

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENTS

HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

“Strengthening the rule of law in the OSCE area, with special focus on the effective administration of justice”

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE 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 on relevant issues of their choice.

The opinions and information shared during the side events convened by participants do not necessarily reflect the policy of the OSCE/ ODIHR.

Wednesday, 13 May	Thursday, 14 May
<p><i>Title: Observance of the right to a fair trial in Kazakhstan: On the threshold of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in the OSCE</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: Legal Policy Research Centre</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.15 – 13.15</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Plenary Hall</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>	<p><i>Title: The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT): some findings from research</i></p> <p><i>Convenor: School of Law, University of Bristol</i></p> <p><i>Time: 12.15 – 13.15</i></p> <p><i>Venue: Plenary Hall</i></p> <p><i>Language: English, Russian</i></p>

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

As submitted by the organizers

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Seminar. The content for the meetings was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE, ODIHR.

Wednesday, 13 May

Time: 12.15 – 13.15
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Observance of the right to a fair trial in Kazakhstan: On the threshold of Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship in the OSCE
Convenor: Legal Policy Research Centre
Language: English, Russian

Summary: The fair trial guarantees from the point of view of a practicing defense lawyer in Kazakhstan.

The issue of fair trial is one of the crucial principles in the establishment of Rule of Law that need to be guaranteed by the States. Kazakhstan also has made a commitment to provide and protect the right to fair trial and to ensure transparency in the implementation of its

commitments to fair judicial proceedings. Nevertheless, the practice and different studies in this field find out the need for further steps to be taken to uphold fair trial standards in the country, including the right of the public to attend court, equality between the parties and the presumption of innocence.

New criminal justice reforms in Kazakhstan (jury, habeus corpus, judiciary): the preliminary assessment.

Kazakhstan is considered to be one of the leading countries among Central Asian states on implementation of legal and judicial reforms, on liberalization and humanization of its basic criminal justice legislation. A new criminal justice reforms in Kazakhstan includes: introduction of jury trial, the procedure of *Habeus Corpus*, judiciary reform. The preliminary assessment of these reforms made by one of the national experts analyses success and problems and presents current actual situation of Kazakhstan's criminal justice system.

The role of LPRC expert assessments in promoting the right of fair trial/Presentation of the LPRC Yearbook.

NGO LPRC founded in 2008 in Kazakhstan, is think-tank that works on promoting legal reform in Central Asia. It is analytical organization, whose objectives are directed to the promotion of principles of Rule of Law and liberal values through implementation of research and educational activities in the sphere of legal policy. Within the framework of its Research Program in criminal justice sphere the LPRC together with experts' community had published number of analytical research publications on the legal reforms. As a result, the LPRC Yearbook, which includes different draft law experts' opinion, analytical notes on the criminal justice and administrative justice issues, was published.

Refreshments will be served

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Thursday, 14 May

Time: 12.15 – 13.15
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT): Some findings from research
Convenor: School of Law, University of Bristol
Language: English, Russian

Summary: This will provide participants with information about the OPCAT and recent research conducted by Bristol University into how the OPCAT is working in practice. It will look in particular at issues relating to models of national preventive mechanisms chosen by states in the OSCE region, challenges faced by these bodies and others in implementing the OPCAT and the possible future role for the OSCE in monitoring and implementing OPCAT in the future.

Refreshments will be served

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