

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
22 September – 3 October 2014
Warsaw, Poland

OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS¹
As submitted by the organizers

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 2014 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, 22 September

Time: **13.15-14.45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: **Parliamentary openness for greater accountability and citizen engagement**
Convenor: **ODIHR Democratization Department**
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: The side event seeks to explore the challenges that civil society and parliaments face in the process of promoting parliamentary openness to raise citizens' awareness about the role and work of the parliament and citizens' engagement in the legislative process. The Side Event will facilitate an exchange of good practices and closer-co-operation with respect to parliamentary consultation processes with civil society from across the OSCE region among civil society, international organizations, OSCE field operations and members of Parliaments. It will facilitate a discussion on OSCE/ODIHR work and other stakeholders' activities working on parliamentary strengthening.

In a democratic society, the monitoring of parliamentary performance and consultation with civil society organizations by parliaments plays a vital role in ensuring a functioning democratic process. Parliaments' recognition of civil society's role as a watchdog contributes to parliamentary openness that improves citizens' trust. In Moscow (1991) the OSCE participating States subscribed "*to seek ways of further strengthening modalities for contacts and exchanging of views between NGOs and relevant national authorities and governmental institutions*". In addition, the 2012 Declaration of Parliamentary Openness, supported by 76 organizations from 53 countries, including the OSCE PA, serves as a basis for "*dialogue between parliaments and parliamentary monitoring organizations to advance government and parliamentary openness, and ensure that this openness leads to greater citizen engagement, more responsive representative institutions and, ultimately, a more democratic society*". By enhancing co-operation with civil society, parliaments promote civic education, advance political culture of openness and accountability of legislative processes.

Refreshments will be provided

¹ This is an unofficial document.

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Presentation of the second edition of the Guidelines to Assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process
Convenors: OSCE ODIHR Election Department; OSCE Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
Working languages: English

Summary: Ministerial Council Decision 19/06 tasked the OSCE/ODIHR to "further strengthen the observation methodology." Over the past decade and a half, the OSCE/ODIHR continues to publish various handbooks on the observation of specific elements of an electoral process. In 2001, the OSCE/ODIHR published Guidelines to Assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process. Owing to the development of standards and practice over the past 13 years, a review and update of the 2001 Guidelines was deemed timely and useful. The handbook, which will be launched at this side event, builds on the 2001 Guidelines by providing an overview of the OSCE's approach to promoting and observing the participation of national minorities in elections and including new material on the development of international standards and good practice in this field. The publication will contain a new chapter outlining the methodology used by ODIHR's election observation missions to observe the participation of national minorities.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Free Expression in the Online World
Convenors: European Union
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Freedom of opinion and freedom of expression are fundamental rights of every human being. Indispensable for individual dignity and fulfilment, they are the very foundation on which rest democracy and the rule of law, and are an important element for promoting peace and stability. This year, the World Wide Web turns twenty-five years old. As a platform for exchange, the Internet has created opportunities for individuals not just to disseminate information to a mass audience but also to express opinions and participate in decision-making processes. The Internet has become part of a modern democratic system. Freedom of expression must therefore also be protected online.

Despite the fact that OSCE participating States have committed themselves to ensuring that the Internet remains an open and public forum in which opinions can be expressed freely, there are many cases where access is restricted and peaceful statements are prosecuted, sometimes even systematically. Further steps are clearly needed to promote, protect and respect the freedom of expression in the online world. This event will examine recent trends in the OSCE area against the framework of OSCE commitments and other international standards, highlight the work of the EU and OSCE in promoting freedom of expression, and reflect on what further steps can be taken to protect and ensure the full enjoyment by all citizens of their right to freedom of expression.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Belvedere Room**
Title: Contemporary challenges to the democratic elections
Convenors: Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The round table will discuss topical issues of the electoral process, including issues of electoral law, the organization of elections and the role of NGO in election observation, standardization of the observation process, the implementation of other forms of direct expression of citizens, as well as the respect of the state to the results of voting.

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 23 September

Time: **13.00 – 15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Media Freedom in the context of the crisis in Ukraine
Convenor: Freedom House, Canada, Lithuania, Sweden and the United States
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The meeting will provide opportunity to discuss in detail with media experts and active participants on the current status of media freedom, access to information and the working environment for journalists in the context of crisis in Ukraine, with special focus on Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. The speakers will offer their assessment of media freedom, key media-related reforms, the implications of insecurity and violence in certain regions, and reconciliation and inter-ethnic relations, in particular in the context of the illegal annexation of Crimea. The side-event will aim also to cover the issue of manipulation of state owned media in disseminating propaganda in connection to the developments in and around Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15-14.45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: New and Traditional Forms of Youth Political Participation in the OSCE Region
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization Department
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Across the OSCE region, youth face numerous challenges in taking part in the political agenda and fostering democratic transitions through participation. In order to address these challenges, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) organized its first Youth Leadership Forum in Warsaw on 16 and 17 June 2014, gathering young activists, civil society representatives and parliamentarians from South-East Europe, as well as Central and Western Europe, Canada and the United States. The 2012 EU Youth Report concludes that personal commitment and faith in political involvement are stronger amongst young people than in other age groups. The fact that their turnout at elections and membership of political parties are relatively weak might not be a symptom of disinterest or distrust for democracy as such but rather an indication of their involvement in other forms of democratic participation. The Forum resulted in acknowledging the need to adapt to a changing reality where youth is more inclined towards alternative forms of political participation as opposed to the traditional forms of participation in democratic institutions such as political parties.

The proposed Side Event offers an opportunity to present and discuss the draft recommendations from the Youth Leadership Forum with participants of the HDIM. It is foreseen that panellists will include some Youth Leadership Forum participants as well as representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR and other relevant international organizations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Human Rights in Ukraine: HRAM Report Recommendations, Current Assessments and Priorities for Action
Convenor: ODIHR Human Rights Department and OSCE Office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will take stock of the human rights situation in Ukraine, review the recommendations of the Human Rights Assessment Mission (HRAM) Report, and discuss priorities for action in the light of OSCE human dimension commitments and other applicable human rights standards. Human Rights Assessment Mission (HRAM) Report was produced following an invitation from the Government of Ukraine in March 2014 by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) with the aim of assessing the human rights and minority rights situation in the country, including in Crimea. The HRAM collected information on the human rights and minority rights situation in Ukraine between late February and end of March 2014, taking into account rapidly developing events in the country since November 2013 and previous developments that had had an impact on the situation. The HRAM report, published in May 2014, attested to an escalation of tensions in a number of regions of Ukraine, including in Crimea, resulting in an overall deterioration in the human rights situation. Participants will discuss how the currently deteriorating situation can be approached from a human rights perspective, as well as the most pressing concerns and priority areas for action.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: The Impact of mass surveillance on Journalists, Lawyers and other professionals in OSCE Member States
Convenors: American Civil Liberties Union and Norway
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In July, 2014 the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Watch released a joint report documenting the impact that mass surveillance is having on journalism and the practice of law in the United States. Journalists and lawyers were chosen as the subject-matter of the study because of the integral role they play in our democracy. We depend on the press to tell us what governments are doing, and without this information, it is much harder to hold our government to account when it missteps or overreaches, especially in the areas of national security and intelligence. The same is true for the work of defense counsel. Confidentiality and attorney-client trust are crucial for effective representation, cornerstones of fairness in the justice system. Based on interviews with dozens of journalists the report finds that journalists and lawyers are changing their behavior in ways that undermine basic rights and corrode democratic processes. In light of how difficult it has become to ensure confidentiality of electronic communication, journalists are struggling to find ways to protect their data and sources, adopting new and often elaborate and costly techniques to do so. Lawyers have been similarly impacted, finding it increasingly more difficult not only to meet their professional responsibilities of confidentiality, but also to build the necessary trust with their clients to provide effective counsel. These adverse effects of mass surveillance are not unique to the United States. Journalist and lawyers, as well as other professionals in OSCE member states are experiencing similar problems from the proliferation of mass surveillance practices. .

The panel aims to provide the audience and policy-makers with an overview of the nature and extent of mass surveillance practices in the United States and OSCE member states and an assessment of the impacts these practices are having on the work of journalists, lawyers and other professionals.

In December 2013, the U.N. General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/68/167 (The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age) established for the first time, that human rights should prevail irrespective of the medium and therefore need to be protected both offline and online. Recognizing the impacts on the right to privacy and free expression in particular, the Resolution, approved by consensus, calls upon Member States to review their procedures, practices and legislation on the surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including mass surveillance. The Resolution also calls on the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the right to privacy in the digital age. In her report, published in June 2014, the High Commissioner explicitly notes, briefly, that surveillance may implicate other rights, including the right to freedom of expression, and its possible chilling impact on the

work of human rights defenders. As the ACLU/HRW report documents, and the speakers on the panel will discuss in some the right to freedom of expression, and in particular the work of journalists and lawyers in OSCE member states is in fact being seriously undermined by mass surveillance.

Panelists:

Steven Watt and Chris Soghoian will speak to U.S. surveillance practices and their impact on journalism and the practice of law in the United States.

Andrei Soldatov, Journalist, Russia.

Katarzyna Szymielewicz, Co-founder and President of the Panoptykon Foundation, and Vice-President of European Digital Rights, Poland.

Eric King, Privacy International, United Kingdom.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**

Venue: **Opera Room**

Title: Going Liberal: the Rule of Law and NGOs in Hungary

Convenors: Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungarian Helsinki Committee and Transparency International Hungary

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Democratization is not a one-way street. A country may successfully break out from dictatorship, create the most important institutions of the rule of law, and develop efficient mechanisms of controlling public power, but this process is not irreversible. After a landslide electoral victory, the Government of Hungary, a member state of the European Union, felt empowered to shape the constitutional framework and the electoral system in its own image, replace the idea of the distribution of powers with an excessive concentration of power, and silence critical voices. Non-governmental organizations, which were first attacked on the political level, now face severe measures taken by public authorities. NGOs that continue to represent plurality and democratic values as fundamental norms have to engage in defending their own existence instead of focusing on their core task of protecting the rights of individuals. At the side event, the representatives of four major Hungarian civil society organizations--the Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and Transparency International Hungary--will discuss how watchdog and other non-governmental organizations originally established as correctional mechanisms of the operation of a democratic state are functioning, and what they can do during the creation of the so-called "illiberal state."

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: **Freedom of Peaceful Assembly – A right not a privilege**
Convenor: European Union
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The right to assemble peacefully is at the core of any democratic system and facilitates the enjoyment of many other human rights and freedoms, including the freedom of expression. However, there are an increasing number of challenges and obstacles to the enjoyment of the freedom of peaceful assembly in some OSCE participating States. These include issues such as the excessive use of force in the policing of demonstrations and the application of excessive fines and penalties for organising or participating in unauthorised peaceful protests. Such restrictions are leading to serious consequences for the functioning of independent civil society and the ability of individuals and groups to enjoy their right to participate in public life.

This side event will examine recent trends in the enjoyment of freedom of peaceful assembly in the OSCE area against the framework of OSCE commitments and other international standards. It will discuss practical cases of how this freedom has been violated or undermined, as well as positive examples where peaceful assemblies have been facilitated. The side event will also consider whether existing OSCE commitments best reflect the challenges to freedom of peaceful assembly experienced today and what more the OSCE can do to support their protection and promotion.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: **Assessing Human rights Protection in Eastern European Disputed Entities**
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: **Abkhazia, Crimea, Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Transnistria:** These are the five disputed entities in Eastern Europe, whose citizens face numerous human rights violations on multiple levels.

The potentially explosive contexts of these 'frozen' conflicts has violated people's right to life and security. The disputed status of these entities has resulted in serious restrictions on freedom of movement, which creates secondary challenges, such as securing an adequate standard of living, the right to health or the right to education.

In the repressive context that characterizes these entities, the very basic right of inhabitants to justice is often denied. National mechanisms are rendered unavailable because *de jure* authorities (Moldova, Azerbaijan, Georgia or Ukraine) have little if any leverage over the *de facto* authorities. A lack of rule of law and high levels of corruption render local laws and courts in the disputed entity largely ineffective. Thus, whilst self-proclaimed governments claim authority over these territories, they fail to protect the human rights of citizens.

Moreover, as disputed entities lack international recognition, they are not in a position to ratify human rights conventions. As a result, their inhabitants remain unprotected by international mechanisms. International organisations are wary of engaging with *de facto* authorities for fear of sending a signal of recognition. And yet, as the actors directly involved in these disputes either have no real authority to improve the situation or prefer to maintain the *status quo*, the international community needs to do more for human rights in the disputed entities.

The findings of the September 2014 FIDH report on “*Assessing Human Rights Protection in Eastern European Disputed Entities*” will be presented at this side-event. Possibilities for concrete and creative cooperation on human rights between international bodies and the *de jure* and *de facto* authorities of the disputed entities will be discussed.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: THE OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders - Promoting a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders across the OSCE region
Convenor: ODIHR Human Rights Department
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Despite various OSCE commitments, which recognize the essential role of human rights defenders and civil society in fulfilling the common goals in the OSCE, human rights defenders continue to be exposed to serious risks and face multiple obstacles across the OSCE region impeding their work.

OSCE participating States have recognized the right of everyone to know and act upon their rights (Helsinki Final Act, 1975), as well as the right of the individual to seek and receive assistance from others in defending human rights and to assist others in defending human rights (Copenhagen Document, 1990). In the context of the drafting of the *United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* (UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders) they also emphasized the need for protection of human rights defenders (Budapest Document 1994). At the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana, participating States again acknowledged the important role played by civil society and free media in helping them ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law (Astana Commemorative Declaration, 2010).

To assist participating States in the implementation of their human dimension commitments related to human rights defenders, ODIHR developed - with the broad participation of human rights defenders and other stakeholders – the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The Guidelines set out measures to strengthen the protection of the rights of those who are at risk as a result of their work in defence of human rights and to create and consolidate a safe and enabling environment in which human rights defenders are empowered to carry out their vital work. They were launched in Berne, Switzerland, on 10-11 June 2014 at a Conference organized jointly by ODIHR and the Swiss Chairmanship with the support of the incoming Serbian Chairmanship.

The ODIHR Human Rights Department organizes the side event to present the Guidelines to HDIM participants and to provide an opportunity to discuss current trends concerning the situation of human rights defenders and actions needed to strengthen their protection.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Strengthening the Human Dimension and the Helsinki plus 40 Process
Convenors: Austrian Delegation
Working languages: English

Summary: The side-event aims at collecting and discussing input by key stakeholders on ways forward in strengthening and improving the work in the Human Dimension. Notably, the discussions should centre on concrete proposals for strengthening the implementation of existing commitments by making best use of all instruments. The side event will also take into account the repercussions of the Ukraine crisis on work in the Human Dimension; discussions should include what can be learnt for further sharpening the mechanisms and instruments at our disposal.

This should include questions around the cooperation with other international and regional organisations and how to enhance the relevance and impact of Human Dimension events (including the follow-up of their outcomes). A special focus should be on the role and contribution of civil society in all these regards.

The side event is planned to last around two hours. It will open with brief presentations by the heads of the OSCE institutions and other key stakeholders, to be followed by a discussion with the participants.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 24 September

Time: **08.15 – 09.50**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Working Breakfast – Enforced disappearances in the OSCE region
Convenor: Norway, Netherlands and France
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Since they were committed on a gross scale during the Second World War, enforced disappearances have continued to feature in the OSCE area. **Enforced disappearances** occur “*when persons are arrested, detained or abducted against their will or otherwise deprived of their liberty by officials of different branches or levels of Government or by organized groups or private individuals acting on behalf of, or with the support, direct or indirect, consent or acquiescence of the Government, followed by a refusal to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the persons concerned or a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty, which places such persons outside the protection of the law*”. Enforced disappearance increases the risk of torture, other ill-treatment and is often linked to unlawful detention. Recent developments in the OSCE area show how this practice is still being used by police officials or unidentified armed groups to maintain pressure against civil society/political opponents/journalists... in the name of the fight against terrorism or to protect national security. The human rights violation of enforced disappearance is not only directed against the disappeared persons but equally harm their families, friends and the society they live in. It clearly contradicts the OSCE commitments pertaining to right to life, prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, prohibition of arbitrary arrest and the right to a fair trial.

To date, 33 OSCE participating States (pS) have signed the **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance** that entered into force Dec 23, 2010. Only 14 OSCE pS have ratified it (out of only 13 accepted the individual complaints procedures according to CED art 31). But ALLOSCE pS took part in adopting the UN Declaration on the protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance at the UNGA in 1992(A/RES/47/133). Several independent OSCE human rights assessments have pointed out the case of enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan and Belarus through the Moscow Mechanism and more recently in Ukraine through the joint ODIHR-HCMN report.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: **08.30 – 10.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Working Breakfast - Towards a culture of policing contributing to the prevention of torture
Convenor: Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The police has an essential role to play in protecting human rights. At the same time, its special powers such as arrest and use of force create a situation of risk where abuse and torture may take place. A professional and accountable culture of policing is therefore essential to torture prevention, throughout the OSCE region and beyond. This working breakfast held by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), with support from the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE, will gather high-profile experts and practitioners from the policing, torture prevention and the wider human rights protection fields. Based on their experience, the discussion will focus on how to achieve a culture of policing which effectively contributes to the prevention of torture, through complementary measures such as police training, police monitoring, and safeguards in police detention.

In the framework of its strategic partnership with the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE, the APT has been implementing a series of activities aimed at promoting and advancing the prevention of torture in the OSCE region throughout 2014.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Time for genuine implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders!
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In June 2014, the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders were launched under the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE in Bern. This instrument provides a solid corpus of recommendations based on existing international and regional law, standards and practices. They also call on all the OSCE Participating States to establish human rights defender protection mechanisms both on their territories and in third countries, through their diplomatic representations. Meanwhile, violations against human rights defenders and NGOs continue in a number of OSCE countries. The Observatory organises this side-event to discuss ways to ensure genuine implementation and monitoring of the Guidelines throughout the OSCE region. Representatives from human rights organisations in **AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, KYRGYZSTAN, POLAND, the RUSSIAN FEDERATION** and **UKRAINE** will provide examples of challenges they are facing in their daily work, and will formulate concrete recommendations on how to implement and monitor the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Mixing Sports and Politics: OK for Dictators but not for Civil Society?
Convenors: Freedom House
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This event will focus on how the regimes use major sports events for raising their popularity domestically and boosting political capital and recognition internationally, drawing on the most recent examples of the XXII Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia and the 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship in Minsk, Belarus. The event will feature the experiences of local civil society activists and human rights defenders, who conducted domestic awareness raising and international solidarity campaigns to shine the light on systemic human rights abuses in those countries amid the very positive, investment- and popularity-boosting official depictions of the country's socio-economic, environmental, and political situation.

The speakers will present highlights from their initiatives and discuss the implications of the now traditional argument used by authoritarian leaders, "Don't mix sports and politics". The activists will debate if international boycott is an effective tool for raising awareness about the human rights violations inside the country and demanding accountability for undemocratic regimes. Alternative approaches, such as using the momentum and increased presence of international media and tourists for conducting creative public campaigns and initiatives, will be discussed. This analysis is timely and can inform actions of civil society activists for the upcoming first European Games in Azerbaijan in 2015 and the FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia, as the increasing isolation of and ongoing crackdowns on human rights and fundamental freedoms in those countries pose complex challenges for civil society in the entire region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: A black hole in Turkmenistan: exposing the truth about ongoing torture practices and enforced disappearances in the Ovadan Depe prison.
Convenor: “Prove They Are Alive!” Campaign with the support from the Civic Solidarity Platform
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Turkmenistan’s first president, Saparmurat Niyazov, completely suppressed dissent and eliminated any political competition, using legal and extralegal forms of harassment. The opposition, the dissident movement, independent journalism and civil society were completely destroyed. The peak of this policy was the mass repression that took place in the first half of the 2000s, when there was widespread use of fabricated criminal cases, confessions obtained through torture, closed court hearings, illegal sentences and long term imprisonment in secret prisons. Since then, under the leadership of President Berdymukhamedov, the Turkmen government has been refusing to disclose any information to relatives, governments, or international organizations regarding the fates of the dozens, potentially hundreds of individuals disappeared for politically motivated purposes.

Members of the “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign have been working to expose the widespread, gross violations of national and international law associated with enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary detention in Turkmenistan. This event will present the findings of a new report by the campaign member, Crude Accountability, on the Ovadan Depe prison, a notorious institution in Turkmenistan designed specifically to terminally erode the physical and psychological integrity of its political prisoners, through torture methods rivaling those of the Dark Ages. A second report of the “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign will provide a comprehensive biographical list of the individuals that have disappeared in the first half of the 2000s, as well as analysis of relevant national and international laws. A short documentary film will provide first-hand testimonies of the relatives of the disappeared, depict the grim situation in Turkmenistan, and the stark contrast between the grand outward appearances and dark realities in the country.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Freedom from torture in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan): overview of the current situation, main concerns and recommendations
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland) and NGOs from Central Asia and Belgium
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event is organized by NGO Coalitions against torture in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland) and International Partnership for Human Rights (Belgium).

Torture is widely used across the region and impunity for torture is widespread. In all three countries torture mainly takes place during the first hours of detention when detainees are in many cases held incommunicado, without access to legal counsel and medical personnel, but torture cases are also reported from later stages of detention and imprisonment. Those detained or imprisoned on charges related to national security or “religious extremism” are at particular risk. To different degrees, all Central Asian countries continue to use the criminal justice system as a means to control and curtail opposition. Human rights defenders and lawyers defending torture victims are at risk of repercussions, particularly when the detainees are held on charges involving “religious extremism“, terrorism or undermining national security. In many cases activists are closely monitored by the authorities; they are subjected to excessive checks and in some cases NGOs have been threatened with liquidation of their organizations as a result of their human rights work.

The aim of the side event is to discuss the current situation in the sphere of torture prevention in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, challenges in law and practice and present NGO recommendations to the governments of the Central Asian OSCE participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Participation of persons with disabilities in public life – Experiences from Kyrgyzstan and Finland
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE
Working languages: English, Russian, sign language

Summary: This Side Event will focus on the participation of persons with disabilities in public life and decision making. The event will discuss how participation of persons with disabilities could be advanced, what are the main challenges and how the OSCE could contribute to the process. The OSCE participating states have committed themselves to ensuring the protection of human rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, they have committed themselves to ensuring the equal opportunity of persons with disabilities to participate fully in the life of their society and to participate in decision making. The event will examine practical experiences in advancing participation of persons with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan and in Finland. Representatives of NGO's from both countries as well as authorities will address the event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Fighting impunity in the times of upheaval – case of Ukraine
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights together with Ukrainian civil society organizations
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Ukrainian human rights organizations actively documented crimes of international character that were committed during the so called Maidan Events. Crimes included purposeful targeting of civilian population based on their political views, including killing, torture, illegal detention, forced disappearance etc. While new Ukrainian government has formally opened investigation in relations to these crimes, victims and their families, as well as civil society organizations have serious doubts about the effectiveness of the investigative proceedings undertaken. The armed conflict in the East of the country has already took lives of thousands of civilians including children and has led to mass scale displacement and destructions of property. The side event will discuss the root causes of impunity in the current political context in Ukraine and identify strategies for fight against impunity.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Pervasive violations of political, economic and social rights in Belarus
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Human right Centre "Viasna"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In Belarus, economic and social rights are as systematically violated as political rights. President Lukashenko aims to create the image of Belarus as a 'last remaining socialist paradise', whilst in fact forced labour is widespread in various sectors and various forms, as evidenced in the FIDH-HRC 'Viasna' report '*Forced labour and pervasive violations of workers' rights in Belarus*'. Orders and decrees regulating labour relationships blatantly violate international labour and human rights standards.

Students are subject to compulsory assignments, notably weekend 'subbotniks', the unemployed are forced to perform 'socially useful labour', citizens who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction are forced to work in 'medical-labour centres', and prisoners are forced to work in detention. Trade union rights are widely denied.

The political and civil rights of citizens are also largely denied. Freedom of association and assembly is systematically violated. The Lukashenko regime regularly uses arbitrary detention, doing so on a large scale. In the run-up to World Ice Hockey Championship in Minsk in May 2014 at least 37 political and social activists were subjected to arbitrary 'preventive' arrest. The local authorities in Minsk also 'cleansed' the city of so-called asocial elements, i.e. persons of no fixed abode, prostitutes, and individuals suffering from alcoholism.

Such illegal activities on the part of the government are a means to pressure and isolate activists to prevent their explicit or assumed participation in public street actions, conversations with international delegations or the press, or other types of political and civil activities. The FIDH-HRC 'Viasna' joint report on '*Arbitrary Preventive Detention of Activists in Belarus*', published in September 2014, will be presented at this side event.

Ales Bialiatski, the recently released Vice-President of FIDH and President of HRC Viasna will give an overview of the current situation in Belarus.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Deterioration of situation with freedom of association in a Post-Soviet region
Convenors: Civil Solidarity Platform
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In many OSCE participating States, in particular in Post-Soviet region today, non-governmental organizations are operating in a more and more insecure and hostile environment. Especially organizations that criticize and challenge government policies, such as human rights NGOs are met with suspicion and mistrust and denounced as "unpatriotic," "traitors," "national enemies", "fifth column" and the like. These groups are also the main targets of repressive laws that restrict the opportunities of NGOs to receive funding (especially but not only foreign funding), obtain legal status, and conduct their activities in unimpeded ways.

Implementation of the notorious 2012 "foreign agents" law has had a seriously chilling impact on NGOs in Russia. Hundreds of NGOs across the country have been subjected to intrusive inspections and dozens of groups (including leading human rights groups and their leaders) have faced warnings and crippling legal cases for refusing to adopt the stigmatizing label of "foreign agents". While widely criticized by national and international experts, Russia's "foreign agents" law has served as inspiration for lawmakers elsewhere, including most recently in Kyrgyzstan, a country that compared to others in the same region has been characterized by a more enabling environment for civil society. Same initiatives were aired by some lawmakers in Kazakhstan.

Existing legislation in Azerbaijan imposed wide-ranging reporting obligations on NGOs and the new regulations were adopted in the context of a worsening climate for NGOs, manifested e.g. in media smear campaigns and obstruction of the work of human rights groups. Assets of a number of leading Azerbaijani NGOs are frozen and leaders of some of them are arrested. There is steadily hostile environment for NGOs in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus. Organizers of this side-event will address these concerns and present some recommendations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Ukraine: coordinating the OSCE Response to a Comprehensive Security Challenge with Participating States and Civil Society
Convenors: Freedom House
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The events in Ukraine this year have not only tested the viability of OSCE's comprehensive security concept, but also the ability of the Organization to involve all interested and necessary stakeholders in resolving an issue that has far-reaching consequences for the state of democracy and human rights – and the security - in its participating States. Despite OSCE's efforts and hard work to facilitate reconciliation between Ukraine and Russia, little is known outside the Organization and diplomatic missions about the practical steps the Organization is taking in order to respond properly to the violation of the Helsinki principles and how existing mechanisms have functioned.

This event will bring the OSCE, the participating States and civil society representatives together in common understanding and common purpose as to how the Organization can benefit from incorporating civil society feedback (and vice versa) in devising solutions to major security issues, such as the one presented this year by the ongoing conflict perpetrated by Russia in Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 25 September

Time: **08.30 – 09.45**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Women's Power Breakfast – Women and Political Parties – Who needs Who?
Convenors: ODIHR Democratization Department
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed themselves “to promote equal participation of women and men in political parties, with a view to achieving better gender-balanced representation in elected public offices at all levels of decision-making” (OSCE MC Decision No. 7/09). Yet, women are often excluded from the decision-making establishments within political parties. A lack of internal party democracy and transparency as well as the absence of gender-sensitivity in candidate selection and outreach all inhibit women's opportunities to advance as political leaders. In order to address these challenges, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has recently published the *Handbook for Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, a practical tool to advance women's role in political parties and beyond. The Women's Power Breakfast will provide a platform for discussion on how to facilitate women's access to political parties and encourage political party leaders to support the equal participation of both women and men in party processes and decision-making.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Democracy and Human Rights in post soviet countries
Convenor: Azerbaijan Institute for Democracy and Human Rights - AIDHR
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Azerbaijan Institute for Democracy and Human Rights - AIDHR organizes open conference titled "Democracy and human rights issues in South Caucasus". During this conference chief of AIDHR Dr. Ahmad Shahidov will make presentation about South Caucasus countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, will talk about democracy, human rights and freedoms issues in these countries. South Caucasus is very strategical region according its political and natural reasons. Also bordering with Russian and Iran makes South Caucasus very interesting for West countries. So, there are many problems to talk about.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Azerbaijan
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee and Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Recent years have seen a gradual limiting of space for criticism of the government's human rights record in Azerbaijan. A number of government critics have been convicted to long term prison terms in July and August, this repression has increased, with many human rights NGOs' bank accounts being frozen and several well-known human rights defenders and peace activists detained: Leyla and Arif Yunus, Rasul Jafarov and Intigam Aliyev. The side event will provide information about this situation, and explore how this development can affect international engagement with Azerbaijan

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: **Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons**
Convenor: **ODIHR Human Rights Department**
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: The return of trafficked persons involves crucial questions that impact on their human rights. However, research and expert meetings initiated by ODIHR since 2008 pointed to an absence of guidance, in particular for government and civil society actors, on standards that apply to the process of returning trafficked persons.

OSCE participating States experience all stages of trafficking – as origin, transit or destination countries, or as a combination of some or all of these – making the return of trafficked persons a concern for all states, whether as returning or receiving countries.

Trafficked persons who return can face a multitude of problems. In the process of return, authorities often fail to conduct an assessment of the protection needs of the victim or develop a reintegration plan. Frequently, risks posed to family members of trafficked persons are not considered, while insufficient attention is paid also to the health issues, including mental health, affecting trafficked persons. The issue of re-victimization is not given due consideration before, during or after a victim's return. Returning states rarely conduct long-term monitoring of the return of trafficked persons, be it due to lack of interest or poor co-operation between the returning and the receiving state.

To address these challenges and to promote policies, procedures and practices on return that comply with human rights standards in the OSCE region, ODIHR undertook the development of the *Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons* for stakeholders involved in the process of returning the victims of trafficking. The publication will be launched at the side event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15 - 14.45**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: **Professional Journalist: How to escape a Deadly danger**
Convenor: **Moscow Union of Journalists, Russia Today TV**
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: Short presentation of the activities of the Union of Journalists of Moscow, including special education and practical courses on safety for journalists. Demonstration of short films (20') about trainings for journalists working in the armed conflict areas, the Bastion programme and other related videos.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: **Promoting Democracy and Media Freedom: Best Practices in Support of Ukraine**
Convenor: **Government of Canada, in association with Solidarity Fund PL and European Endowment for Democracy**
Working languages: **English, Russian**

Summary: As it seeks to solidify its democratic institutions, Ukraine continues to face a challenging political and security environment. A wide range of international actors have sought to support Ukraine and its people in their efforts for democratic and judicial reform, good governance and a society based on the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. This side event aims to provide an opportunity to discuss practical ways through which the international community can continue

to support Ukraine's efforts in the field of elections, democracy-building and the promotion of media freedom.

To launch the discussion, three panelists will share the concrete experiences and efforts of their organizations in supporting a free and democratic Ukraine through past, ongoing and future field projects. Their presentations will seek to highlight best practices and success stories, but also to identify potential pitfalls and explore ways in which these challenges can be overcome. The three panelists will be Mr. Krzysztof Stanowski, Head of the Solidarity Fund PL, Mr. Jerzy Pomianowski, Executive Director of the European Endowment for Democracy, and, Mr. Stephen Potter, Director of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Canada in Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Round table "Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism against national minorities in the post-Soviet countries"
Convenor: Parliament of Non-represented
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: At the round table is expected to discuss the problems of nationalism, racism and chauvinism against national minorities in post-Soviet countries. Participants will focus on clarifying the internal socio-economic and political reasons for the increase of these negative phenomena, their specificity in post-Soviet countries, the impact of external factors. The speakers at the roundtable will be given new facts, evaluated policy of the OSCE participating States to tackle discrimination against national minorities. Particular attention will be paid to the issues of minority education, opportunities to use their native language, the study of culture and history, the use of national names, symbols and signs. The round table participants will make a communiqué which will be presented to the plenary session of the OSCE.

Time: **18.00 – 20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Human Rights on Ukraine after Euromaidan
Convenor: Foundation "International Institute of New States"
Working languages: English, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: A public conference about situation of Human Rights after Euromaidan

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Accountability for involvement in the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes
Convenors: Amnesty International
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In July 2014, the European Court of Human Rights issued two judgments against Poland for the government's complicity in the torture and enforced disappearance of two men who were victims of the CIA's rendition and secret detention programmes. It was the first time that an EU member state had been held accountable for its collusion with the USA and for the human rights abuses attendant to the US government's "war on terror" operations. But Poland is not alone in its past cooperation with the CIA. A number of EU members and other European states also assisted the US in the illegal apprehension, transfer, detention, and torture of alleged terrorism suspects between 2001 and 2007. This side event will provide a look at developments to date with respect to accountability for direct involvement and complicity in the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes in various countries, including Denmark, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Sweden, UK and USA

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Belarus in the Upcoming Year of Elections: Political Prisoners, Politically Motivated Prosecution, Arbitrary detentions, Abductions and Enforced Disappearances. Discussion and screening of the film “Belarus Unstable Elements: Dangerous Acts”
Convenor: European Belarus Foundation
Working languages: English

Summary: Belarus remains one of the most repressive countries in the OSCE region. Despite of these efforts of the international community and civil society actors, human rights situation in Belarus remains extremely difficult and has not improved a bit since December 2010. In many ways it has deteriorated further, with exception of release of several political prisoners in 2011-2014. In the light of presidential elections in 2015, Lukashenka’s main tasks are maintenance of tight control over the society to prevent any challenge from political opposition and at the same time ensuring of recognition of legitimacy of his re-election in 2015 by the West. To achieve these tasks Lukashenka has already employed various diplomatic channels and propaganda tools, necessary for making the 2015 elections “boring” and seemingly legitimate. In this context OSCE appears to be an important actor. The situation in Belarus is an unclosed file, the most recent case of application of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism. It is also the OSCE field mission which was forced to close as a result of demands by Lukashenka. Most of the problems identified in the MM report on Belarus, have not disappeared; some of them have deteriorated further. Recommendations in the MM report have not been implemented. It will be ODIHR who will observe the 2015 elections, and this time the conclusions of the observation mission will be particularly important for the regime because the ODIHR standards are the basis of perception of legitimacy of elections in the West. OSCE observation in the country is crucial, as it has been already announced that activists will be prosecuted if they call for elections boycott.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 26 September

Time: **08.30 – 10.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Working Breakfast “Violence and hate crime against LGBTI persons”
Convenors: COC Netherlands
Working languages: English

Summary: The OSCE has an important commitment in combating any form of intolerance, discrimination and bias based violence. All through the OSCE region, a clear pattern emerges of a high level of violence and bias crimes against LGBTI persons. Transgender people are the most vulnerable: In the last five years, 71 murders of trans people have been documented in Europe. Nearly every transgender person experiences harassment, abuse and violence.

There are serious violations of freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including through the recently adopted “anti-propaganda” legislation in the Russian Federation, which is being proposed in other countries such as Kyrgyzstan as well. Human rights defenders working on sexual orientation and gender identity face serious challenges by measures such as ‘foreign agents’ acts that limit civil society space. There is a significant level of underreporting due to distrust of the police, fear of reprisals or threats to privacy, or failure to recognize motives of perpetrators by the police.

In this working breakfast, speakers look at the patterns of violence against LGBTI people all through the OSCE region. They will look at the relevance of the Ministerial Decision on combating hate crimes in December 2009 (MC.DEC 9/09) and the role of the OSCE and its Member to carry out their important responsibility to protect each and every citizen without making any distinction.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: The Role of Ombuds Institutions and NHRIs in Security Sector Oversight
Convenors: ODIHR and the Geneva centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Democratic oversight leads to a more transparent and better performing security sector; a sector that respects and protects the rights of men and women who serve in the armed forces, police and other security institutions. Increasingly, ombuds institutions and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are playing a vital role by monitoring, reporting and intervening if negligence, maladministration or rights infringement takes place in the security sector. In this side event, speakers will discuss identified capacity needs, successful strategies and lessons learned by ombuds institutions and NHRIs when exercising oversight and addressing complaints of security sector personnel. Furthermore, speakers will highlight how to gender mainstream the oversight function and work, and to ensure that gender based discrimination does not take place within or outside the security sector.

Two new resources will be made available at event: the OSCE ODIHR DCAF Gender in Security Sector Oversight Guidance Notes and the ODIHR DCAF Mapping Study: Ombuds Institutions for the Armed Forces in the OSCE Region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Presumption of Guilt: The Global Overuse of Pretrial Detention
Convenors: Open Society Justice Initiative and Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania – the Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English

Summary: The global overuse of pretrial detention is a massive, if largely unnoticed, form of human rights abuse. It directly affects at least 15 million people each year, many of whom will wait months or even years—in conditions worse than those experienced by sentenced prisoners—for their day in court. Many more people are indirectly affected: they suffer from a spouse’s lost income or a parent’s absence; they spend money and time on jail visits or food and blankets for the detainee; they contract tuberculosis or HIV from the detainee upon his release. Broader society is also affected by the overuse of pretrial detention, in the form of wasted human potential, lost productivity, the spread of disease, and the misuse of state resources.

Excessive and arbitrary pretrial detention is not just a human rights violation, but also the nexus of other abuses and ill effects. The overuse of pretrial detention is linked to torture, corruption, and the spread of disease; it stunts economic development and undermines the rule of law.

The side-event will make known the findings of three reports:

- The first global survey of pretrial detention published by the Open Society Justice Initiative earlier this month (September 2014) on the scope and consequences of pretrial detention, including tested interventions which have succeeded in reducing the excessive and arbitrary use of pretrial detention.
- The results of a 16-country study in Central and Eastern Europe and countries of the former Soviet Union published by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee in 2013. The study identifies common problems and good examples in terms of legislation and practice regarding pretrial detention and alternatives thereto.
- The results of a five-country report that assessed access to *Effective Criminal Defence in Eastern Europe* (Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine). The hope for the findings of this study is to not only aid in standard setting but also to assist policymakers and practitioners in the development of practical mechanisms to ensure access to effective criminal defence to all who need it across Europe.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: The situation of women in the North Caucasus and mechanisms for combating domestic violence
Convenors: Mothers of Dagestan for Human Rights
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The situation of women in the North Caucasus is affected by a complex socio-political environment against the backdrop of the reviving customary law and a growing influence of religious institutions in the society. Bride kidnappings, arranged marriages, the so-called ‘honor killings’ and an increase in gender-based and domestic violence continue to be pressing issues in this Russian region. The event will feature experts, who will provide an overview of women’s rights in the North Caucasus and will discuss the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms to combat domestic and gender-based violence.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15-14.45**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Freedom of associations and legal conditions for civil society organizations in Belarus
Convenors: Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus in cooperation with Legal Transformation Center
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will focus on the presentation of the alternative report on the freedom of association in Belarus which was prepared by Belarusian CSOs in the frames of the second UPR cycle. The official report of the Belarusian government will be reviewed at the Human Rights Council 22nd session on 4-15 May 2015.

As the alternative report states, a range of recommendations on improving observance of freedom of association were brought forward to Belarus in the first UPR cycle (2010). Some of these recommendations were recognized by Belarus as acceptable (recommendations of Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland). Despite that, no positive changes have been made in this field: legal conditions for implementation of freedom of association and CSOs activity have remained among the worst in the region; restrictions of freedom of association observed in the first UPR cycle haven't been lifted. Moreover, in 2010-2014 new legal acts and laws containing additional freedom of association restrictions have been adopted.

The main restrictions that currently exist in Belarus are the following: a) procedure for state registration of public associations, political parties, their local branches and foundations is extremely complicated and burdensome, it provides the possibility for arbitrary refusal to register any newly-established organization; b) ban on activity of various forms of unregistered CSOs has been imposed, the ban's violation may result in criminal charges (imprisonment for up to 2 years); c) legislation stipulates prominent restrictions for receipt of financing by CSOs both from internal and foreign sources; d) CSO's right to peaceful assemblies and freedom of expression and opinions are significantly restricted. The Belarusian government doesn't execute the UN Human Rights Committee's recommendations on individual appeals of the members of the liquidated organizations and public associations that have been refused registration.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: TBC
Convenor: Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human rights
Working languages: English

Summary: TBC

Time: **18.00-20.00 (subject to change)**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Combatting Domestic Violence Against Romani Women
Convenor: Sponsored by The United States of America and The Republic of Finland
Working languages: English

Summary: Roma women and teenage girls are often victims of double discrimination: firstly for being women, and secondly for being Roma. This can leave Romani victims of domestic violence with gaps in access support services, including state services. In this event, we will examine the lack of statistic on domestic violence against Romani women and the involvement of the state, both gaps and successes, in providing services to victims.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Presentation of the Report on trial monitoring on cases related to freedom of assembly in administrative courts of Kazakhstan
Convenors: International Legal Initiative Public Foundation (ILI)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The right of peaceful assembly is violating by the judiciary and prosecutors in Kazakhstan. “International Legal Initiative” Public Foundation (ILI) with the support of NED (National Endowment for Democracy) conducted during 2012-2014 trial monitoring on cases related to the organizers and participants of peaceful assemblies in the administrative courts of the Republic of Kazakhstan. ILI will present the Report on this trial monitoring and recommendations on improving the compliance of administrative justice of Kazakhstan with the international standards of freedom of assembly.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Uzbekistan’s Abuses Under the Spotlight
Convenor: Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Uzbekistan’s human rights record is marked by patterns of systematic and widespread torture, targeting by the authorities of civil society activists, political opposition figures, and independent journalists, and persecution of religious believers who worship outside strict state controls. Freedom of expression is severely limited and public demonstrations ruthlessly suppressed. More than a dozen rights defenders, independent journalists, and political opposition figures remain behind bars for no other reason than their engagement in legitimate civic activism. Thousands of others have been convicted on overly broad charges of “religious extremism” in closed trials, which are often based on confessions procured through the use of torture and without the presence of independent counsel. Nearly 10 years following the 2005 Andijan massacre, in which Uzbek government forces shot and killed hundreds of protestors, most of them unarmed, authorities persist in their refusal to allow an independent investigation into the events.

The Uzbek government has also systematically failed to engage meaningfully with human rights mechanisms, demonstrated by its longstanding denial of access to special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council since 2002. For 12 years now, no special procedure of the UN Human Rights Council has been granted access to the country. During that period, no fewer than 11 requests for visits have been made and none accepted. In addition, while Uzbekistan’s second Universal Periodic Review on April 24, 2013 reflected the many serious concerns, the government simply denied many of the allegations and rejected key recommendations, including those to let UN Special Procedures in. Uzbekistan’s human rights record in many respects has violated its OSCE commitments.

Goals

The goal of this side-event is to create a space for victims of human rights abuses, human rights defenders from Uzbekistan, and representatives of international human rights groups to speak out about Uzbekistan’s abysmal rights record. Government delegations to the OSCE HDIM should give particular attention to the the voice of victims and defenders.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Ukraine: Beyond the Red line
Convenors: Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: A press conference dedicated to the Russian photographer Andrey Stenin who went missing in Ukraine. Exhibition of his photographs from Ukraine

Monday, 29 September

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Minority Education and Bilingual education in Europe: What Standards Today?
Convenors: Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS (Latvia)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: According to the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues, Minorities in all regions of the world suffer disproportionately from unequal or restricted access to quality education. In OSCE, a set of High Commissioner on National Minorities recommendations on the education rights of national minorities was adopted in 1996. Today, a number of OSCE member countries in Eastern and Central Europe have substantial numbers of schools for minority students, teaching either entirely in the language of the minorities, or bilingually. At the same time, some member countries in Western Europe (e.g. Sweden) have tentatively implemented bilingual education initiatives for students of migrant origin, and other countries (e.g. Netherlands) have cancelled attempts to introduce mother tongue instruction in schools for migrant students.

The discussion during the side event will focus on the following issues:

- What is the state of the art in bilingual education for minorities in OSCE countries with substantial minority populations in 2014? Does it meet the standards set out in the 1996 recommendations and Ljubljana Guidelines, and if not, what are the areas of concern?
- What are the good practice examples in state policies on bilingual education?
- To what extent are existing models of minority education directed towards equality, democratic citizenship and conflict prevention?

Panel participants will include:

- Irina Maslo, Professor, University of Latvia, presentation on Bilingual Education in Latvia: good practices, outcomes and areas of concern.
- Mario Bajkuša, Forum for Freedom of Education (Croatia), presentation on Minority Education in Croatia: models and influence on reconciliation in post-conflict areas.
- Helena Metslang, Department of English, King's College London, presentation on Introducing Bilingual Education in Estonia. What is the potential impact on learning outcomes for minorities?
- Jana Huttova, SIRIUS (European platform for collaboration with the aim of mainstreaming migrant education). Presentation on State of the art in migrant and minority education in Europe: areas of concern and future outlook.

Moderator: Maria Golubeva, PhD, Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS (Latvia)

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Azerbaijan: Ethnic Minorities and State Management of their Co-existence
Convenor: Human Rights Without Frontiers
Working languages: English

Summary: Peaceful co-existence between ethnic and ethno-religious groups in any diverse society is an essential element of public order, social peace, security and human development. This side-event addresses the issue of the co-existence of ethnic minorities in Azerbaijan and the management of diversity by the state. An 80-page report about 15 ethnic minorities based on a fact-finding mission will be presented to the participants. It highlights their specificities and their historical roots as well as the state management of their co-existence. The creation of a new identity from the ashes of the late Soviet Union, the identification of ethnic minorities in the light of the self-identification of their members,

the accommodation of collective rights, social integration while respecting diversity as well as concerns about territorial integrity are also dealt with in the report

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Initiatives for better integration of persons belonging to national minorities into public life in the Republic of Serbia
Convenors: Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia, Basic Police Training Centre, Co-ordination Body for South Serbia and NGO Activists
Working languages: English

Summary: Since its establishment, the OSCE Mission to Serbia has worked closely with state institutions to support programmes and initiatives that provide equal access to all national minorities into public life.

The Mission and Serbian state counterparts shall present examples of best practices jointly implemented in 2013-14 to promote minority integration. Special focus will be given to minority integration into the police service and state language education.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15-14.45**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Combating Hate Speech Online
Convenor: Council of Europe
Working languages: English

Summary: The purpose of the side event is to inform about the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and to discuss educational and policy approaches to combat hate speech and promote human rights online. The side event is of interest to partners and participants in HDIM active in the areas of human rights, human rights education, anti-racism and discrimination, Internet governance and youth policy.

Background

The Internet offers the possibility for users to create, publish, distribute and consume media content in multiple forms, fostering a space of creativity, communication and participation.

The development of social networks, in particular, has increased the level of youth participation in cyberspace in a variety of ways ranging from keeping in touch with peers and developing new contacts to sharing content and self-expression. Online space, just as offline space, presents new opportunities, challenges and threats to young people. Just as in offline space, young people may equally be victims and agents of abuse and human rights violations. Interaction in online space, even if democratised and uncensored, cannot be value-void. Hate speech online has become in the recent years, one of the major forms of abuse of human rights, with very serious consequences online and offline.

Hate speech as such is not a new issue in the human rights debate, its online dimension and the potential negative impact on democratic development give new reasons for concern.

Aware of the need to provide responses to the consequences of online hate speech and, more generally, to promote human rights in cyberspace, the Council of Europe has launched in 2013 the youth-led campaign **No Hate Speech Movement**. The campaign aims to reduce acceptance of hate speech on the Internet by combating racism and discrimination in their online expressions and by equipping young people and youth organisations with the competences necessary to recognize and act against such human rights violations.

The No Hate Speech Movement campaign is active online through a network of activists and partners who report hate online, suggest reactions and counter-narratives and raise awareness for human rights online – www.nohatespeechmovement.org

The campaign is decentralised in 39 national campaigns across Europe and Mexico. The national campaigns are led by coalitions of youth and human rights organisations, with the support and involvement of public authorities. The experiences of the national campaigns are very important because they are closer to the issues and realities of young people.

Hate speech, as defined by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, covers all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including: intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people of immigrant origin. For the purpose of the campaign, other forms of discrimination and prejudice, such as antigypsyism, christianophobia, islamophobia, misogyny, sexism and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity fall clearly within the scope of hate speech.

Hate speech is an issue of common concern to the Council of Europe and the OSCE. While it is often equated against freedom of speech, this is not incompatible with the approach of the campaign to educate and advocate for a better Internet where human rights and safety of users are better respected. The two approaches go in fact hand in hand; understanding how this can and should be done is important to secure both.

The Council of Europe and OSCE will have co-organised a seminar on responses to islamophobia and religious intolerance online in the framework of the campaign (Budapest, 17-19 September).

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Roma and related groups in Central Asia and South Caucasus
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Distinctive ethnic communities, related to Roma, live throughout Central Asia and South Caucasus. These communities include diverse groups, such as Lyuli (self-appellation Mug'at), Bosha (self-appellation Lomavtik), Garachi (self-appellation Dom), and Roma living throughout this region. For centuries, Roma and related groups have been an integral part of the population in Central Asia and South Caucasus. Their current situation and position in this region is characterized by both differences and similarities. In all Central Asian states and Georgia, however, they face marginalization resulting from high unemployment, lack of personal documents, illiteracy and negative public perception. In contrast to Central Asia and Georgia, Bosha in Armenia represent a seemingly unique case of integration. As an Armenian-speaking group, they have successfully integrated into the surrounding Armenian population. To date, these communities in Central Asia and South Caucasus have been largely overlooked by scholars, the national governments and the international community. To assist in filling this gap, ODIHR has supported a study on Roma and related groups of Central Asia and South Caucasus. The side event will provide a platform for presenting the results of the study. In addition, the side event will serve as a forum for discussion on the situation and main challenges of these groups in Central Asia and South Caucasus, as well as for identifying potential parallels to the challenges of Roma and related groups in other parts of the OSCE area, with a view of existing measures to address these challenges.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: The problem of xenophobia and aggressive nationalism in the modern Europe.
Is there any solution?
Convenors: Experts of National human rights and anti-fascists organizations from Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Estonia and Finland
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Today the peoples of a number of European nations gave the preferences on the elections to radical nationalists and just neo-Nazi. The Parliaments of Greece, Hungary, Ukraine, Latvia

and other European countries have already the separate factions of political parties that advocate an aggressive stance against immigrants, ethnic and religious minorities, as well as members of the LGBT community.

Sometimes this xenophobia and intolerance has the racist forms.

Today we are confronted not only with parliamentary initiatives aimed at restricting the rights of minorities, but also with all sorts of illegal activities outside parliament - from illegal patrols of areas inhabited by gypsies and immigrants to direct attacks and physical violence's.

Very often the Governments are helpless in these situations, sometimes they use radicals in the interests of the internal political struggle and for the suppression of democracy, or they solidarize with the radical actions, supporting their parliamentary initiatives aimed at assimilation and the restriction of the rights of minorities living in the country, as well as foreigners.

An example of countries where the radical nationalists have the representation in the Parliaments inspired by their counterparts in neighboring states. They are very active in all European countries, they create new political parties and NGO, etc. We can observe today that a list of the countries where hate crimes are becoming commonplace is growing.

What are the reasons for the growth of radical nationalist and neo-Nazi sentiments in the modern Europe? Is there any solution to this problem? Which countries have already reached the "red" line, and which are close to this one?

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: How minority rights are protected during conflicts, where states' responsibility lies, how can civil society act to protect minority communities and ensure they are able to be active participants in reconciliation?
Convenors: Minority Rights Group in partnership with SAC/No Borders Project and Eastern Partnership Minorities Network
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, as well as escalating aggression in Nagorno Karabakh are following longstanding conflicts in the region resulting from the Transnistrian separation from Moldova and Abkhazian and South Ossetian separation from Georgia.

This pattern of ongoing and unresolved conflicts, have had great impact on national, ethnic, religious and indigenous minority communities within these territories, leaving them highly vulnerable to humans rights violations. In many cases this pattern of conflicts is sparked and maintained by geostrategic interests, which makes it very difficult for these often small and unrepresented communities to play a necessary part in any reconciliation and peace processes.

During the session experts from Eastern Partnership Minorities Network will talk about common patterns of conflict consequences for minorities followed by discussion of best practices for overcoming these consequences. The open Q&A and discussion round will close the event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Identity vs. integration in education: a contradiction
Convenor: OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In line with its conflict prevention mandate, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (OSCE HCNM) has put a strong emphasis on education as a tool for preserving minorities' identity as well as ensuring cohesive, integrated societies. How can States and other stakeholders find an appropriate balance between these two aims of education? This side-event will review the normative and legal framework for addressing this question. It will also discuss some grassroots initiatives on integrated, multilingual education in countries such as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kazakhstan

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: The Situation of Roma in the current crisis situation in Ukraine
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and International Charitable Organisation Roma Women's fund Chiricli
Working languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: Reports of international organizations, as well as ODIHR's field visit in July 2014, highlight that the general situation of Roma in Ukraine remains problematic. Main challenges include the lack of personal documents, access to education and employment, substandard housing conditions and relation of Roma and police. Roma women are particularly vulnerable to face multiple discrimination. There has been little progress in implementing the national strategy for Roma integration adopted in 2013 and the general awareness about the situation of Roma is limited. The developments in Ukraine since November 2013 have further aggravated the situation of Roma, especially of those communities forced to leave their homes in eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

The side event will provide an opportunity to present the key findings of the study on the human rights situation of Roma and particularly Roma women in Ukraine as monitored by the Roma Women's Fund Chiricli. In addition, the side event will discuss the current situation and needs of Roma at local level and provide for a forum to explore with other stakeholders how authorities, Roma civil society and the international community can work together to support the implementation of Roma related policies and adequately address the needs of Roma affected by the current crisis.

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 30 September

Time: **8.30 – 9.30**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Wake up call: Sharing findings from the 2013 OSCE/ODIHR annual hate crime report and introducing the newly launched Hate Crime Reporting Website
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non Discrimination
Working languages: English,

Summary: This one-hour breakfast session will provide participants with the opportunity to explore ODIHR's brand new hate crime reporting website and give comments and feedback on ODIHR's 2013 annual draft hate crime report. Two new ODIHR publications will also be shared: *Prosecuting Hate Crimes: a practical guide*; and *Hate Crime Data Collection and Monitoring: a practical guide*.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Growth of right-wing and xenophobic attitudes in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet states
Convenor: Foundation for development civil society institutions "Public Diplomacy"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The last decade of the 20th and the first - of the 21st century marked by the right-wing forces in Eastern Europe and former Soviet countries to a new level of systematicity. Range of right-wing radicalism today is very wide - from right-wing extremist crime to participate in government and parliamentary coalitions. Since the underlying factors that led to this surge, continue to operate and currently, it is appropriate to wonder about the limits of the possible expansion of the right-wing ideology.

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Announcement of the annual report of ORIW
Convenor: COJEP International
Working languages: English, French

Summary: ORIW, Organisation "Racism Islamophobia Watch" is an organisation headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Representation in France was established in October 2013. We work with experts and lawyers in order to fight against Islamophobia and racism in Francophone countries. Our organization works independently without being affiliated to any political party or government structure.

Racism is an ideology which, assuming the existence of human races, believes that some races are inherently superior to others. This ideology can lead to an attitude of hostility or systematic sympathy of a particular category of people. According to this ideology, citizens from Turkish, Arab or Asian countries living in Europe become victims of discrimination and are excluded from society.

Islamophobia is religious discrimination, this concept is used to describe prejudices and repudiate Muslims. Islamophobia is officially denounced in 1997, when the British antiracist organization Runnymede Trust published a document entitled Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All. But it spread in the media language primarily from the attacks of September 11, 2001, in New York and the 11 March 2004 in Madrid and London bombings of July 2005, which provoked negative reactions towards Muslims in several countries, mainly Westerners. Today, as everyone knows the word Islamophobia, fear arises because of poor knowledge of Islam. The fear legalizes discrimination in everyday life in Europe. Despite the fact that Islamophobia is discriminatory behavior of individuals or groups of people, nevertheless they

get their support from political parties, governments and media what causes more violence. Islamophobia and racism provoke abuse and violence, psychological or physical injury and even death. In 2010 organization COJEP International in cooperation with other associations and representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) proposed a definition of Islamophobia: it is "a form of intolerance and discrimination motivated by fear, distrust and hatred of Islam and its adherents. It is often manifested along with racism, xenophobia, anti-immigrant sentiment, and religious intolerance". Racism is fully recognized as a threat on the European and international levels. The main European Union instrument of fight against discrimination is Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Chapter 3 of the Charter deals with the "equality", Article 21 states the principle of the prohibition of discrimination. It lists some discriminatory grounds such as those based on ethnicity, race or religion.

Taking in account all these ideas and actions, ORIW supports and assists to people whose moral and legal values of life are in danger because of racist or Islamophobic actions in Francophone countries (France, Belgium, Switzerland).

ORIW also produces monthly and annual reports to draw attention on Islamophobia and racism in everyday life and to become free of prejudice.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Hate Crimes against Women of African and Muslim Descent
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non Discrimination
Working languages: English

Summary: There is a scarcity of reliable information and data on the extent of bias-motivated violence targeting women from minority communities, in particular Muslim women and women of African descent. In spring 2014, ODIHR organized two focus groups with representatives from these communities to identify types of incidents experienced by these groups and assess the impact of discrimination, bias and stereotypes on their lives. During the events, few reports on the extent of bias-motivated violence targeting women were presented. The purpose of this event is to give the opportunity to civil society organizations to present their findings and generate a discussion on how gender-sensitive responses can be created when addressing bias-motivated violence.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15-14.45**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: "White Paper on abuses and rights violations of Roma during the 1900s"
– Towards a better understanding of human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in Sweden
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and Government Offices of Sweden
Working languages: English

Summary: In 2012 the Government of Sweden adopted a Strategy for Roma Inclusion 2012-2032 with the goal that Roma who turn 20 years of age in 2032 have the same opportunities in life as non-Roma. The strategy addresses social and economic exclusion with a human rights perspective by paying special emphasis on non-discrimination. In this context Sweden recognizes the importance of dealing with the past in order to increase understanding of the present situation of Roma and combat anti-Gypsyism and therefore published a White Paper on human rights violations on 25 March 2014. The "White Paper on abuses and rights violations of Roma during the 1900s" explores historical aspects related to official state policies towards Roma in Sweden during the 1900s that have shaped public perceptions and institutional practices, and continue to influence the situation of Roma today. The paper was introduced by the Minister

for Integration, Erik Ullenhag, and consists of witness statements and research on the discrimination of Roma in Sweden in the 20th century.

At the Side Event organizers will present the key aspects highlighted by the White Paper to the international community and explore pro-active institutional approaches taken by the Government of Sweden to combat historically ingrained discrimination against Roma and Sinti. Participants will discuss the linkages between past abuse and rights violations and current human rights challenges highlighting the impact on the socio-economic situation of Roma today and its relevance for policy makers.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Round-table “Islamophobia: fact or Fiction”
Convenor: EMISCO – European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion
Working languages: English

Summary: Today, one of the greatest challenges to democracy and human rights in many OSCE participating States is Islamophobia. A specific category of xenophobia with racist undertones, Islamophobia comprises of intolerance, hatred, hate speech, hate crimes and across the board discrimination against Muslims communities.

In recent years, this discourse has found its way both in the official language of politics and mass media, and among the population in general. It is manifested in newspapers, on the radio, on television, in religious and intellectual circles, in everyday language and in social media. The media constantly portrays non-European cultures, especially from different Muslim countries, as inferior and primitive. 'Primitive', 'fundamentalist', 'Islamist', 'extremist', 'intolerant', 'authoritarian', 'militant', 'medieval', 'women oppressive', 'radical', 'menacing', 'aggressive', 'conquering', 'incompatible', 'patriarchal', 'backward', 'tyrannical' and lacking the will to reform itself, are some of the adjectives or phrases used liberally to describe or qualify references to Islam. Sometimes pejorative references have gone as far as presenting Islam as a new form of 'fascism'.

This development has produced an atmosphere where freedom of expression is misused to vent abusive opinions that verge on cultural racism. The question then arises whether Islamophobia has become so pervasive in many countries that it has come to be regarded as 'normal' and socially acceptable. In the last decade, there have been numerous reports, surveys and academic papers which prove not only the existence but also very prevalent practical proof and intensification of Islamophobia. Linked to historical prejudices about Islam and fed by new fears about immigration and multi-culturalism, Islamophobia is no longer the exclusive preserve of extremist far-right parties (whose popularity continues to rise in many countries) but has also been accepted in varying degrees by mainstream society.

EMISCO maintains that Europe needs more than ever to have a pluralistic and truly inclusive society, a cosmopolitan identity, and an intercultural, inter-religious dialogue that fosters co-operation and promotes social harmony. EMISCO believes that pluralism and inclusion are worthy goals that need to be promoted all the time through the education system, through all forms of mass media, and through the discourse and policy of the governments. EMISCO is also trying to raise awareness among Muslim communities to network with other NGOs and individuals among Muslims and non-Muslims in a professional as well as co-coordinated fashion. Focus on religious awareness and revival should be coupled with a betterment of socio-economic conditions, education and mutual integration with the majority society population. In short, estrangement and segregation should be changed with inclusion, active participation, and a sense of belonging in the society in which one lives. With the round table "Islamophobia: fact or fiction?", EMISCO aims to examine the causes for the recent intensification of Islamophobia in many countries in the West of Vienna. Working together with experts from NGOs, mass media, the academia, and Muslim communities, we seek ways in which this trend can be effectively challenged, exposed for its dangerous fallacies, and reversed, for the benefit of the Muslim communities in OSCE countries and for the promotion of social harmony.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Presentation of the "White Papers of Hate"
Convenor: Experts of National human rights and anti-fascists organizations from Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Estonia and Finland
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: "White Papers of Hate" is a fundamental research conducted by the International Human Rights Movement World Without Nazism in collaboration with Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Berlin Research Centre on Anti-Semitism of the Technical University of Berlin (Germany). Research was based on the monitoring of manifestations of xenophobia, neo-Nazism and radical nationalism, conducted by HRM World Without Nazism across 19 European countries in 2012-13.

Research consists of an aggregate analysis of neo-Nazi and radical nationalist manifestations in relation to factors of social stability/instability in each country. Analysis involved the legal framework in the period of monitoring, law enforcement practices in regards to minorities, manifestations of racism and intolerance and their legal implications, level of xenophobia in the society, political programmes and activities of radical nationalist parties and groups, international factors, and many others. Such comprehensive comparative analysis over different countries has never been conducted before. Importantly, criteria for factors of stability involved such manifestations as glorification of Nazism and Nazi collaborators, and authorities' attitude towards the modern antifascist movement. We believe, that there is a direct link between the glorification of Nazism and the demands to revise the results of World War Two, as well as the attempts to revise post-war borders and the discrimination of minorities. As country glorifies its Nazi accomplices, it creates an image of an enemy in the face of the peoples that were persecuted or fought for the opposite side during that period.

The analysis of numerous factual materials yielded sufficiently subjective data, which allowed us to rank the radical national threat in Europe. Research was also aimed to identify the direction of social development in European countries in terms of radical nationalist (neo-Nazi) threats, and to develop appropriate recommendations on their elimination.

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Criminalization of voluntary work in spiritual groups
Convenors: Soteria International
Working languages: English

Summary: Charity work is an integrated part in many spiritual traditions. Charity work is judicially regarded as voluntary work, with strict legal frames to avoid exploitation of individuals. In some cases this legal framework is misused as an instrument in persecution of spiritual groups.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Panel debate: understanding hate crimes in Central and Eastern Europe – perspectives, research and policy
Convenors: International Network for Hate Studies, Helsinki Foundation for Human rights, In IUSTITIA and University College of London
Working languages: English

Summary: While in many Western European countries the problem of hate crimes is studied by academics and recognised by governments, both research and policy surrounding this topic is embryonic across much of Central and Eastern Europe. Due to significant historical, societal and political differences, legal solutions and models of understanding of hate crimes developed in the West are not always possible to be implemented in the East. The aim of this panel debate is therefore to develop an understanding of hate crime and hate crime policies in CEE. Discussants, coming from both academic and civil society background, will speak about the specific problems connected with developing successful measures of combating hate crimes in the region. The debate will cover both racist / xenophobic violence (particularly anti-Semitism and anti-Romanism), as well as the streams which, to date, have not received much academic attention in the region, i.e. anti-LGBT and disablist violence.

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: The International Raelian Movement's initiatives to ensure Peace and embrace the future
Convenor: International Raelian Movement
Working languages: English

Summary: The International Raelian Movement's aim is to ensure Peace and embrace the future by promoting innovative ideas which ensure that human beings and their well-being are at the heart of concerns for scientific and spiritual progress.

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Belvedere Meeting Room**
Title: Human Dimension Priorities of the Incoming 2015 OSCE Chairmanship
Convenor: Serbia
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Civil society actors and members of delegations are cordially invited to this side event, organized by Serbia, on the priorities in the Human Dimension of the incoming Chairmanship, followed by a reception at the nearby Platinum Club (ul. Fredry 6).

Wednesday, 1 October

Time: **8.30 – 10.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room Opera**
Title: Engaging civil society to address anti-Semitism in the OSCE region – a consultative breakfast about the forthcoming high-level commemorative event marking the 10th anniversary of the OSCE’s Belin Conference on Ant-Semitism
Convenors: Swiss OSCE Chairman in Office, ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department and OSCE German Delegation
Working languages: English

Summary: OSCE participating States have repeatedly acknowledged “the essential role civil society can play in combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding”. Under the leitmotiv: “Creating a Security Community for the benefit of everyone,” the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship is currently engaged in a dialogue with civil society to steer the implementation of OSCE commitments with a view to improving people’s lives. The purpose of this consultative breakfast will be to present plans to organize a civil society forum as part of the forthcoming high-level commemorative event which will mark the 10th anniversary of the OSCE’s Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism. At the consultative breakfast, the co-organizers of the forthcoming high-level commemorative event as well as representatives of the civil society steering committee in charge of shaping and preparing the envisaged civil society forum will raise awareness about the prominent role that will be given to civil society and youth organizations at the forthcoming event in Berlin, present the topics to be discussed and jointly explore the significance of developing civil society recommendations in this area.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Warsaw, Dialogue for Democracy
Convenors: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy is an annual conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. It offers a platform for exchanging ideas and experiences on the issues of democracy, human rights and rule of law. The conference’s proceedings take place in October each year. Poland will be pleased to present last year’s conclusions and to highlight new ideas for the upcoming event with the hope that it will permit to everyone to use them in the process of reflection on ways to strengthen democracy and promote human rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Presentation of the Guide on Working with Vulnerable Groups and Non-Discrimination Principles for Local Youth Office Coordinators
Convenors: The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia
Working languages: English

Summary: Based on a strategic goal of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) to support inclusive local youth offices (LYO), the OSCE Mission to Serbia supported the creation and implementation of the “Educational Course on Non-Discrimination and Work with Vulnerable Groups for LYO Coordinators” in 2012 and 2013. This comprehensive certified course, organised in cooperation with the MoYS and with expert support from the NGO Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), was attended by approximately 100 LYO Coordinators and Youth Workers from all over Serbia. The course covered the following topics: the theoretical aspects of non-discrimination; the position and needs of certain vulnerable groups and terminology in use; practical guidance on vulnerable groups’ inclusion in youth programmes and local action plans; affirmative action and possible responses to discriminatory acts in local communities. As a result of this training, the LYO Coordinators and Youth Workers increased their capacity to support the inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups and to strengthen the position of persons belonging to diverse groups in local communities in order to help them be recognized and respected. Moreover, the LYO Coordinators became familiar with ways to sensitize the local public about diversity within their communities and to act in case a discriminatory act takes place. One of the recommendations indicated in the evaluations completed by participants was the development of a guide on working with vulnerable groups and principles of non-discrimination and equality to serve as resource material for LYO Coordinators to support them in promoting equality. The Guide includes information on: the concept of discrimination; causes and impacts of discrimination; explanations of individual, institutional and structural discrimination; legal aspects of discrimination; examples of discriminatory acts; distinction from other forms of unfair treatment; possibilities to respond to acts of discrimination; definition of various vulnerable groups; affirmative action programs for vulnerable groups; a checklist for mainstreaming diversity and equality and a list of programs to sensitize the community to the needs of vulnerable groups; best practice examples of programmes for vulnerable groups which do not require major funding. The Guide will be presented at a side event during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw on 1 October 2014 as a best practice example of cooperation between an OSCE Field Mission and the respective ministry in the area of equality and non-discrimination. The Guide will be presented by a MoYS representative, the editor of the Guide and a representative from the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Below Freedom of religion or belief standards: State policy in Kazakhstan, arbitrary protection in the Kyrgyz Republic
Convenors: Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Kazakhstan has boasted about its policy of harmony and tolerance in the religious sphere for years. However, the recent reforms of the Law on religion and this year’s Criminal Code package demonstrate the true face of this policy. Religious groups and other members of civil society experience increasing restrictions to their work, in stark contrast to Kazakhstan’s international obligations in the field. In the neighboring Kyrgyz Republic, promising reform of the state’s religious policy through dialogue and inclusion have so far not resulted in concrete improvements on the ground. In a fresh report, launched today, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and Forum 18 present and discuss the recent policies on freedom of religion or belief in the two countries since our previous report of 2010, when Kazakhstan chaired the OSCE and flagged promotion of inter-ethnic and inter-religious coexistence as one of their main priorities.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.15-14.45**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Implementing OSCE human dimension commitments: a responsibility by the OSCE Chairmanship
Convenor: Swiss OSCE Chairmanship
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In Astana commemorative declaration, the Head of State or governments reaffirmed their commitment to the principles on which the OSCE is based. They also acknowledge that more had to be done to ensure the full respect for and implementation of principles and commitments. Switzerland and Serbia developed their joint work plan for their chairmanship 2014-15 in the spirit of this declaration.

Chairing the OSCE imply responsibilities and accountability. This is why Switzerland and Serbia are also working on improving the implementation of OSCE commitments in their respective countries and have engaged in an inclusive dialogue with civil society. Professor Walter Kälin together with representatives of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and civil society will discuss on how to better implement OSCE commitments and present the concept of self-evaluation during this side-event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Threats to freedom of conscience within the OSCE Region
Convenors: Ordo Iuris Institute of Legal Culture, Alliance Defending Freedom and Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians
Working languages: English

Summary: Last years, there is considerable number of cases illustrating attempts to limit freedom of conscience. It is especially visible on the field of medical health care, where conscientious objection is becoming limited or even denied by states. The restriction have different character. There are attempts to limit the freedom by legislature, as well as actions taken by administration, including local government and hospital administration. The cases presented will address particularly situation in Sweden and Poland. Also actions taken by civil society in defense of the freedom of conscience will be presented.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Repressions against civil society in Russia
Convenors: Solidarity with civil society in Russia
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: During the first half of 2014 the situations with human rights and civil freedom in Russia changed dramatically. There were adopted number of repressive laws; violations of the human rights became every day practice of Russian authorities.

Representatives of Russian and international NGOs will present the brief report on the situations with freedom of assembly freedom of associations, prevention of tortures and other human rights in Russia

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: In search of new lives – situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine
Convenors: International Partnership for Human Rights together with several Ukrainian civil society organizations
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Internally displaced persons (IDPs) have initially appeared in Ukraine after Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in March 2014. The number of IDPs has dramatically increased since the beginning of June 2014, with fighting between Ukrainian authorities and rebels from the region saw dramatic escalation. According to the UNHCR estimates IDPs from eastern Ukraine now make up 85% of the total displaced Ukrainians, while those from Crimea account for only 15%. IDPs from eastern Ukraine arrive in their location of displacement with fewer resources and possessions, and many have experienced the effects of violence. Many report destruction of their housing and cannot return until repairs are done. With the humanitarian needs increasing on a daily basis, response of the Ukrainian government to address the needs of the internally displaced seems to be lagging behind. Recently adopted law on internal displacement has a declarative nature and fails to provide concrete guarantees for the IDPs and responsibilities for the state bodies in question. This side event aims at discussing concrete problems that IDPs are facing in the process of displacement and identifying the ways of resolving these problems in a timely and efficient ways.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Shamanic Practice as Spiritual and Health Rights
Convenors: Soteria International
Working languages: English

Summary: Shaman spiritual practices increase in many OSCE member states, providing alternative spiritual and health choices. The spiritual and health rights of shaman followers are currently obstructed by law, as some traditional shaman spiritual medicine, the theogenes, are sometimes considered illegal.

The theogenes are mixtures of plants, such as ayahuasca, that provide a non-ordinary state of consciousness to the practitioner, considered the base of shaman healing and spiritual practice.

The law regarding ayahuasca and theogenes differ between the OSCE member states. The properties of theogenes do not make it attractive to the drug market, and thus the police in many countries do not persecute the use theogenes.

The increased interest in shaman practices makes the unclear legal situation become an increased human right issue, as recently several shamans have been prosecuted and convicted for carrying out their spiritual practice.

The side event "Shaman practice as Spiritual and Health Right" aim to highlight on-going cases human rights violations and different views on solutions from a judicial and spiritual perspective.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Elections in post-Soviet states: new challenges to democracy
Convenor: Commonwealth of Independent States – Election Monitoring Organization
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Despite the extensive changes that have occurred after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the post-Soviet countries are still characterized as a society in transition, the prospects for the future evolution of which seem to be very uncertain.

Thursday, 2 October

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Speaking up in Britain: Rights of Religious conscience, expression and speech in an aggressive secular state. Are Christian values offensive and discriminatory?
Convenor: Core Issues Trust/Christian Concern
Working languages: English

Summary: As Britain revokes the influence of its Christian Heritage in the public space and judiciary, centuries-old freedoms of conscience, expression and speech are being challenged and trumped.

Two recent and ongoing cases illustrate the decline of these freedoms and the difficulty of fair representation in the courts and professional bodies. Dr Mike Davidson, Director of Core Issues trust (CIT) will report on two cases associated with the Trust: "Core Issues Trust versus Transport for London (TFL)" in the UK High Court since 2012, and an ongoing dispute with the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP)/British Psychodrama Association (BPA). Both cases highlight difficulties in representing orthodox Christian values around human sexuality in an aggressively secular state.

Paul Diamond, barrister to the Christian Legal Centre will discuss recent cases on the legal issues related to the expression and promotion of Christian values in Britain. He is one of the foremost British barristers on religious liberty having appeared both in the House of Lords and in the European Court of Human Rights; including *Eweida v United Kingdom*.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Access to rights for Migrants through registration of legal residency
Convenor: NGOs: Group 484, Legal aid Network, Center for Peace, Legal Advice and Psycho-social Assistance
Working languages: English

Summary: Non-governmental organisations are recognized as valuable partners of OSCE Field Missions. Their activities, particularly those relating to the promotion of human rights, democracy and rule of law are linked directly to the promotion of OSCE values and the realization of OSCE commitments. The OSCE Mission to Serbia has supported and facilitated a network of human rights NGOs in the region by fostering dialogue among the NGOs, providing capacity building opportunities, and bolstering their expertise for policy and advocacy activities, with a special focus on human rights issues concerning refugees/IDPs and migration-related issues in the Western Balkans.

In 2013, the human rights NGO network members developed a policy document, "Access to rights for migrants through registration of legal residency". The document focuses on access to rights for migrants in four Western Balkan countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia – and provides analyses of national legal frameworks, international standards, analyses of the target groups, and national-level conclusions. The document also contains a final comparative overview of the legal and de facto positions of the target groups in the aforementioned countries.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-14.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The human rights situation of migrant workers from the Kyrgyz republic and the Republic of Tajikistan in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), its member "Human Rights Movement; Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan", Anti-discrimination center "Memorial" jointly with the Partner-Civic Platform "Central Asia on the Move" (CAM)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: FIDH and its member organisations "Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" and Anti-discrimination center "Memorial" organise a side event (2 October 2014, from 13:00pm to 14:00pm) jointly with the Central Asia on the Move Platform (CAM), entitled: "The human rights situation of migrant workers from the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation".

At this event, CAM partners from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Russia will present the rights situation of migrant workers in these four countries.

Coverage will include discussion of Kyrgyz and Tajik migration legislation, the increasingly restrictive migration policies of host countries, a rise in xenophobia and discrimination, as well as problems in implementing states' international human rights obligations. In light of the increasingly restrictive political space for NGO's, the challenges faced by civil society organisations in promoting the rights of migrant workers and human rights in general will be highlighted.

FIDH (the International Federation for Human Rights) is an international movement with 178 member organisations, operating in more than one hundred countries. FIDH works to protect human rights through fact-finding, advocacy and litigation.

Anti-Discrimination Center "Memorial" protects the rights of vulnerable groups, including Roma, ethnic minorities, migrants, and LGBTI. It prepares human rights reports for international bodies, covering the different aspects of discrimination experienced by Central Asian migrant labourers in Russia, including the multiple discrimination faced by women and children.

"Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan" (BDK) is the successor of the NGO "Citizens Against Corruption" (CAC), which was founded in May 2000. The Movement's mission is the protection of human rights, giving specific attention to the freedom of association and defending the political space of Human Right Defenders in Kyrgyzstan through culture and art.

The "Central Asia on the Move" Platform (CAM) is a coalition of 25 NGOs in Central Asia. Established in September 2011 with support from the regional offices of DCA Central Asia and ICCO Cooperation in Central Asia, the Platform seeks to protect the rights and dignity of internal migrants in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as the rights of hundreds of thousands of men and women traveling to Kazakhstan and Russia each year in search of work.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: The Istanbul Convention: a tool to end female genital mutilation
Convenor: Council of Europe, Amnesty International
Working languages: English

Summary: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a violation of the human rights of women and girls and a serious concern for the Council of Europe and Amnesty International alike. It is a threat to girls and women around the globe, including in Europe – a fact that has remained unacknowledged for too long. Legislation must be put in place and properly implemented by the police and the courts. An effective support structure providing appropriate health services and psychological support must be available to respond to the needs of victims and those at risk.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Istanbul Convention, offers a comprehensive framework to governments in Europe and beyond to take action against FGM. It is the first treaty to recognise that FGM exists in Europe and that it needs to be systematically addressed.

The Side Event will present the added value of the Istanbul Convention in combating FGM. A new guide on using the Istanbul Convention as a tool to end FGM will be launched. Jointly prepared by the Council of Europe and Amnesty International, this new publication offers policy makers and advocates important guidance on how the provisions of the Istanbul Convention can and should be applied to put an end to this harmful practice – in Europe and beyond.

The Istanbul Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014 and has already been ratified by 14 countries. It is open for accession to countries which are not members of the Council of Europe.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13.00-15.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Protection of internally displaced persons in the OSCE region: Applying lessons learned to Ukraine
Convenors: International Displacement Monitoring Centre
Working languages: English

Summary: At the end of 2013, approximately 2.2 million people were internally displaced within Europe, all of them in OSCE countries. The cause of displacement within the OSCE region is due, in large part, to armed conflict, generalised violence and other human rights violations with the vast majority of IDPs living in displacement for nearly 20 years. However, with the annexation of Crimea and the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, displacement is again a current reality, with the number of internally displaced persons rising every day.

This side-event will draw from case studies in the OSCE region contextualizing different state responses to displacement and the implications for IDPs. This will include discussion on the adoption of an IDP status, whether or not this includes or should include children of IDPs, regional housing practices as well as innovative legislation, policies and regional frameworks on aspects of displacement. This side-event will reflect on how lessons learned from past and protracted displacement situations in the OSCE region can mitigate the negative effects and prevent - or at the very least limit - protracted displacement in Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Humanitarian and Human Rights Consequences of “Barbed Wirization”
Convenors: Government of Georgia
Working languages: English

Summary: The event aims to raise awareness and encourage discussions among government officials and NGO representatives about the humanitarian consequences and human rights implications of the installation of barbed wires & other physical barriers along the dividing lines around Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Region since the August 2008 Russia-Georgia War. The event will feature a 10-minute documentary on the situation in the villages and communities adjacent to the dividing line, showing personal real stories, tragedies and interviews of local people suffering from the consequences of a modern-day “ghetto” created by what one diplomat in the documentary calls a “new Berlin Wall”.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Specifics of the Belarusian media space regarding Ukrainian events
Convenors: Belarusian Analytical Workroom
Working languages: Belarusian, English, Polish, Russian

Summary: During the presentation, we will demonstrate the mechanism of how Russia's perception of Ukrainian events dominates several other countries media space. A wide range of related empirical data will be presented.

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Discrimination in Ukraine: Myths for political speculation and real problems
Convenors: Coalition for Combating Discrimination in Ukraine, Center for Civil Liberties
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Discrimination of language minorities became a hot topic for speculations following the Euromaidan events in Ukraine. Despite these allegations being merely a political tool, discrimination in Ukraine is a real problem creating obstacles for adequate protection of the rights of a much wider part of the country's population/minorities. The new government's steps "inspired" by the European integration requirements but failed to provide sufficient protection on the legislative level. In addition, the practice is yet to show how the new law will be implemented and what further steps are needed.

What has changed since Euromaidan in the protection of vulnerable groups? What are the problems and possible solutions? Has the government done enough to meet European standards and prove its commitment to the principles of equality?

The event organized by the Coalition for Combating Discrimination offers discussion on the key challenges in the field of preventing and combating discrimination in Ukraine. After all, now might be the right time to dismiss any accusations put forward by foreign powers through comprehensive and effective policies to combat discrimination.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.00-20.00**
Venue: **Opera Room**
Title: Repression and harassment of opposition and civil society activists in Kazakhstan
Convenor: Russian Free University Sakharov
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The event is designed to give a greater understanding of the situation in compliance with the political rights of citizens of Kazakhstan. Many representatives of various political organizations and movements are repressed, and pressure from the state, which has been the chairman of the OSCE. We also want to talk about the fate of political prisoners, who are being persecuted because of their beliefs. They are leaders of the strike oil, which was shot by units of the army and the political police. The famous poet and writer Aaron Atabek, defender of the rights of prisoners Vadim Kuramshin, sentenced to 12 years in prison for taking part in the session of the OSCE Human Dimension in September 2012. This leader of the banned party Alga, Vladimir Kozlov. Kazakh opposition leaders Rakhmat Aliyev and Mukhtar Ablyazov also arrested in the EU at the request of the Kazakh authorities intending to completely destroy the opposition in the country and abroad.