to sell was made by the then Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi who has faced no charges to date. This matter has been raised by MEPs several times; addressed by European Commission officials; the OSCE PA included the Pasat case in its report on human rights in Moldova; and PACE commissioned a special report on the Pasat trial. An appeal has been launched, but it must pass through two higher appeal courts in Moldova before reaching the European Court of Human Rights. Mr. Pasat's lawyers have alleged that the hearings are being delayed by bureaucratic means. Given the poor conditions of his imprisonment, Mr. Pasat may suffer irreparable damage to his health before the final verdict is reached.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Promoting the Concept of Human Security in the OSCE Area
Convenor: OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation
Working language: English

Summary: - to deepen knowledge about human security among the OSCE participating States, Partners and OSCE institutions
- to exchange information on the best practices and challenges of human security related projects so that the concept of human security will be incorporated into OSCE projects.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Combating sexual exploitation of children
Convenor: Belgian OSCE Chairmanship; France; United States
Working language: English

Summary: The sexual exploitation of children is a grave and large-scale problem throughout the OSCE region and beyond, with multiple and interlinked manifestations, including prostitution, pornography, trafficking, sex tourism and forced early marriages. Sexual exploitation of children constitutes a serious human rights abuse, as well as a crime –potentially involving organized crime networks- which severely impacts on the well-being of children. Whereas the problem of sexual exploitation of children is widespread, the OSCE has not made it a major focus to date. The Belgian OSCE Chairmanship, France and the United States therefore wish to draw attention to this problem and call for more action. Mr Theo Noten, European representative on the board of ECPAT International, Mr Philippe Kaspi, Deputy Chief of Staff of the French Ministry of Tourism and Ms Leila Ben Debba, Manager of ICMEC Europe, will inform the participants of this side-event of the extent of sexual exploitation of children in the OSCE region and suggest which policy response could be appropriate. A subsequent discussion will allow for an informal look at the issues, exchange of experiences, and consideration of policy answers. Delegations, non-governmental organizations and all those caring for the well-being of children are warmly invited to attend this side-event, which promises to generate a lively and fruitful discussion.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Charter on Freedom of Expression and Journalistic Ethics in Relation to Respect for Religion or Belief
Convenor: Institute on Religion and Public Policy
Working language: English

Summary: The institute on Religion and Public Policy has been working in close cooperation and interactive partnership with religious communities, non-governmental organizations, diplomats and members of the media to draft, develop and advance a **Charter on Freedom of Expression and Journalistic Ethics in Relation to respect for Religion or Belief**. This charter was created by studying over 40 national journalistic ethics codes, more than 300 professional journalistic codes, and relevant documents articulating OSCE, Council of Europe and UN standards. We also incorporated suggestions and concerns articulated by NGOs and diplomats in public discussions we held to discuss the Charter. The purpose of our Charter is to provide a framework and establish standards to evaluate ethical media behaviour in matters relating to religion or belief. The charter takes into account the paramount principles of freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief and attempts to strike an appropriate balance that preserves both of these fundamental freedoms. We encourage not only the media but all segments of society to use the Charter to assist the media in maintaining ethical scrutiny when it depicts, reports or comments on matters relating to religion or belief. No universal set of principles, rules or standards in this critical area regarding the depiction of religion or belief by the media currently exists. Without such principles and standards, there are no effective means to gauge whether news reports, comments or other depictions through cartoons, pictures or satire go over the line and engender discrimination, or even violence, targeting individuals due to their association with a religion or belief. We believe this Charter provides the guidelines to make that possible.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Turkmenistan – a Forgotten Tragedy
Convenor: Eurasian Transition Group
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: ETG together with Vice-President of “International Crisis Group”, members of Turkmen NGO’s and opposition members will discuss the current situation in Turkmenistan. Issues such as press freedom, education, natural resources like gas vs. human rights and the role of the international community will be discussed.

Soft drinks will be provided

Wednesday, 04 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Customary International Humanitarian Law
Convenor: International Committee of the Red Cross
Working language: English

Summary: In 2005, the ICRC published its long-awaited study on customary rules of international humanitarian law (or law of armed conflict). At this event, one of the co-authors of the study will introduce the purposes of the study and summarize its main findings. Participants will have ample opportunity to ask questions or make comments. The event is meant to be interactive. Copies of the study, as well as summaries thereof, will be available.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Launching the ERRC Report on Access to Roma to Health
Convenor: European Roma Rights Centre
Working language: English

Summary: The European Roma Rights Centre will launch publication of a new report on Roma access to health at this year’s HDIM. The report is the result of research in a number of countries, undertaken with the support of the Open Society Institute. The side event will provide a forum to present the findings of ERRC research and

policy recommendations included in the report, as well as to field questions and discuss matters related to Roma health access.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Violence against Women, Domestic Violence – Threats to Security
Convenor: Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
Working language: English

Summary: The side event will focus on the connection between violation of women’s rights and security, more specifically human security. The event will provide an opportunity to further elaborate our understanding of 'security' and examine what practical implications violations of women’s rights have on security and how violence against women occurs in varying contexts – at the domestic and community levels. Security must include the ability or inability of the State to ensure the protection of its citizens - whether they are in their homes, in private, or in public spaces. This includes protection of women from domestic violence. While threats to women's human security during times of war represent grave dangers, even in times of peace, millions of women and girls daily confront threats to their security in both the public and private sphere. Security promotion, including peace building and conflict resolution should include promotion of gender equality and combating of violence against women. This has recently been elaborated further through the compiling of a comprehensive overview of the scope and magnitude of violence experienced by women in daily life, during armed conflict and in post-conflict situations. Through contributions made by numerous authors, representing the major international organizations, governments and NGOs involved in gender related work, the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces, DCAF, has compiled the study 'Women in an Insecure World'. It provides analytical data and statistics, legal documents and policy recommendations, as well as feature stories and illustrations regarding violence against women in different contexts. One of the specific areas of concern is domestic violence. Based on the above study, with specific focus on domestic violence, the side event is to offer a closer examination of how violations of women’s rights constitute a threat to security.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: The Gender Dimension of the Roma and Sinti affairs: including situation of Roma Women as refugees
Convenor: Open Society Institute – Roma Participation Program (OSI RPP); OSI Joint Roma Women’s Initiative; Romani CRISS; ODIHR CPRSI
Working language: English, Romani

Summary: The side event will address the issue of gender dimension of the Roma and Sinti affairs. Romani men and women activists belonging to different groups and ideological orientations will discuss the subject of collective minority rights versus/and individual rights. In addition, discussions will focus on clarifying terms such as “patriarchal”, “hierarchic traditions”, “gender equality”, “collective and individual human rights”, gender & public and political participation and gender issues in crisis and post-crisis situations. It is hoped that the event will contribute to the establishment of a “Contact group on gender equality within Romani affairs”. The Council of Europe’s Report on the Situation of Roma/Gypsy women in Europe (1999) raised the challenging issue of gender equality within Romani movement and communities. Meanwhile, due to the lack of local initiatives and expertise at that time, no in-depth discussions or concrete initiatives took place. As recent as June 2006, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Romani women in the European Union.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: EU presidency Room (First Floor)
Title: Political Participation of Women
Convenor: EU Presidency (Finland) & ODIHR Democratization Department
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The event will bring together representatives of governments and civil society organizations from across the OSCE region to discuss situation in the field of women's participation in the decision making processes and review recurrent challenges and strategies for increasing women's role at various levels of policymaking. The panel of presenters will include a member of the Parliaments of Finland and Poland and prominent representatives of the civil society from Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kyrgyzstan.

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Refreshments will be provided
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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Protecting migrants in the "Old Union"
Convenor: ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Programme
Working language: English,

Summary: There have been increasing reports of the exploitation of migrant workers in Western countries. More recently new EU member state nationals have been the subject of news reports of exploitation in different industries but in particular agriculture, construction, food processing and packaging, and domestic work. Often the migrants do not speak the host country language and are isolated from the wider community. A law enforcement response has been pursued in some of these cases of labour exploitation with differing results. However law enforcement cannot tackle the policy issues that create and sustain vulnerability to exploitation for many migrants, which also require urgent attention. This event brings together expertise from law enforcement and migrants rights protection agencies to consider current responses to the problem of labour exploitation and consider ways forward.

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Refreshments will be provided
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Thursday, 05 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Putting theory into Practice: Lessons from the First States to Ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture
Convenor: Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT); Penal reform International; MFA Denmark; Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: On 22.06. 2006 the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) entered into force, after several decades of discussion and procrastination. The UN Special Rapporteur, Manfred Nowak, captured the significance of this event by stating: "the OPCAT is the most important development for the effective prevention of torture at the universal level". The greatest challenge ahead lies in the effective implementation of the instrument at both the national and international level and putting in place a system of independent monitoring of places of detention. This side-event will discuss this issue, drawing on the experiences of national actors from a range of countries which have ratified OPCAT and are now in the process of implementation.

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Refreshments will be provided
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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Presentation by the “Public Association of Soldiers Mothers”
Convenor: Delegation of the European Commission
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Delegation of the European Commission is inviting the Kyrgyz NGO "Public Association of Soldiers' Mothers" (PASM) to make a presentation on its activities concerning human rights promotion and protection in the armed forces. PASM's main mission is to protect human rights among recruits and young soldiers and to help them in case of infringements of their rights. It organizes explanatory talks, meetings and round tables on the soldiers' juridical rights, operates “trust telephones” and frequently attends military units, disciplinary battalions and guardhouses. Furthermore, PASM provides training under the topic “your rights, soldier” and is issuing information material and the magazine “Army Pedagogical Council”. This side event is also to be seen in the context of ongoing discussions on the OSCE Code of Conduct as well as on security sector reform, notably as concerns the contribution of civil society in translating relevant OSCE commitments into concrete action.

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Global Integrity: Original In-Country Data and Reporting on Governance, Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law
Convenor: Global Integrity
Working language: English

Summary: The presentation will describe ways in which Global Integrity's data and reporting can be utilized by policymakers, aid officials, the private sector and grass roots advocates to design more effective anti-corruption programs and good governance advocacy efforts. It will draw on field work data for more than 25 countries from 2004 and preview the upcoming release of data and reporting for more than 40 countries scheduled for November 2006, including first-time assessments in the broader Middle East, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Prospects and policies for Roma Ashkali and Egyptians (RAE) in the framework of the Kosovo political status
Convenor: Kosovo Roma and Ashkali Forum – KRAF; ODIHR CPRSI
Working language: English, Romani

Summary: The framework of this side event is given by the OSCE Roma and Sinti Action Plan, namely by its provisions under the Chapter VII. *Roma and Sinti in crisis and post-crisis situations*. The side event will address issues such as post-conflict resolution, reconciliation, situation of refugees, IDPs and returnees, with the purpose of reviewing the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti in post-crisis areas. The event will host presentations of strategies, action plans, and national programmes, practical initiatives meant to address the situation of RAE communities and solve the particular and complex problems that such communities are facing in post-crisis areas. Discussions will also focus on follow up actions and measures that the responsible authorities need to undertake to improve the situation of RAE communities in the societies in which they live.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 06 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Human Rights and Justice Reform in Ukraine
Convenor: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union; National Commission for the Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law (Ukraine); Ministry of Justice of Ukraine; International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The participants of the side event, who represent non-governmental organizations and the government, will provide information about the preparation of legal reforms in Ukraine aimed at the implementation of the rule of law and human rights. In particular, the following issues will be presented: the project of the judicial reform, the project of the criminal justice reform, and projects of such amendments to the legislation that provide for the realisation of the freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to the freedom of religion and the protection of personal data. The participants will speak about the progress and the challenges of the reforms, about their positive aspects and shortcomings, and about the ways of their future implementation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Bringing Social Partners Together in Facilitating Roma Integration into the Labour Market.
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI; Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; Roma Education Fund
Working language: English, Romani

Summary: The framework of the side event is given by the OSCE Roma and Sinti Action Plan, namely by its provisions under Chapter IV - Addressing socio-economic issues. Provisions 53 – 57 are addressed to OSCE participating States and to OSCE Institutions, and specifically provision 53 which states:

“At the request of participating States, the OCEEA, together with relevant international organizations, will contribute to developing approaches designed to overcome obstacles and discrimination that prevent Roma and Sinti people from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere.”

The side event will address the issue of employment and education, with the purpose of reviewing the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. As a follow up to the Bucharest conference (May 2006), the ODIHR CPRSI and OCEEA will facilitate interaction between business companies and representatives of Roma and Sinti communities in view of developing initiatives and programmes to increase access of Roma and Sinti communities to the labour market. Speakers will include those that have been involved in initiatives that bring vulnerable groups, such as the Roma, into fellowship programs in various business industries. The event will host presentations of good practices and initiatives, as implemented in various countries throughout OSCE area, and follow up needed in order to addressing integration issues.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Towards the death of the Death Penalty in the OSCE Region
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The IHF advocates the abolition of the death penalty in the OSCE region, and in particular in Uzbekistan, Belarus and the United States where executions continue to take place. This event seeks to galvanize

support for the OSCE to become a death penalty-free region. Civil society representatives from these countries as well as from Central Asia and the South Caucasus will discuss what needs to be done to achieve this aim. The side event will also commemorate the Fourth World Day against the Death Penalty

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Counter-Terrorism Measures and the Absolute Ban on Torture
Convenor: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The briefing will focus on counter-terrorism measures undermining the absolute prohibition against torture under international law and will include discussion on developments in different OSCE countries. This event forms part of the IHF 2006 yearly campaign, which is devoted to the topic of anti-terrorism and human rights, with emphasis on measures undermining the absolute ban on torture.

Refreshments will be provided

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Monday, 09 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Coalition Building in Europe
Convenor: Magenta Foundation (Netherlands) and Monitoring Group (UK)
Working language: English

Summary: A number of European NGOs are in the process of founding a coalition (Coalition Europe) that will focus on one human rights campaign at a time decided upon by consensus. By working together on a single issue, coalition-building allows NGOs to retain their own identity while focusing on what they have in common and not what keeps them apart. As time passes this will give NGOs clearer insight into the issues of others while building up trust amongst the organizations making for a more cohesive NGO community. The meeting will be convened by two of the founding organizations, Magenta Foundation (Netherlands) and the Monitoring Group (UK).

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Diversity Education – Presenting activities and outcomes of TND project
Convenor: ODIHR TND
Working language: English

Summary: The Tolerance and non-Discrimination programme of the ODIHR is undertaking an assessment project on diversity education in the OSCE region. In early 2006 OSCE delegations were invited to nominate resource persons supporting the ODIHR in collecting information to what extent diversity education is implemented in the public school systems in the respective countries. The side event intends to report on the findings of the project and wishes to introduce specific recommendations on how coherent diversity education strategies can lead to a decline of stereotyping of minority groups and strengthen the constructive handling of diverse societies of young people.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Training for International Election Observers
Convenor: German Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) was founded in 2002 by the German Government as an important step towards improving Germany's capabilities for the deployment of civilian personnel for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peace consolidation. Its mandate is to train, provide and support personnel for international operations mandated and conducted by the UN, OSCE, EU and other international organisations. Since election observation missions are an essential element of democratization processes and crisis prevention, the training and deployment of election observers is an integral part of ZIF's mandate. Training is conducted both for short-term and long-term election observers, offering a realistic preparation for mission assignments which is closely tailored to the needs in the field. Particular emphasis is given to the code of conduct and security of election observers. Within the frame of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, ZIF looks forward to present and discuss its lessons learned on four years of election observer training.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Methodology for review and assessment of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti in relation with the Governmental Programmes for Roma and Sinti
Convenor: Ministry of Interior and Administration of Poland; Permanent Delegation of Romania to the OSCE; ODIHR CPRSI
Working language: English, Romani, Polish

Summary: The framework of the side event is given by the OSCE Roma and Sinti Action Plan, namely by its provisions under the Chapter IX. Specifically, Provision 125 addressed to OSCE participating States and to OSCE Institutions, states: "Where necessary, the ODIHR-CPRSI will facilitate information-sharing among OSCE participating States that have developed or are seeking to improve national policies on Roma and Sinti people." The side event will discuss effective implementation of the Action plan to Improve the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area. The event will host presentations from Poland and Romania on their experiences with completing a questionnaire, to all participating States, collecting information on their efforts to implement the Action Plan. The panellists will also discuss good practices and initiatives. The session will open up to debates regarding what actions could be undertaken for future follow-up.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Human rights Issues in Kazakhstan and the Question of the OSCE Chairmanship: Civil Society Perspectives
Convenor: IHF
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In this briefing the IHF seeks to give leading, independent civil society human rights analysts and opportunity to discuss the human rights situation in Kazakhstan, which has come under close scrutiny in relation to the bid for the OSCE chairmanship. It should be noted that the IHF itself has taken no position on this question, issue other than to emphasize the importance of objective analysis of the situation and the obligation to adhere to Human dimension commitments.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Equality of believers and non-believers
Convenor: EHF/FHE European Humanist Federation
Working languages: English, French, Italian

Summary: In the Vienna Convention (1989) OSCE member states undertook to
“(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;

(16.2) – foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers;”

No definite figures exist as to the number of believers or of non-believers but most reliable sources indicate that between 35 and 50% (or more) of the European population are either indifferent to religion or declared humanists, atheists, agnostics or freethinkers. Nevertheless, this large part of the population and their non – religious beliefs are rarely recognised and are commonly ignored by national and international institutions in discussions about discrimination and dialogues to promote mutual understanding. This constitutes a flaw in the effective implementation of the rule of law. The EHF/FHE delegation wishes to discuss with government and NGO representatives as well as with ODIHR officers how to implement the Vienna commitment in order to defuse a potential source of tension in our societies.

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: INACH – Three years of successful co-operation against cyber hate
Convenor: International Network Against Cyber Hate
Working language: English

Summary: The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) has been founded in 2002 as a federation of online complaints bureaus monitoring cyber hate, tackling racist content and educating users. Since then INACH has become a cross-national network with nodes from 14 OSCE participating States. INACH created a durable co-operation between national complaints bureaus in order to share knowledge, exchange experience and best practice and last but not least coordinate and improve measures against hate speech. The last three years of successful co-operation of INACH members has shown that there is a huge willingness of users to complain about racist content, a big need in Europe and abroad for data on the magnitude, scope and influence of hate propaganda on the Internet and a need for educational tools to counteract the problem. During the Side Event INACH board and members will introduce the network and effective ways of combating hate speech on a daily basis. Furthermore, the new INACH report and the outcome of the annual INACH conference, which takes place on October 7 & 8 in Warsaw, will be presented.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Observation of international and constitutional norms at administration of justice in Kazakhstan
Convenor: The Altynbek Sarsenbaiuly Foundation; Protect Your Home Public Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: On July 14, 2006, the court trial concerning the criminal case on murder of prominent public figure Altynbek Sarsenbayev and his aides Vasily Zhuravlev and Baurzhan Baibosyn began. On August 31, the court announced its decision, but, regrettably, neither the investigation nor the trial answered the questions of the society. As a result of numerous irregularities during the preliminary investigation and obvious bias of the judges

during the trial, a complicated operation of abduction and triple homicide, performed with the involvement of the national security service officers, was labeled as a murder based on personal enmity.

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Tuesday, 10 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Election observation: processing and analysis of data
Convenor: ODIHR Election Department
Working language: English

Summary: The Side event will focus on the collecting, processing and analysis of information throughout the course of an election observation mission, with particular emphasis on Election Day findings. The discussion will include a review of methodology and practical modalities of preparing an analysis of key observation findings, including processing and analysis of forms completed by all short-term observers at polling station level during voting and vote counting. The meeting provides an overview of how the observation checklists are designed and adapted to a given election; how the observation checklists are collected and how data from the checklists are processed during election day and night; and finally how the data collected by short-term observers is analyzed and included in the preliminary statement issued by the election observation mission on the day after the election. In addition to the OSCE/ODIHR presentation, representatives of other intergovernmental organizations will be invited to present their respective methodologies, including the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Commission.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Assessing the needs of the Serbian Community in Kosovo: Why decentralization process is important for finding interethnic accommodation
Convenor: Center for Non-Violent Resistance (Belgrade); Forum for Ethnic Relations (Belgrade) and Jelena Anzujska (North Mitrovica, Kosovo)
Working language: English

Summary: The project *Research on the Needs of the Serbian Community in Kosovo and Metohija* which, together with a group of associates, was conducted by the non-governmental organization the Centre of Non-violent Resistance (CNR) from Belgrade, was created as an expression of the need to better understand the state of conditions of the Serbian community in Kosovo, as well as to work out the strategy of future actions, built on the foundations of the obtained results, by civil society and donors both in Serbia and Kosovo itself.

The associates of the CNR have noticed a specific imbalance in the extent of development, quality and efficiency between the Serbian and Albanian non-governmental organizations. Unequal development is reflected primarily in the fact that Serbian non-governmental organizations mainly operate on an *ad hoc* bases, are mainly guided by the targeted aims of donors, as well as that they do not frequently succeed in recognizing the key problems of their community nor work on resolving them. Further, the research team had a common double aim: *a) to define and determine the differences amongst enclaves, and based on this to prepare recommendations to be used by civil society in working out future projects for specific local areas, and b) to define similarities, common grounds and similar problems that are characteristic for all Serbian areas in Kosovo, as well as to prepare a catalogue of the needs that can be successfully serviced by Serbian civil society and donors.*

We believe that the logic we followed opens the door towards strengthening Serbian civil society efficiently and quickly and thus Serbian communities in Kosovo as well. A well-organized Serbian civil society is a prerequisite for co-operation with representatives of the Albanian civil sector because a good and meaningful dialogue can only occur if both sides are equal.

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Time: 13.00-15.00

Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Freedom of Religion or Belief and Freedom of Expression: Recent Controversies and Recent Developments
Convenor: ODIHR Advisory Council on the Freedom of Religion or Belief
Working language: English

Summary: The purpose of this side event is to focus attention on two issues which have attained considerable prominence over the last year: the continued debate about the wearing of religious symbols, and particularly the ‘headscarf’, and the issues flowing from the controversy surrounding the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad. The session will comprise three presentations, one concerning the freedom of expression in relation to matters of religious belief or objects of religious veneration and two looking at the domestic legal responses to the regulation of religious clothing and symbols in schools in the UK and France.

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: CIS Struggle against Extremism and Terrorism: the Status of Muslims and other believers
Convenor: SOVA Center for Information and Analysis (Russia); Center for Religion and Democracy (Azerbaijan)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The global “War on terror” and the resulting human rights violations are an issue for most CIS countries because of both geography and demographic reasons (a high percentage of Muslims in these countries). There are two additional factors which aggravate the problem. First, there is no tradition regarding freedom of conscience and there are many difficulties with implementation of these rights. Secondly, the topic of extremism (specifically “religious extremism”) has been extensively used in public discourse as an issue correlated with “terrorism” in order to unlawfully limit civil rights and freedoms including religious beliefs. These challenges have affected specifically Muslims and other religious communities.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Turkmenistan: Civil Liberties at Risk
Convenor: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The government of Turkmenistan, long with a poor human rights record, has recently stepped up even further its repressive policies. Neither independent political activity nor opposition candidates are allowed. The official Democratic Party of Turkmenistan (DPT) is the only legal political party. Political gatherings are illegal unless government sanctioned. There is no press freedom and no freedom of religion. In schools, children are obliged to learn by heart the Ruhnama, a collection of President Niyazov’s writings and ideas. On 14 September, RFE/RL’s Turkmen Service correspondent Ogulsapar Muradova died in custody. As of today, the Turkmen government has not given any explanation of what happened. Questions abound about the cause of her death and whether the regime was involved. This panel will examine the current human rights situation in Turkmenistan in the light of the Muradova tragedy and the prospects for change.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Sexual orientation – a Rights Perspective
Convenor: Swedish MFA

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Swedish Ombudsman against Discrimination on grounds of Sexual Orientation, Mr. Hans Ytterberg, will speak on the equality of rights, irrespective of sexual orientation, as inseparable of Human Rights as a whole. Mr. Erik Centerwall, Senior Educational Advisor, will further explain why it is necessary to talk about homosexuality, bisexuality and transpersons. His contribution will describe the development of sexuality education in Swedish schools from judgemental repression to the understanding of identities and sexualities. The side event is hosted by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and moderated by Mr. Jan Nordlander, Ambassador for Human Rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Police and Roma: towards safety in multiethnic communities
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI
Working language: English, Romani

Summary: The side event will bring together delegates of the participating States and other participants to HDIM, to discuss on the issue of reviewing the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, specifically about the international standards regarding policing in multiethnic communities and how are these implemented at national level by law enforcement institutions.

Main findings of a report on systematic review of the Romanian Police policies and practices in relation with the Roma community will be presented by the representative of the Romanian Police.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Experience on Co-operation in Implementing ODIHR Recommendations in Ukraine
Convenor: MFA Ukraine, Central Election Commission of Ukraine, OSCE Project Co-ordinator, Committee of Voters in Ukraine
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The MFA of Ukraine considers the co-operation on further strengthening of democratic election procedures between the Ukrainian Authorities and the relevant OSCE structures to be one of the flagship projects of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and a good example on joint efforts between the host nation and the OSCE in implementing OSCE standards.

This event would serve as an opportunity to share this experience with other interested parties. Hopefully, it might give some incitements to similar activities in other OSCE member states.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 11 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: HCNM Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies
Convenor: OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM); ODIHR CPRSI
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary The main goal of the side-event is to introduce and discuss the *Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies* which were drawn up by internationally recognized independent experts under the auspices of Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and presented to the 592nd Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 9 February 2006. It has been the

experience of the HCNM that police can be both a contributor and in some instances a threat to stability in states which are home to a number of ethnic groups. As a result, the police have considerable power to shape the attitudes and public perception of persons belonging to national minorities about the rule of law in the state and its capacity to act in a just, legitimate and accountable way. The *Recommendations* attempt at establishing a detailed ‘road map’ for building trust and confidence between police services and persons belonging to national minorities and provide states with practical guidance for policy makers, police, national minority communities and NGOs on how to approach policing and address the issue of police-minority interaction in multiethnic contexts across the OSCE region. The *Recommendations* are expected to become yet another tool for the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the effective implementation of his conflict-prevention mandate. The question how to achieve all these objectives is probably the best invitation and encouragement to a lively debate during the side-event.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: ODIHR/Anne Frank Teaching Material on Anti-Semitism – presentation of the pilot Programme
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and non-Discrimination Programme
Working language: English

Summary: In order to implement existing commitments, the ODIHR was tasked to assist OSCE participating States in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism, including through educational programmes. In the pilot phase, the ODIHR has worked with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and with experts from 7 countries: Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine on the development of teaching materials on anti-Semitism as a practical tool to combat this phenomenon. Based on historical and social background of each country, the material has been developed in seven special country adaptations and has been recently tested in schools. The “ready to use” material that will give detailed information, graphics and assignments for the students will come in three parts. Part 1 is on the history of Anti-Semitism, part 2 on contemporary forms of Anti-Semitism and part 3 puts Anti-Semitism into perspective with other forms of discrimination. During the side event, the experts will share their experience in developing and testing the teaching material in schools.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Role of Religion in Promoting Tolerance and the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People
Convenor: ILGA - Europe
Working language: English

Summary: The side event will look into the official attitude of different faith-based organisations (Christians and Muslims) towards issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and the role some of them play in promoting hatred and hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The participants in this side event will also strategize about the role faith-based organizations can play in promoting tolerance and acceptance towards same-sex relationships. The participants will include reverends from the Anglican Church, Metropolitan Community Church, Catholic Church and scholarly researching issues of Islam and homosexuality.

Refreshments will be provided

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Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: CIS countries: Human Rights Defenders and Civil Society under threat
Convenor: International federation for Human Rights (FIDH); World Organisation against Torture (OMCT)

Working language: English, French, Russian

Summary: In a certain number of CIS countries, the years 2005-2006 were marked by a distinct renewal of authoritarianism bringing with it the muzzling of independent civil society and a great upsurge in violations against human rights defenders.

The Russian Federation and Belarus have largely resorted to their legal arsenal to restrict freedom of association and speech. Russian defenders have been subjected to assassination or attempted assassination, as well as completely made-up judicial proceedings or defamation campaigns broadcasted on the State media. Several NGOs have also been subjected to burglaries or data base thefts.

Furthermore, in Uzbekistan, the tragic events of Andijan in May 2005 have given the authorities an extra pretext for further muzzling civil society, mostly in a violent manner.

In Kazakhstan, some laws were adopted restricting freedoms of assembly and expression and NGOs have been the victims of illegal searches.

This trend has continued in 2006 with a deterioration of the situation of defenders in particular in Uzbekistan, Belarus and the Russian Federation.

The objective of the side event is to present this situation with several human rights defenders from the region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Refugees from Uzbekistan in the CIS
Convenor: International League for Human Rights; Memorial Society
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Vitaly Ponomaryov will report on Memorial's findings concerning the treatment of refugees who fled Uzbekistan after the Andijan events, and who seek asylum in other CIS countries and in some cases have faced return. A copy of this report will be available in Russian and English.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Current Minorities issues: cultural diversity, federalism and conflict prevention
Panel 1: Federalism, a Tool for Conflict Prevention
Convenor: Walloon Region and French-speaking Community of Belgium
Working languages: English, French, Russian

Summary: On the occasion of the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE and with the participation of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, two round tables, Wednesday and Thursday, devoted to the theme of Minorities will be organized by the Walloon Region and the French-speaking Community of Belgium. The first one focuses on federalism as a tool for conflict prevention.

The goal of the discussion is to explore the role of federalism as a mode of political governance that, in specific situations, enables to regulate the coexistence of communities, and their participation in public life (in the fields of language, multiculturalism, education, media, ...) through appropriate institutional mechanisms, with regard to the identified difficulties encountered by minorities facing socio-economic and other exclusion factors. It is expected that interesting practices of relevance in the field of minorities' integration and prevention of ethnic conflicts, that can be outlined in various parts of the world, will be brought forward during the debates.

The first panel will be followed by a reception and a visit of the exhibition "Minorities" set up by the Photography Museum in Charleroi.

Reception

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: A special presentation of Human Rights films

Convenor: Church of Scientology International, European Office
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will be the screening of thirty brand new short films, each one portraying one of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 30 films, each about one minute long, are part of a world-wide human rights education campaign initiated by Youth for Human Rights International in co-operation with the Human Rights Department of the Church of Scientology International.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Importance of Being Different
Convenor: Netherlands Delegation to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: The Dutch Experience on Education & Intercultural Dialogue

Presentation of good practices based on co-operation between governmental and non-governmental organizations on cultural exchange and of sharing cultural values within a modern pluralistic society – exemplified in education (presentation by Peter Dankmeijer) and the intercultural dialogue (presentation by Juul van Hoof). **Intercultural dialogue** is a method with which diversity can be promoted as well as celebrated. Emphasising commonalities rather than differences is the basis for social cohesion and the goal of intercultural dialogues. **COC Netherlands** has built up experience in this kind of program since 2001 – the start of a period in the Netherlands that saw a radical change in the general perspective Dutch people had on their own society. **Multiculturalism**, long hailed as a good practice for people of different cultural and religious backgrounds and traditions to live together in a liberal and divers society, was suddenly regarded as the root of all evil in society. Homosexuality became one of the main issues in a heated debate on norms and values within a modern secular society with a growing immigrant population with more traditional religious traditions and convictions. Involving people with different backgrounds in intercultural dialogues will bring them into close contact with each other. LGBT people get the opportunity to be visible and to weaken prejudices concerning homo-, bisexual and lesbian lifestyles. On the other hand, LGBT people’s prejudices and fears concerning religions or cultural attitudes can be challenged in these dialogues. **Education** provides important means to share values or learn to debate them with people with different backgrounds and cultural traditions. **Empowerment Lifestyle Services** presents good practices on the implementation of policies to make schools a safe place for people of all kind of backgrounds, including LGBT pupils and teachers, in close co-operation with our Education Ministry and the Educational Inspection.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 12 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Presentation of the ODIHR TND Information System
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and non-Discrimination Programme
Working language: English

Summary: During this side event, the ODIHR’s Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System will be presented. The website gives access to collected information about tolerance and non-discrimination issues within the OSCE region in the form of legislation, statistics, reports, specialised institutions, initiatives etc. The website will also give access to relevant reports and documents from other Inter-Governmental Organisations as well as from human rights NGOs.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Christianophobia as a recent phenomenon in Europe – Cases and Remedies
Convenor: European Observatory on Christianophobia and Intolerance
Working language: English

Summary: More than 20 recent UN-documents mention the term “Christianophobia”, I.e. fear and hatred of Christians. The OSCE has a Personal representative of the Chairman-in-Office focussing on also intolerance and discrimination against Christians. As a response to a number of occurrences of Christianophobia, a European Observatory on Christianophobia and Intolerance was recently established on a non-governmental basis in Vienna. Dr. Martin Kugler, historian and board member of the Observatory, will present exemplary cases and discuss possible remedies with those interested.

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Current Minorities issues: Cultural diversity, federalism and conflict prevention
Panel 2: Minority Policies: Integration with Respect for Diversity
Convenor: Walloon Region and French-speaking Community of Belgium
Working languages: English, French, Russian

Summary: On the occasion of the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE and with the participation of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, two round tables devoted to the theme of Minorities will be organized by the Walloon Region and the French-speaking Community of Belgium. The second one focuses on minority policies.

The goal of the discussion is to explore the role of federalism as a mode of political governance that, in specific situations, enables to regulate the coexistence of communities, and their participation in public life (in the fields of language, multiculturalism, education, media, ...) through appropriate institutional mechanisms, with regard to the identified difficulties encountered by minorities facing socio-economic and other exclusion factors.

It is expected that interesting practices of relevance in the field of minorities' integration and prevention of ethnic conflicts, that can be outlined in various parts of the world, will be brought forward during the debates.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Multimedia room – Kosovo and Metohia, fact and information
Convenor: Co-ordination Center of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohia
Working language: English

Summary: An exhibition of photographs and videos taken in Kosovo and Metohia since 1999. Mrs Sanda Raskovic-Ivic, the president of the CCK, opens the exhibition and answers questions from visitors. The theme of the exhibition is: bearing witness to the difficult life of the remaining Serbs in the KiM, their endangered religious and cultural heritage, ethnically motivated crimes, ethnical cleansing and suggested protection mechanisms.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Presentation of the Study “Options for a General OSCE Human Dimension Monitoring Instrument” by the Centre for OSCE research, University of Hamburg, on behalf of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Convenor: Centre for OSCE Research CORE; University of Hamburg; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Working language: English

Summary: Governments of various OSCE participating States have expressed criticism of a geographical imbalance of human dimension activities. Responding to these concerns, OSCE reform papers have recommended that OSCE monitoring should be done in an unbiased and more standardized way. The study presents four options to create a general human dimension monitoring instrument that covers all participating States. Furthermore such an instrument has to be in line with all relevant OSCE rules (“Acquis”) and should at the same time make use of existing reporting of the UN, Council of Europe or Civil Society Organizations. The first option consists in the establishment of a rotating monitoring field mission. The second option proposes the strengthening of the existing mechanism through a questionnaire-based reporting system. As a third option, the enhancement of the monitoring function of the Third General Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly is suggested. Finally the establishment of a two-tiered OSCE Human Dimension Council with a secondary structure for a combined expert- and peer-review is designed. These four options will be presented by the authors and discussed among the participants of this side event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Discrimination against Christians
Convenor: Aid to the Church in Need
Working language: English

Summary: This event consists of the presentation of information about legal discrimination and cultural intolerance against Christians living in different countries in the OSCE region. Data has been collected by the association, which monitors these countries each year

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Combating Islamophobia – Experiences of the EU and its Member States
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE in co-operation with the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)
Working language: English

Summary: Discussion about the situation of Muslim minority communities ranks highly on the political agenda of many OSCE participating States, within the European Union (EU) in particular. The purpose of this side-event is to present available EU data and information on the situation of Muslim communities. Secondly, the side-event aims at discussing existing ‘good practices’ at national or local level that work against discrimination of members of Muslim communities in employment, education and housing, as well as against violence and crime fuelled by Islamophobia.

This side event will take the form of a panel discussion. The panel will include Mohammed Aziz, Director of Faithwise Ltd. and co-author of the EUMC’s forthcoming report on the situation of Muslims in the EU, an expert from the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, a representative of Finland’s oldest Muslim community and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. The panel will be moderated by Ambassador Aleksi Harkonen, Head of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE.

Refreshments will be provided