

**FINAL OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS**  
**As submitted by the organizers**  
**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**  
**24 September – 5 October 2012**  
**Warsaw, Poland**

*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 at the Implementation Meeting on relevant issues of their choice.*

*The side events below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.*

**Monday, 24 September**

Time: 13.15-14.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Fundamental Freedoms and Christianity in Europe. Recent findings of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe  
Convenor: Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians  
Working languages: English

Summary: Intolerance and discrimination against Christians is a growing phenomenon East and West of Vienna. The Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians ([www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu](http://www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu)) documents individual cases as well as statistics and what different institutions say about the problem. In this side event, the Observatory's director Dr. Gudrun Kugler presents the latest findings with regard to partly subtle restrictions Christians experience in their fundamental freedoms West of Vienna.

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Presentation of the new ODIHR Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Law Enforcement Officials and Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Secondary School Systems  
Convenor: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Human Rights Department  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will present two new tools ODIHR has produced to promote effective human rights education in two environments: law enforcement agencies and secondary schools. The Guidelines are based on OSCE commitments which affirm the fundamental character of human rights education. They are the result of extensive consultations with human rights educators and trainers, representatives of governmental agencies and inter-governmental organizations, human rights activists and other practitioners.

The role of law enforcement officials in protecting and respecting human rights is crucial. Therefore, human rights should be an integral part of any training or educational programme for law enforcement

officials. This strengthens the officers' capacity to respect and protect human rights and brings them closer to the communities they serve.

School systems play a central role in preparing young people to understand, cherish and claim human rights. Teachers need to be educated in human rights and on how they can be taught in schools. Human rights values should infuse school environments so that human rights become a "lived" experience through education. The human dignity of students, their teachers and other members of the school community should be fully respected so that lessons on human rights resonate in the classroom and motivate learners to respect and apply human rights in their own lives.

The invited speakers/moderators for the side event are Ms. Felisa Tibbitts of Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) and the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (USA) and Ms. Cristina Sganga, Human Rights Trainer and Advisor (United Kingdom/Italy).

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Tuesday, 25 September**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Presentation of the Chairmanship's "Perception Paper on the Review of Human Dimension Events" (CIO.GAL/112/12)  
Convenor: Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE  
Working languages: English

Summary: The current modalities of the OSCE human dimension meetings have been in place since 2002. In recent years a number of wide-ranging discussions have taken place with a view to improving the effectiveness of human dimension events to take account of developments in the intervening period. In 2011, the Lithuanian Chairmanship initiated a review of human dimension events and, to assist participating States in this process, the Swiss Chair of the Human Dimension Committee commissioned a report from Ximpulse, a Swiss consultancy.

Earlier this year the Irish Chairmanship established an Informal Working Group in Vienna to take forward the review process on the basis of the Ximpulse report. Based on these consultations, the Chairmanship circulated proposals which it believes have the potential to achieve consensus within the Permanent Council. The proposals in the perception paper are designed to strengthen the human dimension by making events more focussed, more attractive and more effective. The Chairmanship hopes that it will be possible for the participating States to agree new modalities for events in the human dimension through the adoption of a decision of the Permanent Council in the period ahead. This side event is an opportunity for HDIM participants, including representatives of civil society groups, to be briefed on the review process and to input their views and comments on the Chairmanship's proposals.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: The Right of Association within the Security Sector  
Convenor: The European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL) and the ODIHR Human Rights Department

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed themselves to guarantee the freedom of association (Copenhagen 1990). This freedom, enshrined in a number of other international human rights instruments, has been recognized as including the right to establish and join professional associations and trade unions.

Some countries in the OSCE region continue to place undue restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of association for police and military personnel. This side event will explore the current situation with regard to the freedom of association in the security sector and the important role professional associations and unions can play in this sector. The panel discussion will have a particular focus on the armed forces and will incorporate a gender perspective.

Moderator: Dr. Gerhard Ahlbrecht, EUROMIL Secretary General

Speakers: Jane Townsley, President of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP), Colonel Marian Babuška, President of “Council of Senior Officers of the Corps of Regular Soldiers”, Poland (KONWENT), Laimonas Jakas, President of “Soldiers Rights Defense Center”, Lithuania (KTGC), Caroline Henrion, EUROMIL Project Officer and Oyvind Hoyen, ODIHR Human Rights Officer.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Long-term Housing Solutions for Internally Displaced People. What has worked in the OSCE Region?  
Convenor: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Norway; Switzerland.  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Some 2.5 million people internally displaced by conflict continue to live in protracted displacement in the OSCE region. The long-term nature of their displacement and the gradual worsening of their living conditions have pushed durable solutions to their displacement further into the distance. Despite the commitment of OSCE participating States to monitor protracted displacement situations and support efforts to ensure protection and assistance to IDPs with the aim of finding durable solutions, most IDPs in the region continue to live in inadequate housing.

This side event will feature representatives from the Norwegian Refugee Council in Georgia, Help Age International in Kyrgyzstan and Intersos in Serbia. They will present lessons learned for improving IDPs' access to adequate housing at the country level that could be replicated elsewhere in the region. The event will conclude with a synthesis of key messages that could inform national housing policy for IDPs throughout the region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Implementation of international obligations by the Republic of Kazakhstan in the framework of the National Human Rights Action Plan  
Convenor: Legal Policy Research Center (LPRC), MediaNet International Centre for Journalism  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The session will address the status of the key human rights obligations of Kazakhstan regarding such substantive rights as freedom of assembly and association, freedom from torture, freedom of expression, right to fair trial and freedom of religion. The speakers will discuss the ways of short-term and long term strategies for improving the legislation and practice regarding these particular rights. A special attention will be given to recommendations on how to make the National Human Rights Action Plan an effective strategic document guiding this process of implementation of human rights standards.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Raoul Wallenberg a human rights defender  
Convenor: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden  
Working languages: English

Summary: The Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg made a unique contribution in the second half of 1944 by saving tens of thousands of Jews in Budapest from the Holocaust. His actions show that one person's courage and ability can make a difference.

The government of Sweden has decided to commemorate, in Sweden and internationally, Raoul Wallenberg's centenary in 2012 by honoring his memory with various events and activities.

This HDIM side event is organized to focus on the role of Raoul Wallenberg as a human rights defender. Mr Hans Dahlgren, Sweden's Ambassador for Human Rights is moderating the meeting and Ingrid Carlberg, the author of a recent biography on Raoul Wallenberg, will participate.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: The arbitrary detention of human rights defenders in OSCE countries – the impact of repressive legislations and practices in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Uzbekistan  
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the protection of human rights defenders (OBS) with the participation of the International Association Club of Fiery Hearts, the Human Rights Center "Viasna", Citizens Against Corruption, the Committee Against Torture (CAT).  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Human rights defenders are criminalised in several countries of the region. In some countries, legislations have been tailored to repress specifically human rights defenders, in others human rights defenders who played critical role in denouncing serious human rights violations are in turn accused and labelled as "ordinary criminals," in other countries security laws, in particular anti-terrorism laws, are used to repress and silence human rights defenders.

Representatives from human rights organizations in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Uzbekistan will provide examples about the challenges they are facing in their daily work for the defence of human rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Freedom of Information and Whistleblower Protection  
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization Department/OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In democratic states, the right of individuals to be informed of activities of public administration is fundamental to their participation in public affairs and in ensuring transparency of government. This is reflected in the 1990 Copenhagen Document, in which OSCE participating States commit "to respect the right of everyone, individually or in association with others, to seek, receive and impart freely views and information on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights to disseminate and publish such views and information".

As stated by the UN Human Rights Committee in General Comment No. 34 on Freedoms of Opinion and Expression, the freedom of information guarantee under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) embraces a general right of access to information held by public bodies, which also means that State parties should enact the necessary procedures by adopting appropriate freedom of information legislation. In practice, the proper flow of information from States to the individual is vital in ensuring good, transparent governance, and helps prevent corruption or other illegal, fraudulent or harmful activities in the public sector.

In recent years, there has been an increase of legal protection for individuals exposing wrongdoing within organizations in the hope of stopping it (whistleblowers). Whistleblowers are seen as a necessary support mechanism against corruption and abuse of power. Protecting such persons from legal liability and other negative consequences is thus in line with evolving international standards. However, legislative responses to this matter vary across the OSCE region. While some States have anchored safeguards for whistleblowers in their legislation, pertinent legal reform efforts are still being debated in others. A number of States have not yet focused on the issue at a policy level. A lack of proper legal protection often prevents potential whistleblowers from exposing serious malpractice.

This side event will focus on international standards of access to information and how they can be translated into domestic legislation. It will also focus on the protection of whistleblowers in such legislation, and good practices in this context.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: A Sobering Reality: Fundamental Freedoms in Central Asia under Continuous Threat  
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee/International Partnership for Human Rights/Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law/Initiative Group of Independent Human Rights Defenders Of Uzbekistan/Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: After more than 20 years of independence, significant challenges remain for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in fulfilling OSCE human dimension commitments. Fundamental freedoms are under continuous threat. The discussion at this event will focus in particular on current challenges undermining the right to freedom of expression in these Central Asian countries, including restrictions on internet freedoms. Challenges to the rights to freedom of religion, as well as freedom of association and assembly will also be highlighted. International experts as well as human rights activists from the three Central Asian countries (among others, Yevgeni Zhovtis) will give their views on developments in these fields and discuss recommendations for how to address existing problems.

The event is organized by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee in cooperation with its partners the International Partnership for Human Rights (Brussels), the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, the Initiative Group of Independent Human Rights Defenders of Uzbekistan and the Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: New assault on civil society and fundamental freedoms in Russia: Adoption of repressive laws and persecution of activists  
Convenor: International Youth Human Rights Movement/Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights (Russia)/Moscow Helsinki Group (Russia)/Foundation for Environmental and Social Justice (Russia) with support of the coalition "Human rights defenders – for fundamental freedoms in Russia" and the "Civic Solidarity" International Cooperation Platform

Working languages: English, Russian

**Summary:** In the course of several weeks of May-July 2012, immediately after the return of Vladimir Putin to the presidency, a package of repressive laws was swiftly adopted in Russia. They include the law on public assemblies, the law on NGOs as “foreign agents”, the law on libel as a criminal offense, the law on control of harmful information in the Internet, and regional laws on administrative responsibility for the so-called “propaganda of homosexuality”. In an unprecedented way this legislation restricts fundamental freedoms of association, assembly, and expression. These laws are seen by civil society activists as unlawful, discriminatory, anti-constitutional, going contrary to Russia’s international obligations, and aimed at silencing the dissent and growing civic activism during the wave of protests in winter and spring this year. Accompanied by increasingly hostile rhetoric of government officials, beating of demonstrators by the police, criminal persecution of civil society and opposition activists, and politically motivated court verdicts, these new laws represent an assault on civil society and vital freedoms in Russia. Representatives of Russian and international human rights NGOs will present the main challenges posed by the new repressive legislation in Russia and share their vision on possible response by the OSCE and its participating states.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Wednesday, 26 September**

**Time:** 13.00-15.00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 1  
**Title:** Launching of ODIHR trial monitoring tools:  
1. *The Legal Digest of Fair Trial Rights* and  
2. The revised Edition of the *Trial Monitoring: A Reference Manual For Practitioners*  
**Convenor:** ODIHR Democratization Department  
**Working languages:** English, Russian

**Summary:** The objective of this side event is to launch two new trial monitoring tools: the *Legal Digest of Fair Trial Rights*, and the revised *Trial Monitoring - A Reference Manual for Practitioners*. Both tools aim at building the capacity of legal practitioners to conduct professional trial monitoring.

The *Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights* provides legal practitioners with a comprehensive description of fair trial rights coupled with practical checklists based on the experience of OSCE trial monitoring operations. The *Legal Digest* builds on international laws and standards applicable in criminal and non-criminal proceedings as referenced in the OSCE Human Dimension commitments and spelled out by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), in addition to the OSCE Human Dimension commitments.

*Trial Monitoring - A Reference Manual for Practitioners* was first published in 2008 and includes a collection of methodologies, tools and techniques for trial monitoring. After a substantial revision and update, ODIHR is now launching the second edition of the *Reference Manual*. This second edition broadens the scope of the original manual and covers civil and administrative proceedings as well. Further, the revised edition goes beyond the public phase of the trial and includes activities such as monitoring of closed hearings and of investigative proceedings.

*Refreshments will be provided*

**Time:** 13.00-15.00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2  
**Title:** The situation on prevention of torture in Central Asia. Challenges and perspectives  
**Convenor:** Open Society Institute, Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan, OSCE Centre in Bishkek  
**Working languages:** English, Russian

Summary: Discussion of problems on prevention of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in Central Asia. The achieved results and prospects of development of human rights protection.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Sharing OPCAT Experiences in OSCE Countries  
Convenor: Association for the Prevention of Torture, Denmark, Switzerland, Serbia  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT, [www.apr.ch](http://www.apr.ch)) supported by Switzerland, Denmark and Serbia invites you to share experiences on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the OSCE countries following last November's first Global Forum on the OPCAT. The OPCAT establishes a system of visits to all places of deprivation of liberty, by independent national and international bodies.

As of August 2012, 33 States from the OSCE region had ratified the OPCAT, while 9 additional States had signed it. 25 States from the OSCE have established a national monitoring mechanism to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment at the national level (NPMs). This event will bring together representatives from countries where the OPCAT has become a reality at the domestic level: NPM representatives from the Czech Republic and Serbia will share their views on the operational challenges and progress made at the national level on torture prevention initiatives.

The side event will be chaired by APT Secretary General, Mr. Mark Thomson.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.00  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Parliamentary elections in Belarus of September 23. Why was it important?  
Convenor: The Assembly of Democratic NGOs of Belarus/Human Rights Centre  
Viasna/Belarusian Association of Journalists  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The most up-to-date information about the Parliamentary Elections in Belarus of September 23, 2012 from the Belarusian human rights defenders and their international colleagues.

We present comprehensive and objective information about the course, the procedures and the outcomes of the recent election campaign in Belarus on the basis of long term domestic observation mission. You will also learn about the developments in the country since the previous elections of 2010, hear about the new legislative initiatives, directly concerning human rights in the country, and discover the findings of the monitoring of the media and media freedom during the election campaign, presented by the most prominent civil society organizations in Belarus.

Time: 14.00-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Systemic human rights crisis in Belarus: Challenge to the international community  
Convenor: Committee on International Control over the Human Rights Situation in Belarus with support from the "Civic Solidarity" International Cooperation Platform  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Belarus remains one of the most repressive countries in the OSCE region. The situation with human rights and the rule of law in the country continues to deteriorate despite numerous resolutions by OSCE, the UN bodies, the Council of Europe, the EU, and national governments. Politically motivated persecution of civic and political activists, detention and beating of demonstrators, searches in offices and homes of human rights defenders and journalists, and pressure on lawyers, and impunity of

perpetrators continue unabated. A leading Belarusian human rights defender, Nobel Peace Prize nominee Ales Bialiatski remains imprisoned as a result of unfair and politically motivated trial, as well as more than a dozen of other political prisoners who all face degrading and inhuman treatment. Measures taken by the international community to persuade Belarus to follow its OSCE commitments seem to have no impact, as Belarus continues to show open disregard for its human rights obligations. Belarus' non-cooperation with the OSCE mechanisms, including its refusal to adhere to the recommendations of the Moscow Mechanism report of 2011, represents a challenge to the organization and the international community at large.

The Committee for International Control over Human Rights Situation in Belarus, an international coalition of some 60 NGOs from 15 countries of the OSCE region ([www.hrwatch-by.org](http://www.hrwatch-by.org)) has been playing in active role in international response to crackdown on human rights in Belarus since the presidential elections on December 19, 2010, including through its International Observation Mission and other instruments. At the briefing, the representatives of the Committee will share their views on the developments in Belarus in 2012 and discuss possible measures to be taken by the OSCE and its participating States to address the systemic human rights crisis in the country, including development of new follow-up instruments to build on the Moscow Mechanism report and other existing OSCE tools.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Labour and Social Rights of Seafarers in OSCE Region: Threats and Cooperation  
Convenor: Ukrainian Independent Maritime Trade Union  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: Today the defense of labor and social rights of seafarers in terms of total globalization of the world trade navigation is a common task for states in the OSCE region. Problems with nondiscrimination of seafarers, effective state guarantees of their rights, compensation practices and problems with implementation of the modern ILO international legal standards of seafarers' rights (such as MLC-2006) demand for intensive cooperation in OSCE region. Ukraine as the fourth country in world by seafarer officers personnel quantity, that donates the seafarers labor to the global market, during its Chairmanship in OSCE in 2013 must initiate the coherent OSCE activities and lead the process of cooperation in this area.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Romani Women and Access to Health Care  
Convenor: European Roma Rights Centre and ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues  
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: Romani women experience discrimination on multiple grounds, and this is particularly evident in the area of health care. Discrimination against Romani women in access to health care is most evident in the areas of reproductive and maternal health, with coerced sterilisation being amongst the most egregious violations of Romani women's rights.

Disparities in health status between Roma and non-Roma are frequently explained in terms of economic inequalities such as overrepresentation of Roma in the lowest economic strata of the societies in which Roma live; overrepresentation of Roma in the categories of the uneducated or poorly-educated; and higher exposure to health-related risk factors such as poor living conditions.

Housing interventions by public authorities have a particularly negative impact on Roma health, as Roma are at times forcibly relocated to toxic or hazardous sites on the periphery of towns and cities. Barriers



experienced by Roma in accessing health care are also linked in some cases to the exclusion of Roma from public health insurance schemes. The disadvantaged position of Romani women compared to Romani men means that they are disproportionately affected by the above.

Objective: This side event will provide a unique opportunity for Romani women who have experienced health rights violations to talk about their experiences with OSCE representatives, participating States and civil society actors. This side event aims to discuss the policy undertakings made in this context in light of the real problems of Romani women in accessing health care as well as to enable open discussion between OSCE participating States and civil society how to ensure effective implementation of health-related policy with respect to Romani women's health concerns.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Rule of law in Uzbekistan: Increasing rights violations, imprisonments and the worsening climate for Businesses, NGOs and Media.  
Convenor: Human Rights Watch and Mobile TeleSystems (MTS)  
Working languages: English

Summary: The event will focus on the overall worsening situation in Uzbekistan with regard to basic standards of human rights, arbitrary detentions and recent attacks on businesses. Besides representatives from Human Rights Watch, there will be a representative from MTS, the leading telecommunication provider in Uzbekistan, which recently has become subject of an unlawful attack including the arbitrary detention of people etc. Also, it is planned to have other rights activists present. The event will be structured around short speeches of several panelists followed by a general panel discussion.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Human rights violations under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization  
Convenor: Organized by International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), with the participation of NGOs Institute of Human Rights (Russia) and Citizens Against Corruption (Kyrgyzstan)  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The SCO was created on 15 June 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. 9/11 gave the SCO further justification to reinforce authoritarian security policies, leading to repressive measures targeting civil society as well as the perpetration of serious human rights violations. More than ten years on, human rights defenders from SCO member states have documented numerous serious human rights violations resulting from inter-state cooperation and the national implementation of agreements under the SCO's security and political framework relating to the fight against the "three evils" of terrorism, extremism and separatism. Basic rights such as the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom from torture and the duty of non-refoulement, are increasingly being violated. Meanwhile, victims lack adequate access to effective remedies at the national level. In this context of impunity, victims' access to international and regional human rights mechanisms and remedies takes on additional significance.

Participants will share their views and experiences, and present FIDH's report (September 2012) "Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: a Vehicle for human Rights Violations."

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: U.S. Reception honoring Civil Society with a special focus on fundamental freedoms  
Convenor: U. S. Mission to the OSCE  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The U.S. will host an open reception for civil society activists to honor their efforts, determination, and courage. In keeping with the U.S. theme for HDIM, the reception will focus on the fundamental freedoms of expression, association, and assembly which face increasing restrictions across the OSCE space. The U.S. will highlight its commitment to protecting fundamental freedoms in the digital age and progress on building substantial consensus for a draft Ministerial declaration on Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age (FFIDA). The meeting will provide a critical opportunity for the U.S. delegation and other delegations to engage and hear from activists and for networking among civil society.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Thursday, 27 September**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Democratizing knowledge on international criminal justice  
Convenor: Central and Eastern European Initiative for International Criminal Law and Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: The Legal Tools Database (LTD) of the International Criminal Court is a freely available, constantly updated by the ICC and its partners, including the ICLHR Initiative, internet repository of over 50,000 legal documents related to human rights law and international criminal and humanitarian law. It is available at [www.legal-tools.org](http://www.legal-tools.org). The LTD together with other Tools of the ICC are the leading information services used by judges, prosecutors, lawyers, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties in dealing with research, documentation, prosecution and adjudication of core international crimes.

ICLHR Initiative is also a coordinator of the Core International Crimes Database project. This future platform will enable a logical and deep search of national and international case-law.

At the side-event, we will present both tools and picture them in the context of OSCE's commitments related to international humanitarian law and human rights education. We will discuss why and how the OSCE and participating States should and could support this kind of projects.

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: National Minorities in Kyrgyzstan: In search of a cure  
Convenor: Alisher Navoi Institute  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The issue of national minorities is still critical in southern Kyrgyzstan after two years of inter-ethnic violence. The recommendations of international organizations are yet to be fully implemented. What more should be done by the local and international authorities to remove tension between Uzbek and Kyrgyz communities in prevention of future conflict?

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Racism, Intolerance and violence against Roma and Sinti communities  
Convenor: European Roma Rights Centre and ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues  
Working languages: English, Romani

**Summary:** The past few years have witnessed a rise in the reported aggressive incidents and violent acts against Roma and Sinti in a number of European states. Racist or stigmatizing anti-Roma rhetoric also has been on the rise both in public and political discourse, including accusations that Roma as an ethnic group are engaged in criminal behavior. There are well-documented examples from many countries. In some cases, these words were understood as encouraging violent action against the Roma, such as mob riots or violence. In recent months, we witnessed that extreme-right groups prone to exploiting anti-Roma prejudice and hostility or violence against Roma are continuing with their activities. In one country, a far-right political party joined by far-right vigilante groups organized large-scale marches through Roma neighbourhoods chanting anti-Roma slogans and in some instance throwing objects at Roma houses. Media and NGOs reported that during these anti-Roma demonstrations, a number of speeches were made containing anti-Roma sentiments, which generated feeling of insecurity among Roma. The ERRC has lately monitored similar trends across other countries.

In 2009 the OSCE Ministerial Council expressed concern over the increase of violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti and urged the participating States to address this trend as well as to unequivocally and publicly condemn any violence targeting Roma and Sinti and to take all necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies.

**Objective:** this side event provides an opportunity to raise awareness among OSCE participating States about ongoing racism, intolerance and hate-motivated violence against Roma and Sinti and its broader negative impact on these communities. Moreover, this side event will stimulate open discussion between OSCE participating States and civil society about the effective implementation of policies that will tackle violence and the root causes of violence, with a particular focus on prevention measures.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Priorities of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in 2012: position of human rights organizations  
Convenor: Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union with support of the “Civic Solidarity” International Cooperation Platform  
Working languages: English, Russian

**Summary:** The event will be devoted to upcoming Ukraine's chairmanship in the OSCE in 2013. Ukrainian human rights organizations in cooperation with colleagues from NGOs in the OSCE participating States – members of the “Civic Solidarity” International Cooperation Platform – have developed recommendations that should be considered by the government of Ukraine as priority during the country's Chairmanship in the OSCE.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: The right to housing, forced evictions and Roma and Sinti women  
Convenor: Amnesty International, European Roma Rights Centre and ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues  
Working languages: English, Romani

**Summary:** A significant number of Roma and Sinti families continue to live in residential segregation facing substandard living conditions and lack of security of tenure. These families are especially vulnerable to forced evictions and they face discrimination in accessing housing. In most cases the efforts of participating States in addressing the housing needs of Roma and Sinti proved unsuccessful. The dire conditions many Roma and Sinti families live in, whether in urban ghettos or isolated and cut off from services in settlements in rural areas, condemn inhabitants to hazardous health conditions affecting especially children and women.

Roma and Sinti women are particularly affected by multiple discrimination on the grounds of gender and ethnicity, violations of their right to housing, and forced evictions that are widespread across Europe. At the same time, Romani women living in informal settlements in various countries are fighting for their rights, the rights of their families and communities, and for justice. Ensuring Roma and Sinti families have equal access to housing is a precondition for the sustainable integration of these communities.

The side event intends to raise awareness of these issues and urge participating States to refrain from violating the housing rights of Roma, in particular Roma women. Moreover it should work to inspire the participating States and organizations to address particular challenges and violations Roma and Sinti women face in the enjoyment of their right to housing, through related research, programmes and sharing of good practices.

*Refreshments will be provided*

**Time:** 18.00-20.00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2  
**Title:** Strengthening the Roma families and communities in Hungary through the cooperation of grassroots and government programs – and the role of Christian churches in this work  
**Convenor:** Civil Conciliatory Forum  
**Working languages:** English

**Summary:** This side-event aims to present good examples of the role of the civil society – how can a grassroots project achieve great successes and bring a lot of joy and hope into disadvantaged peoples' life. The program supports other educational programs, which can be used as models – and can be applied in the short term in many areas. It builds strong cooperation with and among civil, religious and government programs. Although the programs focus primarily on education, the organizers are aware that their success and future viability will also depend to a large extent on a more open value-based teaching environment and a more open society.

### **Friday, 28 September**

**Time:** 13.00-15.00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 1  
**Title:** Breaking the Silence: Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by implementing International Standards  
**Convenor:** OSCE/ODIHR – OSCE Gender Section/Council of Europe/UN Women  
**Working languages:** English, Russian

**Summary:** Despite the existence of comprehensive legal and policy frameworks at both international and national levels, violence against women continues to be one of the most widespread and pervasive human rights violations.

Recognizing the threat to human security that violence against women, including domestic violence, poses, OSCE participating States are urged to “take all necessary [...] measures to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls” (Ministerial Council Decision 15/05 on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women). Opened for signature in May 2011, the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing

and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence is the first legally binding instrument in Europe to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and is the most far-reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights.

This side event will provide an opportunity to raise mutual awareness among OSCE participating States and Council of Europe Member States about existing obligations as well as commitments to prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence, and to discuss possibilities for joint promotion of international standards in this sphere.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Human rights of women prisoners  
Convenor: Penal Reform International  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Despite legal frameworks to promote gender equality and protect women's rights, women across the OSCE region continue to face gender-based discrimination in their access to justice. The OSCE HDIM has got a tradition of raising and countering gender-based discrimination and violence against women. Such discrimination includes discriminatory, gender-specific offences and reasons for detention, the impact of the lack of financial resources in order to prevent detention and a prison system that has been designed by men for male prisoners. Multiple discrimination results in particular vulnerability of girls, non-nationals and women from minority groups, pregnant women and women with disabilities.

Standards to address the specific needs of female offenders have been lacking until the adoption of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) by the UN General Assembly in December 2010. Yet, this relatively new set of standards is not yet well known and states need to do more in order for the Rules to become a reality. In order to support implementation PRI has drafted a Guidance Document, offering practical guidance to legislators, policymakers, prison authorities and other actors to respond appropriately to the needs of women offenders.

The document is combined with an Index of Compliance in order to enable States to benchmark and measure their progress in implementation. Within each chapter the Index of Compliance goes through each rule, under thematic headings, which match those of the Guidance Document, with questions intended to assess the implementation of the rule and perhaps more importantly, to provide a point of reference to those who are responsible for implementing the rules, as to which questions they need to ask themselves and their staff. A Russian version of the Index has just been finalised. Pilot assessments of the Index in PRI's regional offices are ongoing, and an analysis of women prisoners' access to healthcare in Kazakhstan has been conducted in the past year.

At this side event, PRI's Secretary General, Mrs Juliet LYON, will present PRI's Index of Compliance. Subsequently, the example of Kazakhstan will be presented to illustrate the application of the PRI Index of Compliance in practice focusing on healthcare related provisions. Starting off with a presentation of a legislative analysis PRI's regional office in Astana has undertaken within a project funded by the European Union on "Prevention of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in women's prison" PRI will present the preliminary findings of the pilot assessment currently undertaken in Kazakhstan.

The side event is aimed at:

- ) Raising awareness about the UN Bangkok Rules
- ) Presenting PRI's Index of Compliance, including the newly available Russian version
- ) Using analysis and the pilot assessment on the implementation of healthcare related provisions in Kazakhstan as an illustrative example.

At this side event we will be presenting the following documents:

- PRI Index of Compliance on the UN Bangkok Rules

- PRI Guidance Document on the UN Bangkok Rules PRI in Central Asia, Legislative Analysis : Medical Services for Women Prisoner

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
 Venue: Meeting Room 3  
 Title: Domestic Servitude in Diplomatic Households – A challenge for the International Community  
 Convenor: OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings/Austria/Switzerland;  
 Working languages: English

Summary: Domestic work constitutes one of the largest but least visible service industries in the world. Millions of domestic workers make up a growing segment of the global labour force. The majority are women and migrant workers. Due to the isolated physical and social setting of their work, domestic workers are especially vulnerable to humiliation, abuse, violence, exploitation, or, in some cases, even subject to domestic servitude and domestic slavery. The victims are often hard to identify and cases can be found in households of every social stratum, including those enjoying diplomatic privileges and immunities. In diplomatic households, detection of such crimes, assisting victims, and providing access to justice is extremely challenging.

The side event aims at discussing the situation of domestic workers in diplomatic households from different perspectives.

Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, National Coordinator on Combating Human Trafficking, Austria, Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and Ms. Nivedita Prasad, from the German NGO “Ban Ying” will present their national initiatives, best practices and discuss how to tackle current challenges as well as how to develop and implement concrete and effective measures to prevent domestic servitude in diplomatic households.

Time: 13.00-15.00  
 Venue: Opera Room  
 Title: Unlocking the Truth in Europe: Accountability for European Complicity in CIA Renditions and Secret Detentions  
 Convenor: Amnesty International  
 Working languages: English

Summary: On 11th September 2012, the plenary of the European Parliament adopted with an overwhelming majority a report that urges European Union countries to fulfil their legal obligation to investigate their roles in the global CIA-led rendition and secret detention programmes, which involved the torture and the enforced disappearance of alleged terrorism suspects.

Experts on this issue, including Amnesty International’s Researcher on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights and a legal representative of a victim of the rendition programme will discuss the significance of the report and the ongoing obstacles to achieving accountability in Europe.

**Monday, 1 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
 Venue: Meeting Room 1  
 Title: How can the OSCE and its participating States work better together to strengthen the right to freedom of religion or belief?  
 Convenor: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The purpose of this side event is to discuss where the OSCE might best focus its efforts in promoting and defending freedom of religion or belief in its participating States. The side event will look at the role the OSCE has played to date and might play in the future in supporting this fundamental freedom by means of a case study focusing on Kazakhstan. But we will aim to generate discussion more broadly on why freedom of religion or belief cannot be ignored, where the OSCE can best add value and how the OSCE and its participating States can work together most effectively.

Event chaired by Louise de Sousa, Head of the Human Rights & Democracy Department in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Guest Speaker: Professor Malcolm Evans OBE, Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol (UK); Chair, UN Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture; Member of the OSCE Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief; Member of the UK Foreign Secretary's Advisory Group on Human Rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Building Coalitions against Intolerance and Discriminations  
Convenor: European Muslim initiative for Social Cohesion (EMISCO)  
Working languages: English

Summary: Today, more and more people are committing themselves to the ideals of a just, equal and peaceful society in which people of different religions, ethnicities and cultures can happily co-exist. All sensible people reject the notion that any single religion or culture can claim a monopoly over wisdom.

It is therefore necessary to make sound and pluralistic reflections on these issues by Jewish, Christian and Muslim intellectuals, academicians, officials and civil society representatives. If there were ever a time that religious pluralism and peace ought to be seriously cherished by politicians, public officials, intellectuals, policymakers and the media, as well as by the general audience, that time is now.

Today, we need to build new coalitions between all actors of our society to fight against xenophobia, anti-Semitism, islamophobia and various forms of intolerance and discrimination.

For that, we have to take into consideration not only present manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, but also have to recognize the historical, cultural and psychological depth of the issue. In the same time, a relatively sound normative framework, both nationally and internationally, does exist. What is needed is to put this normative framework into full use and implementation.

Through this side-event, we want to share the idea that various forms of intolerance and discrimination need not be subject to an artificial hierarchy. Within that respect, there should be complementarity between efforts dealing with different forms of discrimination. Discussing this topic during the Freedom of Religion and Belief Session of HDIM in Warsaw, will give a new platform to build coalitions for fighting together against all form of intolerance.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Blasphemy Laws, Religious Oaths and Secular Education :  
Protecting the Human Rights of Atheists and non-believers  
Convenor: Atheist Ireland  
Working languages: English

Summary: The human rights of atheists are disrespected in OSCE countries, including through blasphemy laws, religious oaths and lack of secular education. How can we protect equally the rights of theists and atheists without discrimination? The answer is secular states, that promote neither religion nor atheism, but instead promote and protect pluralism while staying neutral on the issues of theology and religion.

The OSCE Annual Report 2011, under Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, says that three events were organized in Prague, Rome and Vienna to specifically confront Anti-Semitism and discrimination against Christians and Muslims. But why did the OSCE give these three religions this special emphasis, and why was there no event to specifically confront the discrimination against atheists?

This meeting will examine how the OSCE can specifically confront the discrimination against atheists. Speakers will include Michael Nugent, chairperson of Atheist Ireland; Professor David Nash of Oxford Brookes University, UK, an expert in blasphemy laws; and Jane Donnelly of Atheist Ireland, an expert on secular education.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: The Zhanaozen strike one year later - how did it change Kazakhstan?  
Convenor: Open Dialogue Foundation, International Foundation Front Line Defenders  
Working languages: English, Russian, Polish

Summary: Zhanaozen has become a symbol of social mobilization in the fight for the threatened workers' rights and against civil and social discrimination. Peaceful form, dynamics and scale of the workers' protest has become a challenge to the authoritarian system of the government. As a result, the dissent faced a strong counteraction from the state security forces. For the first time in the history of modern Kazakhstan, its opposition groups, on whose work in the sphere of strategic raw materials industry the country's economy is based, have expressed their protest against the system. In 2012, strikes began among workers of steel mills and coal mines in other regions of the country. Attempts to ignore the strike, and then, attempts to suppress it, accompanied by provocations, batteries, fatal accidents, arrests, convictions and social pressures, have undermined the government's social authority and its image in the international arena.

Brutal pacification of the strike in Zhanaozen did not signify the end of oppression aimed at striking oil workers. In June 2012, trials against the detainees ended with their convictions and imprisonment from 3 to 7 years. The wave of oppression has also struck the opposition and representatives of NGOs. The most common allegation against the arrested oppositionists, journalists and social activists are charges of "inciting social hatred", through which the authorities are trying to put the blame for the escalation of the conflict and tragedy in Zhanaozen upon representatives of political opponents and independent environments. On the 16th of August, 2012, the most crucial political trial in the history of Kazakhstan commenced. The principal accused is the leader of the democratic opposition Vladimir Kozlov, who is now facing up to 13 years in prison. The efforts to curb the activities of independent media have been particularly intensified: allegations of provoking the conflict in Zhanaozen and "terrorism information", made against them, are aimed to label them as extremist groups. Should these efforts be successful, the activity of the opposition media will be prohibited by law.

International observers, who have participated in the trials, will make statements on the judicial processes of the striking workers and Vladimir Kozlov. Also, the report which documents the widespread cases of the use of torture against the defendants and witnesses during the interrogations will be presented.

*Refreshments will be provided*

-----



Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Understanding Diversity in Gender Self-identification for the Public Debate  
Convenor: Redeemed Lives USA  
Working languages: English

Summary: Gender identity is a key category for understanding what it means to be a human being with inalienable rights. There is a diversity of self-identifications regarding gender that must be tolerated and not discriminated against so as to protect the rights of religious people with unwanted same-sex attractions for whom gay or lesbian are not the fitting descriptors. This is especially so for men and women who are defined by the various faiths of the Judeo-Christian worldview. To be truly inclusive of the rights of all people, it is imperative to understand and honour all self-definitions of gender so as to protect the rights of all people for self-emancipation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: “Universal Code on Holy Sites”- a step towards religious freedom and tolerance?  
Convenor: Religions for Peace  
Working languages: English

Summary: Holy sites are of crucial significance to billions of people across the globe. Yet history demonstrates again and again how easy it is for sacred places to be caught up in political, territorial and religious tensions, becoming themselves pawns of conflicts. These sites touch at the very heart of peoples’ religious, cultural and political identities and are often used to control and subjugate. Too often the result is that religions themselves become synonymous, in many people’s minds, with violence, suffering and extremism and thus lose their power to be a force for peace, justice and reconciliation. Visible inter-religious respect and cooperation around a universal code on Holy Sites, therefore, would not only improve the possibility for people to safely visit their sacred places but also minimize religious tension internationally. Furthermore political acceptance for such a code could diminish the negative role of religion within political tensions as well.

“The Universal Code on Holy Sites” is an initiative that is undertaken by four organisations: One World in Dialogue, The Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, Search for Common Ground and Religions for Peace. The Code has been developed through a consultative process, involving scholars from most major world religions. It has been signed on to by a number of religious leaders and organizations. Two pilot projects have been initiated to test out the viability and relevance of the Code: Bosnia & Herzegovina, and the Holy Land (Jerusalem). Efforts are being made to have the Code as a starting point for a UN General Assembly Resolution.

The side event will highlight the main features of the “Universal Code on Holy Sites,” and discuss its relevance in OSCE member countries. The pilot project in Bosnia will be presented. The event will finally explore support for a UN General Assembly Resolution that will support the main ideas and principles outlined in the Code.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: The state of religious freedom in Europe today: Emerging issues and remedies  
Convenor: Alliance Defending Freedom  
Working languages: English

Summary: What is the state of religious freedom in Europe today and what happens when competing rights collide? Who “wins” and who decides? This side event will address emerging threats to religious freedom in Europe, as well as looking to possible remedies and policy aspirations for OSCE

implementation. Alliance Defending Freedom is a well-established NGO which daily engages in legal and policy matters in this important area.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: National minority's problems and prospects on the example of Ossetian ethnicity  
Convenor: NGO "Sandidzan", NGO "Ossetia accuses"  
Working languages: Russian

Summary: Meeting on national minorities' rights in globalizing world on the example of Ossetian ethnicity.

### **Tuesday, 2 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Religious Accommodation and Pluralism in Canada: what can OSCE member-states learn from an evolving multicultural model?  
Convenor: Canadian Council on American- Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN)  
Working languages: English

Summary: Meeting the needs of Canadians through religious accommodation has taken on new meaning in the face of shifting demographics and emerging contexts.

Whereas Canada had previously enjoyed a reputation as a multicultural utopia, it is proving more and more challenging for the State and other public institutions to balance competing religious rights and civil liberties, as well as to respond and adapt to the changing character of its population. In almost every aspect of everyday life, new realities are testing the ideals of multiculturalism.

This round-table discussion aims to explore the challenges of religious accommodation and how Canadian institutions are navigating these uncharted waters.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Family Education of Young for gender equality, absence of violence, insulting, humiliating, ridiculing and ironizing against women, children and other members of Family and consequently against other people. Education to prevent racism, intolerance and discrimination against any group of people.  
Convenor: Marije Zivkovic, Family Centre, Zagreb, Croatia  
Working languages: English

Summary: In Family based on freely and personally chosen and decided tender, mutual, life long, respectful, unconditional, irrevocable, permanent, active, serious and mature love and care between one man and one woman, their children and other members of family it is possible educate young for adequate self respect, respect of others, absence or minimalisation of violence, insulting, ridiculing, humiliating, also racism intolerance and discrimination under any pretext. That is possible by parental example (also grandparents and other elders example), by intelligent explanation about value and importance of every human being, about dignity of every human being, by involving young in groups of families with similar aims. Such Families exist in every country and that fact has to be recognized and such families should be helped. Governments and international institutions should give more support programs which help families to be efficient educators in described direction.

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Monitoring of Manifestations of Intolerance and Discrimination against LGBT Persons  
Convenor: International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) Europe/Germany/United States of America/Belgium/ Canada/Croatia/the European External Action Service/Spain/ Finland/United Kingdom/Norway/Netherlands/Sweden/Switzerland  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Despite the comprehensive set of commitments of OSCE participating States related to equality, tolerance and non-discrimination, LGBT persons across the OSCE region often face discriminatory treatment. They even experience physical violence, harassment or assault because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

One of the major challenges that governments face in fighting hate crimes against LGBT persons is the lack of information and the poor recording of hate crimes. In recent years, various strategic capacity building initiatives have been undertaken by leading civil society organisations. In addition, the number of countries officially collecting data on hate crimes against LGBT people has increased. It is, however, still a long way to go before the scale and nature of hate crime against LGBT people is fully understood and effectively responded to.

This side-event will present key approaches to monitoring and capacity building in the area of hate crime, namely: international strategic monitoring and capacity building activities conducted by non-governmental organisations, grass roots monitoring and engagement with local authorities, and cross government monitoring frameworks, that aim to improve data collection and monitoring at the national level.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: The problem of neo-Nazism in Eastern Europe and FSU (former USSR)  
Convenor: International Human rights Movement “World without Nazism”  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Eastern Europe and States of the former USSR are now one of the main regions where the risk of radical nationalism is strongest. Anti-Roma issues in Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania, the anti-Russian sentiment in the Baltic countries, the problem of non-citizens in Latvia and Estonia, a frightening rise in popularity of nationalists in Russia, where a growing number of hate crimes was fixed in this year, violations of the rights of national minorities in Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan – all of that are the evidence of the big danger of neo-Nazism in this region. The International Human rights Movement “World without Nazism” proposes to organize a round table on the topic.

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: The Potential and Documented Benefits and Harmfulness of Offering Professional Guidance and Therapeutic Care for Unwanted Sexual Minority Concerns  
Convenor: International Federation for Therapeutic Choice  
Working languages: English (Handouts of Guidelines for ethical practice will be available in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Polish)

Summary: Some sexual minorities, i.e. persons with non-heterosexual orientations, atypical gender identifications, or other behavioral tendencies want to realize their right to personal autonomy and self-determination, i.e. to the “full development of their personality” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26; cf. Articles 22 & 29), in such a way as not to base their relational and sexual lives according to these behaviors, orientations, and/or identifications.

In this side event, potential and documented benefits and harm for offering professional guidance and therapeutic care to persons who experience unwanted sexual minority concerns will be discussed. A brief review of published reports of benefits and harm, as well as recent statements by the American Psychological Association on these topics will be presented. Practice guidelines by which medical and mental health professionals may offer ethical and competent care to persons who experience unwanted sexual minority concerns also will be discussed, as time allows.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Blasphemy laws against freedom of speech in Europe  
Convenor: International Civil Liberties Alliance/Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa  
Working languages: English primary, German, French available

Summary: This “Blasphemy laws against Freedom of speech in Europe” OSCE meeting is an educational session to discuss applications of the Brussels Process to improve governments and international bodies accountability on protecting human rights and civil liberties.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Wednesday, 3 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Presentation of ODIHR’s Final Draft: Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region-Incidents and Responses: Annual Report for 2011  
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department  
Working languages: English

Summary: This is the annual event to present the Final Draft of ODIHR’s Hate Crime Report for comments from delegations and NGOs prior to publication in mid-November 2012. Data submitted by participating States, information from NGOs and the latest legal and good practice developments will be shared with participants, with opportunities for questions.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Anti-discrimination protection in Serbia- Effective Responses  
Convenor: Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia and Judicial Academy, Republic of Serbia  
Working languages: English

Summary: At this side event representatives of the Serbian Commissioner for the Protection of Equality will present the efforts of Republic of Serbia to respond to cases of discrimination. The presentation will include an overview of the recently adopted legal framework providing protection against discrimination, the development of equality institutions, and the methods to combat discrimination that the Commissioner office has developed and implemented during the past two years.

Additionally, representatives of Serbian Judicial Academy will present their efforts to build the capacities of the Serbian judiciary to provide more effective juridical protection in cases of discrimination

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Normalization and institutionalization of anti-Muslim sentiment in European democratic societies and its threat for our common future  
Convenor: Council for Justice, Equality and Peace (COJEP International)  
Working languages: English

Summary: Extreme violence against Muslim minorities is steadily increasing and becoming more threatening to the lives of millions of European Muslims. Far-right clandestine groups are actively terrorizing and physically attacking Muslims. White supremacist and neo-nazi cells have for years been conducting campaigns of assault and even murder against members of Muslim communities in different European countries. Criminal investigations into such assaults (for example, the so-called Doner killings in Germany between 2000 and 2006) have exposed the shocking dimensions of this phenomenon. But even the publication of inflammatory anti-Muslim ideas, such as Sarrazin's books in Germany, have made a very negative contribution to the institutionalization of anti-Muslim sentiment in contemporary Europe.

This combination of clandestine murder, tolerated attacks, pervasive Islamophobia and demonization of Muslims has cast a shadow on the future of Europe as a humanistic, open and plural continent. Such extreme hostile ideas are no longer the preserve of extremists but have become more mainstream and 'normal', institutionalized in new legal restrictions and witnessed in everyday life with alarming frequency. The postwar tradition of European humanism is being replaced by a reality of 'us'-versus-'them', bursting with hostility towards Muslim citizens and migrants.

This situation has got to stop before it destroys completely a future shared by all Europeans regardless of what they believe in or how they lead their everyday lives. This side-event aims to discuss ways in which civil society and mainstream social/political forces committed to freedom and interculturalism can reverse this dangerous trend against Islam and Muslims in Europe. Recent history is full of cautionary tales about what can happen if mainstream societies tolerate (or even embrace) a wave of hatred against a particular group. Thus, only through co-ordinated action, through inclusive public discourse and the protection of law, can we break the vicious circle of fear, discrimination, hatred, and attack against Muslims in Europe.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Complex measures for the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights  
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
Working languages: English

Summary: The goal of the event is to share among experts from different OSCE states that are also members of the Council of Europe views on how to improve the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights ("ECtHR").

The lack of timely and effective execution of judgments of the ECtHR is a problem common to many OSCE member states, particularly Poland, Ukraine and Russia. At the same time proper implementation of the ECtHR judgments is crucial in order to effectively protect human rights. Non-execution of Strasbourg decisions by states demands systemic changes (in the law and practice) that should involve all branches of power as well as non-state actors. In Poland the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights initiated recently a high level dialogue on the role of the Parliament in the implementation of Strasbourg judgments and actively promotes the need for an increased involvement of civil society organizations and other actors in the procedure.

The event will gather experts from different states who have experience in supporting better implementation of judgments of the ECtHR. The main goal of the event will be to discuss the role of different actors (national parliaments, governments, NGOs, national human rights institutions) in improving the execution of judgments.

Discussion:

Moderator: Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska (Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights)

Invited panellists:

Dr Adam Bodnar (Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights)

Harry Hummel (Netherlands Helsinki Committee)

Elena Shakhova (Citizens Watch) with the comment of Natalia Taubina (Public Verdict Foundation)

Arkadiy Buschenko (Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union)

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 2

Title: A neglected minority: men and women with unwanted sexual orientations

Convenor: Wuestenstrom- Institute for dialogic and identity generating counseling

Working languages: English, German

Summary: Men and women from different countries and cultures, with different experiences and confessions of faith state: we freely choose to not want to live as homosexuals, bisexuals, pedosexuals or transsexuals - but are looking for help to be able to change the orientation or to live a celibate life. But instead of respect and support we are facing discrimination and our fundamental freedoms are threatened.

Presentation of a small survey among men experiencing sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE).

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Opera Room

Title: Networking against racism, xenophobia and discrimination - making anti-racism work in practice

Convenor: UNITED for Intercultural Action. European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees

Working languages: English

Summary: This event is an opportunity to meet the work and people of UNITED for Intercultural Action. The main topics are how to make anti-racism work in daily practice. We present campaigning, information exchange, international cooperation, finding partners and training work.

United is Europe's largest anti-racism network. It has been working since 1993 with over 560 organizations from 46 European countries. We focus on grassroots organisations but UNITED also has excellent working relations with OSCE ODIHR, EU, Council of Europe, OSI and many others.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Thursday, 4 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00

Venue: Meeting Room 1

Title: Advancing the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the OSCE region

Convenor: Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE, Switzerland

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed to ensuring effectively “the rights of the individual to know and act upon human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to contribute actively, individually or in association with others, to their promotion and protection” (Copenhagen, 1990). Over the years, participating States have repeatedly expressed their support for the vital work of NGOs and civil society, most recently supporting the “important role played by civil society and free media in helping us to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair

elections, and the rule of law” (Astana 2010). While numerous other relevant commitments have been made by participating States – most notably in relation to the freedoms of assembly, association and expression – only one specific commitment related to human rights defenders has been agreed, in Budapest in 1984, when participating States emphasised “the need for protection of human rights defenders”.

The 1998 Declaration on the “*Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Right and Fundamental Freedoms*” has formed the basis for developing regional mechanisms, leading to the appointment, in 2000, of the UN Special Representative (later Rapporteur) on Human Rights Defenders. Other intergovernmental bodies such as the Council of Europe, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have also set up mechanisms to promote and protect human rights defenders. In 2007, ODIHR established a “focal point” for human rights defenders and national human rights institutions to monitor and report on the situation of human rights defenders in the OSCE region. Five years after the establishment of the focal point, it is timely to examine how OSCE engagement on human rights defenders might be consolidated and improved.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: CD Innovative Tools for the Education for Democracy  
Convenor: Community of Democracies Permanent Secretariat  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Community of Democracies (CoD) channels the voices of all elements of democratic society – government, civil society and the private business sector – into a unique international forum for discussion, sharing of best practices and coordination of positions and actions. At this side event, representatives and partners of the Community of Democracies will present a democracy education IT platform which is currently developed by the Working Group on Education for Democracy. This innovative tool will include general information on civil/democracy education as well as serve as an e-library of democracy education resources and experts. We invite all participants in the event to enter into the discussion with their ideas and experiences on education for Democracy.

*Refreshments will be provided*