



Under the Watchful Eye: Human Rights, Gender and Surveillance

Biographies

Natasha Meli Daudey is the Permanent Representative of Malta to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to the United Nations and to the International Organisations based in Vienna as well as Malta's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Austria. In 2024, she is Chair of the Permanent Council during Malta's Chairpersonship of the OSCE.

Ms Meli Daudey is a career diplomat and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. Prior to coming to Vienna, she served as Malta's Ambassador to Poland and non-resident Ambassador to Georgia, Moldova, Belarus and Armenia.

Ms Meli Daudey graduated in International Relations (Hons) from the University of Malta in 1999. The year after, she read a Master's Degree in European Politics and Administration at the College of Europe in Bruges, from where she graduated in 2000. In 1996/7 she obtained the Diplome d'Hautes Etudes en Français and the Diplome d'Etudes Supérieures from the Alliance Française.

Ms Meli Daudey speaks French and Italian, has good knowledge of German and basic knowledge of Arabic, Spanish, and Polish.

Teresa Ribeiro, of Portugal, is the fifth Representative on Freedom of the Media. She has vast political, diplomatic, human rights and media experience.

Prior to this position, she was Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, while serving as President of the National Commission for Human Rights.

She was also Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Deputy Secretary General at the Union for the Mediterranean, positions that gave

her extensive experience in dealing with the EU institutions and Member States, as well as with its close neighbourhood.

Throughout her career, Teresa Ribeiro has held different positions in media, both in Portugal and in multilateral organizations, such as President of the Institute of the Media of Portugal, President of the Steering Committee on Mass Media of the Council of Europe, and also Co-founder and first elected President of the Executive Board of Obercom – Media Observatory.

She holds a degree in Philosophy from the University of Lisbon.

Matteo Mecacci (Italy) has been Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) since December 2020.

Prior to that he spent 7 years as President of the International Campaign for Tibet. He headed the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Georgia in 2013 and was a Member of the Italian Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee and of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 2008– 2013. From 2000 to 2008 he was Representative to the United Nations in New York of “No Peace Without Justice” and the “Transnational Radical Party”. He holds a JD in International Law from the University of Florence.

Roberto Montella assumed his duties as OSCE PA Secretary General on 1 January 2016 following his election at the 2015 Annual Session. He was re-elected by the Standing Committee in 2019 for a second five-year mandate starting 1 January 2021. He previously served in the International Secretariat as Director of Presidential Administration. Montella has held positions at OSCE field missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Serbia and Montenegro, fulfilling a range of advisory, peace-building and management functions. He also served as Head of the OSCE South Serbia Regional Office and Head of the European Center for Minority Issues in Kosovo.

Marek Szczygiel

Ambassador Marek Szczygiel is the Director of the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. He has nearly 30 years of professional experience as a diplomat in the Polish foreign service. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Head of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia for almost three years. Before that, he held the position of Ambassador-at-Large for emerging security challenges and Co-ordinator for international cyber policy at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2011 until 2015, he served as Ambassador of Poland to Romania. Among other functions, Ambassador Szczygiel worked twice as Deputy Director for Security Policy in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE in Vienna, and Second Secretary at the Polish Embassy in Stockholm.

His international roles include, among others, the following functions: Chair of The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (2017-2018), Member of the UN High-Level FMCT Treaty Expert Preparatory Group (2017-2018), Member of the Steering Board of the European Center of Excellence on Countering Hybrid Threats in Helsinki (2017-2020), and Polish Sherpa for the Nuclear Security Summit Process (2009-2011), Member of the Executive Board of the European Centre on Minority Issues (2023 -).

Ambassador Szczygiel holds master degrees in international relations and law.

Galina Timchenko is the co-founder, CEO, and publisher of Meduza — the largest remaining independent Russian news outlet published in both Russian and English. Meduza continues to reach millions of people inside Russia despite the project’s newsroom having to operate from exile for the last nine years. In April 2021, Russian authorities designated Meduza as a “foreign agent” in an attempt to knock out its advertising income. Since the very beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine Meduza strongly opposed the Kremlin’s monstrous actions and the Russian government began blocking Meduza’s website outright. Finally, in January 2023, the Kremlin banned Meduza completely, declaring the outlet an illegal “undesirable organization”. These actions were made to destroy the newsroom, but Meduza managed to retain the majority of its audience due to the diverse and technologically advanced infrastructure.

Galina also served as the editor-in-chief of Lenta.ru media from 2004 until 2014.

Galina Timchenko is a 2022 Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award for extraordinary and sustained achievement in the cause of press freedom. In 2022, Meduza was awarded Fritt Ord Foundation Prize for courageous, independent and fact-based journalism.

Lucy Purdon is the Director of [Courage Everywhere](#), a consultancy focused on gender justice, policy and innovation to advance technology for the benefit of all women. She has worked for over 10 years at the intersection of technology and human rights in senior and leadership roles at Mozilla Foundation, Privacy International and The Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB.)

Lucy advises organisations globally on the impacts of technology, regulation and policy on human rights and has campaigned for a plethora of digital and women's rights including better protections for women’s health data and the removal of marketing companies from maternity wards in the UK.

Dr habil. Kyriaki TOPIDI

Kyriaki is a senior researcher and head of the research cluster on Culture & Diversity at the European Centre for Minority Issues (Flensburg, Germany). She has lectured extensively and researched in the areas of Public International Law, European Law, Human Rights and Comparative Law. In the past, she has occupied research and teaching positions in various institutions and was a guest scholar in a number of research institutes and faculties across the globe. Her research interests focus on diversity management and minority protection rights and mechanisms with a special interest in religion. She is the author and editor of a number of volumes and articles. She is the co-editor of the *Routledge Advances on Minority Studies* book series. Her latest co-edited work focuses on *Minority Recognition and the Diversity Deficit* (Hart, 2022). At the ECMI, she is currently researching on minority identity, intersectionality and digital governance, preparing a monograph on *Intersectional Discrimination in Platform Governance* (BRILL, forthcoming 2025) as well as on the intersection of minorities with social movements, with an upcoming edited volume on *Minority Rights and Social Change: Norms, Actors and Strategies* (Routledge, 2024).

Ena Bavčić, leverages her expertise in exploring the intersection of technology and human rights and gender equality. During her most recent engagement at DCAF, she delved into cybersecurity issues, particularly examining their impact on the rights of vulnerable groups with a focus on gender and human rights. Her efforts have resulted in two books which she edited: *Online Actions, Offline Harms: Case-studies on Gender and Cybersecurity in The Western Balkans*, and *Cybersecurity and Human Rights in The Western Balkans: Mapping Governance and Actors* both published by DCAF. Her previous engagements include acting as a Programme Officer and Country Manager for Civil Rights Defenders in Bosnia and Herzegovina for over seven years. She has also edited a publication on *Video Surveillance and Right to Assembly in BiH - Implications and Analysis of Practices*, published by ECNL and CZM KVART BiH.

Ena Bavčić is a member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, where she actively contributes by drafting notes and documents at the intersection of digital and human rights. Through her advocacy, she amplifies the voices of vulnerable communities, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed on the local and global stages. Ena holds a MA in Human Rights and Democracy.

Dr. Hedy Fry was appointed the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues by PA President Petros Efthymiou in October 2010, and she has been reappointed in the following years. She was first elected to the Canadian parliament from Vancouver-Centre in 1993, and is now the longest-serving female member of parliament in Canadian history. Her work focuses on women's equality, social policy, arts and culture, homelessness, and the rights of the LGBT community.