



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018

Warsaw Poland, 10 - 21 September 2018

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The below 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, 10 September

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Human Rights beyond the Playing Field: example of the FIFA World Cup 2018
Convenor: International Network - Youth Human Rights Movement
Co-convenors: Human Rights Watch; Moscow Helsinki Group; International Civic Initiative for OSCE (ICI OSCE)
Working language: English

Summary: Major sports events involve not only extensive organizational efforts and a mass influx of tourists, they are also accompanied by restrictions on basic human rights. At the backdrop of FIFA World Cup-2018 in Russia, there were arrests of human rights defenders, evidence of torture in anti-extremism cases, increased powers given to law-enforcement, restrictions on freedom of movement and blanket bans on peaceful assemblies. To what extent are those measures justified by “increased security risks”? How typical are they during mass events, be it sports or entertainment? What tests are available for legality and sufficient justification of such measures? What is the position of the FIFA and other sports organizations in relation to allegations of human rights abuses? And what role is there to play for the ODIHR and other OSCE bodies and institutions? Experts from leading human rights organizations, working in Russia and internationally, will present their conclusions and discuss recommendations, drawing on the experiences during the recent World Cup-2018 as well as other similar events in the past.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Electoral law reforms in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
Convenor: European Exchange
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In Eastern Europe, changes to electoral laws are widely demanded by the citizen observers groups. Election experts see the majoritarian element of the mixed election systems as a factor promoting vote-buying and the misuse of administrative resources in elections – as long as corruption in politics persists and effective criminal liability for election falsification is lacking. In Ukraine, the coalition agreement of 2014 envisaged the transition to a proportional electoral system with open lists, but its approval is still critically dependent on political consensus and the political will of the president. The citizen observers demand the introduction of a new law on sanctions against election fraud and a new composition of the Central Election Commission. In 2017 Moldova adopted a mixed electoral system in a hurry, with limited discussions that merely simulated public consultations and without a consensus within the society. In Georgia, the ruling party Georgian Dream recently decided to introduce proportional representation only from 2024 on while the constitutional amendments were single-handedly and hastily adopted without broad consensus and support from the opposition. The electoral reform is underway in Armenia, where the civil society groups are actively involved in drawing the new electoral code.

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Implementation of the recommendations of the international election missions in Ukraine: assessment of progress on the eve of the presidential and parliamentary elections
Convenor: Civil Network OPORA
Working language: English

Summary: Civil Network OPORA will present the result of comprehensive assessment of Ukraine's realization of recommendations given by international election observation missions, its commitments related to the European integration and cooperation with international financial institutions, which concern improvements in electoral matters. Another thing we focused in our analysis is how state authorities implement recommendations given by national monitoring organizations and follow internal political commitments of the state. According to the OSCE/ODIHR reference materials concerning international and national observation of elections, we can see how previous recommendations were realized is an inherent part of assessment of the needs for the next election. Based on the assessment results, OPORA made a list of key challenges for the election process, which occurred as a result of non-realization or partial realization of recommendations given by observation missions and international organizations. The results of comprehensive assessment of how the previous recommendations were realized will not only urge the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to consider already developed draft amendments to the legislation, but also allow election administration bodies, non-governmental organizations, and law-enforcement bodies to plan preventive measures for drawbacks in the election process. If a part of significant recommendations is not realized by the state, this must become a signal for taking additional measures at the level of legislation, bylaws and practices. Another important task is intersectoral dialog concerning the electoral reform and the strengthening of communication between Ukraine and its international partners. These results of analysis of the implementation of recommendations given to the state will allow to determine specific priorities in establishing proper conditions for 2019 election of the President of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 11 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Implementing the Nelson Mandela Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners: new guidance and country experience
Convenor: Penal Reform International
Co-convenors: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: ODIHR and Penal Reform International (PRI) have published a Guidance Document on the implementation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners – the ‘Nelson Mandela Rules’ (in the framework of a joint project). The Guidance Document is a practical tool for implementation for penitentiary staff, prison administrations, monitoring bodies and relevant policy-makers aiming to improve penal systems and the treatment of prisoners in the OSCE region with a specific focus on the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment. This side-event will provide an opportunity to present the new publication ‘Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules: Implementing the United Nations Revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners’ (which was published on 9 August 2018) to OSCE participating States and civil society. It will also provide a forum to share examples on the effective implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules (outlined in the Guidance Document) as illustrative examples of how the publication will assist prison administrations and prison staff; highlight the complementarity of the Guidance Document with other implementation tools and its added value for human rights institutions, penitentiary experts, monitors and other practitioners working in prison settings; share examples of implementation of the revised Nelson Mandela Rules since their adoption in 2015 to generate and inspire reform efforts in the OSCE region on the treatment of prisoners.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The way to the truth. The life of Ukrainian front-line cities in the context of transitional justice
Convenor: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Important parts of the concept of transitional justice are truth telling and war criminals prosecution. It allows us to guarantee the non-repetition of war crimes in the future. During the event UHHRU will present two reports on the life of front-line cities. Unfortunately, both sides interpret the reality of what is happening to a greater or lesser extent. For example, neither side has taken responsibility for Kondrashevskaya-Nova station bombing until now. Reports from the series ‘The History of One City’ are aimed at incitement of the events’ participants to tell their story and avoid manipulation of historical facts. We will also speak about the possibility of criminalization of war criminals with the help of the ISS and using the remedy of universal jurisdiction. Examples of the CivilM + platform activities will show how the international community can help to resolve military conflict in the east of Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Launch of the OSCE Group of Friends of Safety of Journalists: How to increase cooperation between participating States and media actors
Convenor: Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: OSCE Group of Friends on Safety of Journalists: Informal roundtable discussion on how to improve cooperation between participating States and media actors. The aim of the informal Safety of Journalists Group of Friends within the OSCE is to keep the topic of safety of journalists – in its broad understanding – high on the OSCE agenda by strengthening implementation of commitments and raising awareness on inter alia the state’s responsibility to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and other media actors to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Using New Technologies to Observe Elections
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Election Department
Working language: English

Summary: As tasked by the OSCE participating States (Ministerial Council Decision 19/06), ODIHR continuously strives to further improve its methodology and increase its professionalism. In recent years, ODIHR has provided election observers with digital pens to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of recording election day data and to expedite the analytics. Placed within the context of ODIHR’s evolving observation methodology, this side event provides an interactive forum in which participants will receive an introduction to the use of the pens and an opportunity to use them under test conditions. Participants will be provided with real-time examples of how the data is transmitted, received and analysed, thereby contributing to the further effectiveness of ODIHR election observation findings and conclusions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Ethical standards in journalism: erosion or revival?
Convenor: Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
Working language: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: Strong independent media that provide objective and quality information are one of the pillars of democracy. In Ukraine and globally media face multiple challenges: choosing between professional standards and patriotic identity; reporting on vulnerable groups with sensitivity and responsibility; mastering fact-checking to avoid spreading manipulative or false narratives. The Commission on Journalism Ethics, a self-regulatory body created by Ukrainian journalists to handle complaints on violation of professional standards, will provide an overview of challenges faced by media in conflict-affected environment. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine will present

lessons learned from the recently concluded School of Ethical Journalism, and discuss plans to promote media's watchdog function and a constructive dialogue on the aforementioned challenges.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: (In)human dimension in Russia: Testimonies of human rights NGOs
Convenor: SOLIDARUS e.V.
Working language: English

Summary: Organizers: SOLIDARUS e.V., HRC Memorial, Public Verdict Foundation, SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, GOLOS, Committee against Tortures. Since the beginning of Russia's involvement in the armed conflict in Ukraine in March 2014 the human rights situation in Russia has dramatically deteriorated. War-time mobilization of the public against "enemies" and unprecedented poisonous propaganda have had the tremendous negative impact on the situation of civil society. Increasingly harsh application of the "foreign agents" law threatens the existence of leading NGOs. Politically motivated persecution has resulted in long-term sentences of the opponents of the government. Threats to civic activists and critics of the government come not only from authorities but increasingly from private groups who are supported by the government and label activists as "traitors". New repressive laws have been adopted, further shrinking space for all fundamental rights and freedoms, enshrined in OSCE commitments. Topics: Freedom of assembly in Russia, Political prisoners in Russia: changes and trends of the last year, Freedom of association and persecution of HRDs, Need for urgent measures to end torture, Anti-Extremism policy and new restrictive regulations in the Internet, Pressure on torture survivors.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Human rights and freedom of media in Crimea
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE in Vienna
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Russian federal authorities are being consistently criticized by Western powers for violating freedom of speech on the Crimean peninsula in some sort of a blind manner - without actual presence on the territory or real contacts with the inhabitants. The side event "Human rights and freedom of media in Crimea" is aimed at delivering the true view on the issue from the first hand. We would like to invite representatives and experts of mass media, non-governmental organizations, journalists unions and all interested parties to participate in a live discussion on the freedom of speech and the current environment that defines journalist work in Crimea. We expect that participants will present the current state of mass media and freedom of expression in Crimea and will clarify the situation and conditions for journalism on the Crimean peninsula to the international community.

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Strengths and gaps of independent media in Eastern Partnership - The case of Moldova
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Latvia to the OSCE
Co-convenors: Delegation of Canada to the OSCE, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE, Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Independent media in Eastern Partnership countries are facing unfriendly political and economic environment that is characterized by fragile democratic institutions, risks to freedom of speech, monopolization and slow growth of the advertising market and the lack of purchasing power of the audience. Such environment makes media extremely vulnerable against political and economic pressures and limits their possible development. A coordinated effort by the donor governments and international media development organizations can help the media to access knowledge to fill these gaps. The recently updated study Gap-Asset Analysis of Russian Language Media Skill-Set in the Eastern Partnership, conducted by Baltic Centre for Media Excellence (BCME), will be presented during the meeting. The presentation will focus on the media situation in Moldova, presenting the country specific analysis as well as introduce examples of the Moldovan media projects recently implemented.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Protecting Freedom of Expression and other Human Rights while Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism on the Internet
Convenors: OSCE Secretariat, Action Against Terrorism Unit; OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) propose to co-organize a side-event during the HDIM on the topic of “Protecting Freedom of Expression and other Human Rights while Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism on the Internet”. The side-event will aim to discuss the role of effective measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and the protection of human rights online as complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives. The OSCE Participating States, while firmly committed to the joint fight against terrorism, acknowledge the positive function the media can play in promoting tolerance and understanding among religions, cultures, etc., as well as raising awareness regarding the threat of terrorism. A robust public debate in society carried by the media both online and offline is an important means of countering violent extremism. Discussions will focus on responses and sharing of best practices for developing efficient ways to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet, in compliance with international law, and international human rights law. Drawing on international standards on the role and responsibility of the ICT sector and taking into account importance of online platforms and social networks for media distribution, the event will provide an opportunity to address recently adopted legislation and emerging proposals from States concerning the liability of intermediaries for “extremist” messaging or “hate speech”, as well as the policies of intermediaries (only if publicly available) on such content. It is envisaged the side-event will also offer a platform to deepen the understanding of private industries’ responses to the terrorist use of their products and services, related challenges and the promotion of self-regulation and sharing good practices across the ICT industry. Discussions will also highlight that combining political, technical, and contextual expertise is beneficial to achieve success in preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism. The panel, to be moderated by a representative of the RFoM, will encompass a broad range of individuals – namely, representatives from competent authorities in the area of countering terrorism, intermediaries, the media, NGOs and academia – with expertise and practical experience in this field. Regarding modalities, each speaker will be allocated a maximum of six minutes to address one or two questions posed to them by the moderator. The intention is to facilitate an active and engaging side-event that can potentially have the greatest impact upon the attendees of the HDIM. The side-event event will also focus on the following: 1. Main findings of the Central Asian Regional Seminar on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes held on

28-29 June 2018 in Almaty; 2. Main findings, best practices and recommendations of the second OSCE-RFOM joint endeavour OSCE-wide Expert Workshop on “Freedom of Expression on the Internet and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT)” held in Sarajevo on 7 and 8 September 2016; 3. RFOM’s communiqué on “Free Expression and the Fight against Terrorism” of 1 September 2016 <http://www.osce.org/fom/261951>. The Joint Declaration On Freedom Of Expression And Countering Violent Extremism of 4 May 2016 (of the RFoM together with the mandate-holders on freedom of expression from the UN, Inter-American and African systems on human rights) <http://www.osce.org/fom/237966>.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Defence for the Defenders: Lawyers and attorneys under attack for participation in politically motivated cases in the post-Soviet area.
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Open Dialog Foundation (ODF) will present three case studies of persecution of lawyers from Kazakhstan, Russia and Moldova. These examples, amongst many others, are described in ODF’s recent report Defence for the Defenders: Lawyers and attorneys under attack for participation in politically motivated cases. According to the opinion of the European Court of Human Rights, lawyers play a key role in maintaining public confidence in the judicial system and act as intermediaries between the public and courts. Thus, they are an important element of the rule of law, and it is crucial to ensure safe conditions for the performance of their professional duties. In Kazakhstan, Russia and Moldova, however, lawyers and attorneys – and especially those who defend politically motivated cases – frequently become victims of persecution themselves. On a daily basis they experience pressure; moreover, searches and seizures of documents do not allow lawyers to effectively perform their duties. They are attacked both by state institutions and authorities and by various criminals against which the state is unable to protect them. In Moldova, for example, Ana Ursachi and Eduard Rudenco have been facing criminal charges for defending opposition activists and opponents of Vladimir Plahotniuc, the country’s most powerful political figure (leader of the Democratic Party of Moldova). Considering some examples from Kazakhstan, the event will also address the issue of how INTERPOL mechanisms (mainly extradition requests) can be abused. State authorities can even take as hostage relatives of lawyers who take on politically sensitive cases – as is the case of Botagoz Jardemalie, a human rights defender and lawyer of Kazakhstan’s opposition politician Mukhtar Ablyazov. Jardemalie now resides as a political refugee in Belgium while her brother Iskander Yerimbetov is being detained and has been tortured by the Kazakhstani authorities in order to put pressure on her and to obtain false testimonies against those whom she defended. In Russia, judicial and disciplinary sanctions, physical attacks, etc. are the reasons why ever fewer attorneys are daring to take the risk of defending sensitive cases out of fear of becoming a 'Hostage of the Kremlin'. Nikolay Polozov, Mark Feigin and Dmitriy Sotnikov, for instance, are particularly targeted by the Russian authorities for defending persons recognised as political prisoners in Russia. During the event, speakers will provide their testimonies, illustrating how their professional duties are being obstructed, and providing their suggestions on how to change the situation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The right to freedom of speech and opinion in Ukraine: threats and opportunities
Convenor: Media Holding Vesti Ukraine
Co-convenor: Human rights platform Uspishna Varta
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: During 2017-2018, attempts to limit the right to freedom of speech and opinion both at the level of legislative and governmental policy and in individual cases - which involved, first of all, law enforcement bodies and right-wing radical groups - were documented in Ukraine. During the event Ukrainian journalists, human rights defenders, and representatives of international organisations will discuss the situation with the aim of jointly finding ways to reduce the pressure being put on major independent media companies and the restriction on the freedom of exchanging information on the Internet, which takes place in Ukraine in the framework of the declared fight against Russian hybrid aggression. In addition, during the event attention will be paid to the issue of law enforcement bodies forcing Ukrainian journalists to censor themselves, as well as to one of the key problems - the prosecution of journalists and bloggers under the so-called 'separatist' articles of the Criminal Code (treason, aiding terrorists, etc.). The impunity involved in cases of physical violence against journalists and the obstruction of their journalistic activities remains the most actual problem. According to the statistics for 2015-2017, 96% of crimes committed against journalists in Ukraine remain unpunished. The removal of restrictions in the democratic/civil space and obstacles in front of the implementation of the right to freedom of speech and opinion in Ukraine is a guarantee of transparency and integrity in the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2019.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Crime and punishment engendered by the armed conflict in Donbas
Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties
Working language: English, Russian, Ukraine

Summary: Members of the coalition 'Justice for Peace in Donbass' have been documenting since 2014 the facts of serious human rights violations resulting from the armed conflict in the Eastern Ukraine. A large number of victims have addressed the members of the Coalition with requests of legal aid. The violations in question are related to fundamental human rights and also to the war crimes. Illegal arrests (kidnapping) and holding in detention, extrajudicial executions, sexual violence, torture, and the intolerable conditions for the detention of prisoners serving sentences in the territory now occupied - it is an open list of violations that occur in the conflict in Donbass every day. Today more than 3 million people continue to stay in occupied territories in Donbass. The persons staying on these territories are deprived of any legal remedy protecting them from these illegal activities. The question remains: what can Ukraine do for all these situations to receive a proper legal assessment, and for the offenders to be punished? How should Ukraine carry out the investigation when the conflict still continues? How should justice work under these conditions? During the side-event, Ukrainian human rights defenders will expose the scale and the tendencies of the main violations, as well as the level of their investigation by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. In addition, the organizers are ready to propose for discussion their recommendations in this regard for both Ukraine and international organizations.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 12 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Global Magnitsky Laws and Civil Society—Informing and Strengthening Human Rights Sanctions
Convenor: Human Rights First
Working language: English

Summary: This event is designed as an interactive educational and informational presentation on the growing advent of “Global Magnitsky” human rights sanctions laws both in North America and Europe, and civil society’s role in their implementation. The presentation will cover the origins, history, and implications of such laws, but will predominantly focus on the actions NGOs can take—and in some cases are already taking—to strengthen, inform, and safeguard these sanctioning regimes. Specifically, the event will take the form of experts from civil society organizations already engaged in Global Magnitsky advocacy speaking on the processes they have used to identify individual perpetrators, collect evidence of their crimes, and prepare submissions to sanctioning governments. Furthermore, they will present on the strategies they have employed and lessons they have learned in working with governments to have their recommendations accepted and ultimately result in sanction designations. Presenting will be Irwin Cotler, Chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, Melissa Hooper, Director of Human Rights and Civil Society at Human Rights First, and Simon Papuashvili, Programme Director at International Partnership for Human Rights. Each will address particulars in the Global Magnitsky legal regimes currently in place in Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the work of their own organizations and coalitions. They will also invite participating NGOs and lawyers to become involved in the coalitions they work with around this issue, discussing ways to collaborate and engage in joint advocacy across these countries in an effort to achieve coordinated sanctions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Ending the Torture trade: Opportunities for OSCE engagement
Convenor: Omega Research Foundation
Co-convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: As part of their obligation to prevent against any excessive use of force, including the commission of acts of torture and other ill-treatment, states must ensure that law enforcement officials are equipped with a range of means which allow them to respond to situations appropriately. However, there are widespread reports of human rights violations perpetrated by law enforcement officials misusing equipment which could have a legitimate law enforcement use if employed correctly. The control of law enforcement equipment used in detention settings as well as the manufacturing and trade in such equipment that was designed or is used to torture is an area which for many years received little attention among other aspects in the field of torture prevention. However, since 2005 there is an evolving trend to control and restrict the trade in such tools of torture at the European and more recently the international level. In 2005 the European Union introduced a regional instrument prohibiting trade in inherently abusive equipment and controlling the trade in a broader range of law enforcement equipment. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recently unanimously

adopted a Resolution calling on Member States and relevant bodies to combat the trade in torture technologies. In September 2017, the “Alliance for Torture-Free Trade” was launched on the margins of the UN General Assembly. This Alliance is led by the European Union, Argentina and Mongolia and currently has 59 participating States. This side-event will provide a platform for participating States and civil society to discuss these developments, other good practice and the opportunities for complementary action in the OSCE area.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Professional Journalism: Survival in the Age of Globalized Information
Convenor: Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Media experts around the world indicate that the growth of challenges in the media sphere are inter alia connected with the spread of “fake news” and disinformation, political pressure on media-owners, lack of media actors’ compliance with ethical standards, growth of populist rhetoric, and the increase of polarizing content on social networks. Professional media outlets have been losing their audience and struggling with today’s new challenges, while non-traditional media outlets and bloggers have been increasingly influencing the agenda. These factors also have a direct influence upon the socio-political processes in Ukraine, which is nearing its presidential and parliamentary elections due in 2019. Journalists and media experts will discuss how to address these difficulties through an increase in self-regulation mechanisms, fact-checking, media-literacy, as well as solidarity of journalists, and will ponder new ways to address the existing obstacles.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Enforced Disappearances and Extrajudicial Executions in Turkmenistan: Some Progress, but More Steps Needed Urgently to Save Lives. Briefing of the “Prove They Are Alive!” campaign with the support of the Civic Solidarity Platform
Convenor: Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights
Co-convenor: Crude Accountability; Freedom Files Foundation; Human Rights Centre “Memorial”; Human Rights Watch; Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working language: English

Summary: Enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan’s prison system are the country’s most acute human rights problem. The international campaign Prove They Are Alive! has documented more than 100 cases of disappeared people in Turkmen prisons, some of them for more than 16 years. This means families have no contact with their loved ones in custody, and no official information about their whereabouts, or even whether they are dead or alive. Targets include people suspected of disloyalty to the government, including public officials, civic activists, followers of “non-traditional” Islam, and independent journalists. They have disappeared after arbitrary detention, bogus, politically motivated charges, and closed, unfair trials, and face torture in the country’s prison system. The campaign has documented the deaths in custody of almost 30 disappeared people. Such a deadly pattern, coupled with the government’s failure to carry out thorough, prompt, and impartial investigations into the deaths, may constitute extrajudicial executions, according to international human rights standards. Most recently, in April 2018, the UN Human Rights Committee found the government of Turkmenistan responsible for the 2006 torture and death in custody of human rights

defender and journalist Ogulsapar Muradova. Many more horrific cases of deaths of the disappeared cry out for justice. Until 2018, the Turkmen authorities avoided taking any real steps to end enforced disappearances. Instead, they simulated an ineffective “dialogue” with intergovernmental organizations on this issue. In response, international pressure on the Turkmen government mounted. In the last 12 months, this growing international pressure has finally brought limited initial progress. Turkmen authorities organised short visits for relatives of about a dozen recently convicted prisoners held in the notorious Ovadan Depe prison, who were previously held incommunicado; provided new (although incomplete) information on several cases to the EU and to the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances; and publicly committed to discussing a possible visit by this UN body to the country. International pressure works. But much more needs to be done to stop this horrific crime and end the suffering of the disappeared and their families. The Turkmen government knows the international community’s demands; they are clear, concrete, and straightforward. The international community, including all concerned OSCE institutions and participating States, should not miss this moment to step up the pressure and use all means of leverage available, including the prospect of applying the OSCE Vienna and Moscow Mechanisms.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: The current situation of civil and political rights in Belarus: first-hand information from inside
Convenor: Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In October 2018, at its 124th session, the UN Human Rights Committee will examine periodic report submitted by Belarus on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This became possible due to the fact that the Government of Belarus for the first time in 20 years has fulfilled its obligation under the International Covenant to submit its national report and has liquidated the multi-year arrears in the provision of report. In the run-up to this event, Belarusian human rights NGOs prepared their own alternative report which will be presented to the international public at a side event at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018. During the presentation, representatives of the Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs, the Human Rights Center Viasna, the Belarusian Association of Journalists and the Legal Transformation Center (Lawtrend) will assess the latest legislative changes relating to freedom of the media, freedom of assembly, current situation with execution of capital punishments in Belarus, as well as the forthcoming easing of liability for acting on of unregistered organizations. They will also air the national civil society’s vision of how human rights are impacted by ‘Inter-agency Plan for Implementing the recommendations addressed to the Republic of Belarus within the framework of the UN Mechanisms’ which has been implemented by the Government of Belarus since November 2016. Representatives of the Belarusian Association of Journalists will tell about the recent attacks, in August this year, on independent media in Belarus in the form of new criminal cases against journalists and editors of a number of independent news portals and the private news agency, as well as in the form of indiscriminate searches and confiscation of professional equipment. A special presentation by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), planned at a side event, will shed light on the current situation of lawyers in Belarus. In June 2018, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a FIDH-OMCT partnership, in collaboration with the Paris Bar and Human Rights Centre “Viasna”, published a report documenting restrictions on the independence of lawyers in Belarus. Based on an investigation conducted in January 2018, the report criticises the Belarusian legislation that allows the executive power to control the profession of lawyers. The implementation of

this legislation often results in withdrawal of license of those lawyers who take on politically 'sensitive' cases.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Corruption and the suppression of civic activists
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working language: English

Summary: Corruption is in many ways related to the observance of human rights. Corruption is an engine for authoritarian, oligarchic and plurocratic rule that is prone to lose support from society sooner or later, and therefore constitutes a threat to peace and security internally and possibly internationally. By definition, it implies unfair use of power, and often the unfair allocation of resources. Corruptability of entities in law enforcement and judiciary undermines the rule of law. People running a government while engaging in corruption will want to suppress fact-finding and public criticism of their wrongdoing. The continuation of power acquired through corruption requires continuous attempts to silence critical voices. The OSCE has in the course of the years agreed a large number of commitments wholly or partially devoted to the subject of corruption, recently extensively in MC decision 5/14 (reaffirmed further in 2016 and 2017 decisions that also touched on the subject). The importance of civil society in fighting corruption is made reference to several times in these commitments, yet from the perspective of government agents (or private actors involved in corruption) it is imperative to counter rather than foster civil society scrutiny. Increasingly, anti-corruption work is identified as one of the most perilous forms of civil society activity. The side event will explore in particular this link: the way in which active and critical citizens who are documenting and denouncing corruption can have a real impact, or are being silenced, persecuted, harassed or intimidated. Speakers from several OSCE participating States will talk about the experience in their countries. Discussion will focus on the way in which international relations can help in stimulating a proper role for critical anti-corruption activists.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting 1
Title: Safety of Female Journalists Online: Closing the knowledge and data gap
Convenor: Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
Working language: English

Summary: Democracy thrives when a plurality of voices are heard online. Though harassment of journalists online is not a new problem, it has become evident that the online harassment of female journalists is a cause for particular concern as a significant obstacle to the freedom of expression. But the short and long-term effects of online violence against female journalists still need to be better understood. During this panel, we'll hear from experts from international and civil society organizations who are working to close the gaps in terms of research on this horrifying trend as well as from women journalists, themselves, on their experiences and account of online harassment and the results this type of abuse has when it comes to their work on- and offline.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting 3
Title: Tainted by Torture: Safeguards against the use of torture and coercion in the context of the global growth of trial waiver systems
Convenor: Fair Trials
Working language: English

Summary: Fair Trials will host a panel discussion to address the use of torture and coercion against criminal suspects in the context of the growth of trial waiver systems across the OSCE Region. The trial process is a crucial safeguard for the scrutiny of evidence and of the conduct of authorities during the investigative stage, yet the findings of Fair Trials' new research report "Tainted by Torture: Examining the Use of Evidence Obtained by Torture" demonstrate that the use of evidence obtained by torture in criminal trials is still widespread, and is both exacerbated and concealed through the growing use of trial waiver systems. This side event will capitalize on the comparative expertise of attendees at the meeting to identify jurisdictions and individuals with useful experiences of both good and bad practice in trial waiver systems, as well as providing an overview of the global movement to develop a universal set of standards for non-coercive interviewing methods and procedural safeguards to prevent the use of torture and mistreatment during the investigative stage of criminal proceedings.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: 'Tajikistan 2018 - No Freedom Beyond This Point'
Convenor: Global Advocates Foundation
Co-convenors: University of Exeter; Freedom Now; Human Rights Watch; Fair Trials International
Working language: English

Summary: Global Advocates Foundation, University of Exeter, Freedom Now, Human Rights Watch, Fair Trials International invite you to attend 'Tajikistan 2018 - No Freedom Beyond This Point' at the 2018 OSCE ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. The side event will be devoted to the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Tajikistan and the lack of an adequate international response. The event will feature activists, academics, and politicians from Central Asia, Europe, and the U.S. The round table will discuss specific human rights violations perpetrated by Tajikistan in the context of representative political prisoners, as well as will addressing the international scale of Tajikistan's continued repression.

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Public order squads in Ukraine: trends and threats for human rights
Convenor: Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law-Enforcement (UMDPL)
Co-convenors: International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: For the past 4 years after the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine, public order squads and other forms of participation in public order protection activated. Positioning, methods of their activities have changed, and the movements themselves have become more massive and more provocative. Although in general, the strengthening and growth of civil society is a positive trend, often those public order squads are breaking the law line. The police are not sufficiently responding to

such violations and there is a fear that the situation will only worsen towards elections. Illegal arrests, participation in the protection of illegal buildings, pressure on local councils and courts unequivocally violate human rights and undermine the government's monopoly on legitimate violence. The side event is devoted to describing the current situation and predictions from experts how such things will affect the situation with respect for human rights and the fulfilment of positive state obligations to protect law and order.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The shrinking space for activism in post-soviet countries: the cases of Moldova and Kazakhstan
Convener: Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani - Comitato Italiano Helsinki (FIDU)
Working language: English

Summary: Civil liberties in post-Soviet states such as Moldova and Kazakhstan are regularly being undermined. The Italian Federation for Human Rights (FIDU), in cooperation with other NGOs and national MPs from European parliaments, led monitoring visits from April 2018 to September 2018 to Kazakhstan and Moldova, where they met victims of torture and political pressure. The objectives of this event are, firstly, to present the results of these missions, which were aimed at observing Kazakhstani and Moldovan authorities' implementation of international agreements and commitments in the protection of civil liberties and, secondly, to give recommendations and underline the importance of international pressure, which is often the only way to protect those who are politically persecuted and have been made victims of torture. In Kazakhstan, a new wave of repression has unfolded, and is aimed at silencing dissenting voices, independent media outlets, peaceful protesters and opposition activists. Since March 2018, when a Kazakhstani court labelled as 'extremist' the opposition movement Democratic Choice for Kazakhstan (DCK) and banned its activities, the authorities have intensified oppression against civil society. Bloggers, human rights defenders, journalists, supporters of the DCK – there are more than 150 victims of politically motivated prosecution who risk being sentenced to up to 17 years' imprisonment. In Moldova, the sweeping crackdown on civil society has intensified. Unprecedented criminal proceedings and episodes of harassment have targeted NGOs, journalists and pro-reform activists. Politically controlled, the judicial system is used by the influential oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc as a tool against the public interest, as proven by the example of the recent nullification of the mayoral elections in Chisinau. Moreover, the lack of media pluralism, the disrespect of the conditions of the EU–MOLDOVA Association Agreement and the disrespecting of the principle of independence of the judiciary are leading to the erosion of democracy in a country where the weakness of the institutions restricts the space for civil society. We need to raise awareness about injustice and human rights abuses in these countries, together finding a possible solution to ease and eventually end the human sufferings that derive from them.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Addressing the threats and challenges of “foreign terrorist fighters” within a human rights framework: presentation of new ODIHR publication
Convener: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Threats posed by so-called “foreign terrorist fighters” (FTFs) raise multi-dimensional challenges and require multidimensional responses. With new trends and dynamics, namely the return and relocation of FTFs from conflict zones, discussions about those threats and challenges gained renewed attention, both within and outside of the OSCE area. OSCE participating States have committed to counter terrorism, including FTF-related threats, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including human rights and humanitarian law. But the breadth of the term FTF and the wide-reaching responses raise multiple questions as to their compliance with, and the implications for, the rule of law and the international human rights framework in countering terrorism. On this background, and in line with its mandate, ODIHR has developed guidelines on human rights-based approaches to addressing FTF-related threats. The side event will provide an opportunity to present the new ODIHR publication to HDIM-participants and to promote an exchange of views between representatives of OSCE participating States and civil society on challenges and best practices in responding to FTF-related threats in a comprehensive, coherent and human rights-compliant way.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Human Rights in an era of Global Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Extremism
Convenor: Fair Trials
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Civic Solidarity Platform’s Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Anti-Extremism and Human Rights, led by Fair Trials and the SOVA Centre will host a panel discussion on transnational cooperation on counter-terrorism and anti-extremism and its impact on human rights. This event seeks to highlight the ways in which states across the OSCE region have been cooperating to tackle terrorism and extremism, and the ways in which many of these efforts have had a significant impact on Human Rights, particularly for individuals in need of international protection and human rights defenders. Although the protection of human rights is often part of various cross-border counter-terrorism strategies, experiences and examples from across the OSCE region makes it clear that far too often, concern for human rights are overlooked in favour of efficiency. This has been a major challenge for mechanisms that facilitate cooperation like INTERPOL, whose recent reforms acknowledge the importance of protecting human rights in tackling cross-border security threats. Discussions will be centred on Fair Trials’ new report on the reform of INTERPOL and the policy paper of the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Anti-Extremism and Human Rights on the cross-border cooperation.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 13 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Religious Freedom in the Eastern countries: Myth or reality
Convenor: Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience
Working language: English

Summary: Freedom of conscience religion and belief, tolerance and non-discrimination in the Eastern countries

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Presentation of main areas of interest of the OSCE incoming Slovak Chairmanship
Convenor: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Working language: English

Summary: Building on the presentation by State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Lukas Parizek to the OSCE Permanent Council on the 19th July 2018, the incoming Slovak Chairmanship would like to share preliminary considerations on main areas of interest in human dimension for 2019. The event is also conceived as an opportunity to exchange views, comments, valuable feedbacks and/or suggestions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Violation of Human Rights and International Law in Crimea
Convenor: Truth Hounds- Georgia
Working language: English

Summary: The side event is organized by Ukrainian NGOs Truth Hounds and Crimea-SOS in cooperation with International Partnership for Human Rights. The 3 organization have been engaged in documenting human rights violations and international crimes taking place in Crimean Peninsula since its illegal annexation by Russia in 2014.

In the beginning of 2014 Russian troops took over the parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine's administrative unit, captured airfields and other strategic sites. The part of Ukrainian sovereign territory was annexed. The annexation took place in violation of fundamental principles on international law, the Charter of the United Nations and numerous international treaties safeguarding territorial integrity of Ukraine. Independent civil society actors have been engaged in documenting grave human rights violations and international crimes including murder, enforced disappearance, unjustified prolonged detention, torture and other forms of inhuman or degrading treatment, widespread appropriation of public and private property and forcible displacement of up to 60,000 civilians. While documentation efforts continue from the civil society side, there is little effort to bring perpetrators to justice, a practice which reinforces already enshrined culture of impunity in Crimea.

4 speakers will report their findings from the fact-finding missions including evidence of destruction of the Crimean Tatars' cultural heritage by the Russian authorities which constitute crime against humanity in the form of persecution.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Civil front against ant-Muslim and anti-Migrant culture
Convenor: Emisco - European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion
Working language: English

Summary: Creation of civil front against the normalisation of hate discourse in Western societies. Re-definition of the role of civil society and concept of civility in the relationship with different stakeholders. Through this side-event, we wish to highlight the dangerous normalisation of anti-Muslim and anti-migrant / refugee discourses and practices in contemporary Europe; and to explore strategies for facilitating coalition-building among civil society groups and institutions in the direction of challenging the culture of hatred more effectively. Furthermore, we wish to move this discussion to the heart of OSCE institutions through the Human Dimension meetings and strengthen the ODIHR's relations and co-operation with NGOs and representatives of Muslim and migrant / refugee communities in the OSCE Region, which are involved in actively challenging the anti-Muslim/-migrant discourses.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Impunity for Hate Crimes based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Central Asia
Convenor: COC Netherlands
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The OSCE has many important commitments in combating any form of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on bias. Throughout the OSCE region a clear pattern emerges of a high level of violence and hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). The Central Asian region has seen specific developments on a national and regional level of States using their Constitution against LGBTI people and creating a list of LGBTI people to use for blackmailing or police violence. For the past years LGBTI activist have been documenting cases of discrimination and violence based on SOGIESC, but have been facing many challenges in reporting these cases to police office as hate crimes. This side event will focus on the situation in Central Asian countries in terms of reacting and working with discrimination, intolerance, violence or hate crimes on the basis of SOGIESC and identifying the important steps in cooperation of States and OSCE to protect all citizens equally. Speakers from Central Asia will share on the situation of the human rights of LGBTI people on country level and make recommendations on how States can ensure the protection of all people from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sex characteristics within the OSCE commitments. Speakers will look at the mandate and role of the OSCE executive structures and its participating States to carry out their important responsibility to protect each and every citizen without making any distinction. This side event can serve as an opportunity to collect and share good experiences, especially related to measures that can be taken towards enhancing tolerance and non-discrimination of LGBTI people. Confirmed

speakers will represent community-based organisations from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Netherlands.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Human Rights in Belarus in the context of global processes in the region
Convenor: Belarusian House Foundation
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Within the framework of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018, which will be held on September 10-21 in Warsaw, the Belarusian House Foundation organizes a side event on the human rights situation in Belarus. Working title of the event: Human Rights in Belarus in the context of global processes in the region.

Despite the declared liberalization, the external signs of which are issued by the government for strong processes, human rights activists record the growth of repression against independent media and freelance journalists working for foreign media. The attack on BelaPAN and TUT.BY has become the most severe repression against the media since the beginning of 2000, and statistics show a steady increase in the total amount of fines awarded to journalists. The trial of the leaders of the independent trade union is also alarming and draws attention to the country.

In a year, one by one, political and social campaigns will start in Belarus - presidential and parliament elections. Russia, which has already attacked Georgia and Ukraine, is waging an undeclared hybrid war against its neighbors, as well as against Central Europe. In Belarus, it is expressed in the form of strong Kremlin propaganda, the absorption of Belarusian media by Russia, financing of pro-Russian paramilitary associations and pro-Kremlin NGOs. All this negatively affects the situation with human rights, and potentially could lead to the implementation of the Crimean scenario in our country.

These and other issues related to the human rights situation in Belarus will be discussed during the side event of the Belarusian House.

Representatives of the Belarusian human rights community, international experts, well-known analysts, journalists will take part in the event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: New technologies, Democracy and Fundamental Rights
Convenor: ePanstwo Foundation
Working language: English

Summary: The online world has physically expanded the space in which fundamental rights may be exercised and in which participation in democracy may take place. Many international documents already speak of the "same rights online as offline". In particular, associations and assemblies have benefited from an increased space in which they may establish themselves and operate. The OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Freedom of Assembly have already begun to address this new space, which provides new opportunities for the exercise of these and other fundamental rights and for participation in democracy. At the same time, the advent of the digital age poses significant challenges both of a legal and practical nature. The positive effects offered by new information and communication technologies of reaching out to greater number of persons and ensuring increased political and civic participation are sometimes muted by the effects of surveillance, persecution of associations and participants of assemblies. New technologies also raise important questions as to the liability and responsibility of internet service providers as private third parties who

provide the platform for the exercise of these rights and participation. The Side Event aims at encouraging OSCE and its representatives to look at the range of ways fundamental freedoms and participation can be promoted and protected online in both a legal and practical manner.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Restrictions on freedom of speech in Baltic states and Ukraine
Convenor: Center of Socio-Political Sciences "Russian Baltic"
Working language: Russian

Summary: Political processes monitoring in Baltic States and Ukraine demonstrates the trend towards systematic reduction of Freedom of Speech. In the framework of the side-event two reports on the forms and instruments of pressures for mass media and journalists will be presented. The first one will cover the situation in Baltic States, the second one – the situation in Ukraine with special reference to the situation of journalists in the war zone in Donbas. The main aim of the reports is to find out reasons why political censorship, creation of an ideological monopoly, administrative pressure on the media, the arrests and murders of journalists has become a constant in Baltic States and Ukraine, especially after European integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and association between Ukraine and EU.

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Freedom of Belief, No discrimination and Tolerance: Myth or reality in the OSCE region?
Convenor: Church of Scientology Public Affairs and Human Rights Office
Working language: English

Summary: This discussion gathers specialists in the field of Freedom of Religion or Belief as well as defenders within the OSCE region and internationally of the fundamental right to no discrimination. They will be assessing the good practices and what has to be improved in different countries, based on actual and current cases like for example in Russia, Hungary, Germany and others. And at the end they will allow 15 minutes of Q&A with all those attending the discussion. Among the speakers will be: Thierry Valle, President of the Coordination of Associations and People for Freedom of Conscience Alessandro Amicarelli, Attorney and Chairman of the European Federation on Freedom of Belief Camelia Martin, Director of Soteria International Martin Weightman, Director of the All Faiths Network and Ivan Arjona-Pelado, President of the European Office of the Church of Scientology for Public Affairs.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Tolerant and non-discrimination
Convenor: Alov (Flame) Christian Religious Community
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The situation of Protestant religious communities in contemporary Azerbaijan

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: How Do Ordinary People Act in Times of Genocide?
Convenor: U.S. Department of State
Co-convenor: Italian OSCE Chairmanship
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: USOSCE will partner with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to present a side event on the margins of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw. The Italian OSCE Chairmanship is co-sponsoring. The topic will be the role of the individual in preventing human rights atrocities. It will be followed/accompanied by a traveling photo exhibition, *Some Were Neighbors*, which warns against individual complicity. This photo exhibit will also be displayed in January 2019 by the German Bundestag in Berlin.

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The role of Civil Society in Addressing Hate Crime: A Discussion of Different Approaches and New ODIHR Tools
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Hate crimes are persistent throughout the OSCE region, affecting numerous communities and whole societies. While acknowledging that the responsibility for combating hate crimes lies primarily with state authorities, the OSCE has also recognized the crucial role civil society can play in this endeavour. Civil society has often been at the forefront of recognizing the early signs of intolerance and discrimination. Since civil society representatives live in the midst of communities, they are able to witness acts of intolerance before they are reported to the police; they can monitor and report such incidents; they can advocate state authorities to take stronger action against hate incidents and to protect everyone. They can do this as individual leaders or communities, or they can join forces and act in coalitions with other community leaders and organizations. In some states, civil society has been instrumental in empowering communities to induce social change and inspire legal reforms. During the side event ODIHR will present the recently launched *Coalition Building for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: A Practical Guide* and the forthcoming *Hate Incident Online Reporting Platform* from the Tolerance and Non Discrimination Department, developed within the framework of the ODIHR *Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism* Project. Furthermore, a panel discussion with civil society activists will discuss good practices of coalition building initiatives.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 14 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Advancing political participation of youth through policy and legal measures
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The HDIM side event “Advancing political participation of youth through policy and legal measures” will discuss mechanisms in increasing youth participation in political processes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) under the 17 Sustainable Development Goals recognizes the key role that today’s young generation plays in ensuring their achievement. Two consecutive OSCE Ministerial Council declarations, in 2014 and 2015, have also acknowledged the potential of young people to contribute to political, economic and social development and to the OSCE’s work across the three dimensions of its comprehensive concept of security. The Organization puts particular emphasis on youth protection, and on promoting youth participation. Key findings of the “Youth Progress Index”– the first concept in measuring young people’s lives independently of economic indicators related to youth political participation – will be presented followed by findings from the “Global Elections and Political Transitions (GEPT) Technical Leadership Project: Pro–Youth Legal and Policy Mechanisms: Efficacy and Practical Application Recommendations” which will provide practical recommendations on fostering meaningful youth engagement in political and electoral processes. It will encourage and inform HDIM participants on how to use various approaches in supporting pro–youth legal and policy frameworks, but also how to increase the capacity of practitioners, local actors, advocates and stakeholders. The particular challenges young people face are largely an effect of the political fixation on GDP growth, the unequal distribution of resources, and a situation where young people are not represented in, and unable to participate in, policy–making. The interconnection of social exclusion, inequality, poverty and political exclusion implies that tackling the underlying causes of the challenges and barriers young people face should thus be seen as an opportunity for policy makers who want to address systemic issues that are preventing overall societal progress in their country. The Youth Progress Index is a pioneer concept in measuring young people’s lives independently of economic indicators. YPI is a joint initiative of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human rights (ODIHR), Deloitte, European Youth Forum (EYF), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Social Progress Imperative (SPI). The YPI follows the definitions and framework methodology of the Social Progress Index and its framework is structured around 3 dimensions (Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing and Opportunity), 12 components and 60 distinct indicators of social and environmental performance specific to the youth population. The Youth Progress Index aims to present a roadmap–a useful and practical tool–that can help all stakeholders, including policy makers, to prioritize their respective policy and investment decisions, assess where resources should be focused, and implement policies and programs that will drive faster and more sustainable progress for young people. The YPI can also encourage these actors to speak a common language and, together, to drive measurable change. By using YPI, policy–makers can identify some quick policy wins. They can use high–performing countries as role models and better design and invest in policies that are shown to improve young people’s lives, and create more inclusive and resilient societies. Ultimately, by using the YPI, public authorities can develop evidence–based policy making for youth, which can promote their social progress overall and lead to sustainable development. Despite constituting a large portion of the electorate, youth participate politically at very low rates. Pro–youth legal instruments, intra–party policies and other public measures are tactics increasingly employed by governments, political parties, and other electoral stakeholders to encourage youth engagement. As these actors, including

international funders, evaluate their investment in these approaches, they lack empirical evidence on the efficacy of legal instruments, intra-party policies, and public measures in promoting youth engagement. In response, CEPPS is developing a youth-focused reference tool for practitioners, to advance the democracy, human rights, and governance community of practice concerning youth engagement. This side event will feature sections of this report that focus on the impact of lower voting ages, lower ages of candidate eligibility and youth quotas on youth participation and representation. It will also share findings and recommendations related to the efficacy of National Youth Action Plans, youth advisory bodies and party youth-wings.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: How to address anti-Semitism through education?
Convenor: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Co-convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights ; Federal Ministry Republic of Austria; Federal Foreign Office of Germany; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy; Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Recognizing that educators have access to a uniquely large audience of young women and men, and the opportunity to help them become responsible and respectful citizens, the organizers of this side-event hope to contribute to a discussion and common understanding how best to address anti-Semitism through education, and identify key challenges to teaching that seeks to weaken biased perceptions. This side event is based on some of the tools developed within the framework of ODIHR's Words into Action Project.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Crimean Tatar people: how to practise and revitalize traditions and culture of indigenous people. Documentary screening and open discussion
Convenor: Gasprinski Institute for Geostrategy
Working language: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: During this side event Gasprinski Institute for Geostrategy will screen three short documentaries in the framework of the project 'More than Crimea' about three Crimean Tatars who are famous around the world. Those people chose as their life mission to reproduce traditional knowledge and Crimean Tatar culture, literally saving the ethnic heritage from disappearance. Their stories are about challenges they are facing and how they change this world in remarkable and admirable ways. Together they answer the pertinent and important questions of our time: 'How can indigenous people preserve themselves in a challenging world?', 'How can only one person can save a tradition of the whole people?'

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: How Universal is “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights”?
Convenor: SOTERIA INTERNATIONAL
Co-convenor: European Office of the Church of Scientology for Public Affairs and Human Rights; Fundacion para la Mejora de la Vida, la Cultura y la Sociedad
Working language: English

Summary: Globalization underlines that the UDHR is often applied relative to regional culture, rather than securing universal principles. Especially when it comes to Freedom of Thought, Religion or Belief we find how cultural bias influence policy and law-making. What one considers a religious practice - such as devotional work in monastery - others consider criminality - in this case human trafficking.

Often it passes as a non-regrettable consequence of natural differences between one culture and another. Still, what may pass as normal when it comes to cultural norms, must still be questioned when presented within the framework of human rights, claiming to be universal.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is based on converging and finding common ground between different cultures. However well accomplished, Mrs Roosevelt's project never sought a base for Universality other than an estimation from a fixed position in time and space.

In this 70th anniversary of the UDHR, we propose to explore another approach to Universality from a principle basis, rather than a mere estimated one. Could we dare to pursue universal principles when it comes to thought, conscience and belief? Would we dare to explore and define the principles at the base of any religion? Would such principles help to differ the religious human expression from a non-religious?

The daring perspective may seem new, but are there not general principles on what science is? Our NGOs suggest a joint exploration of actually defining what we intuitively hold as true – that behind all religions is the same set of universal principles, dressed in different cultural robes. Assuming that universal principles are at the core of human nature, what direction would that have on discussing the Universality of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

During the side event we will present some examples of the provinciality of how the UDHR is applied today, and open a discussion on if and how Human Rights could be directed on a basis of universal principles.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Uzbekistan: Reform, Human Rights, and Accountability for Past Abuses
Convenor: Human Rights Watch
Co-convenor: Amnesty International; International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian, Uzbek

Summary: Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the International Partnership for Human Rights invite you to a round table discussion that will look closely at human rights developments and reform in Uzbekistan in the past two years under a new president. Participants will assess developments in the realms of political prisoners, torture, criminal justice, media, civil society, religious freedom and other topics, focusing on recommendations for critical areas. The round table will also examine the question of accountability for past human rights abuses, truth and reconciliation in Uzbek society, and the need for justice and full and genuine rehabilitation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Legislationline.org – ODIHR legislative database
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: ODIHR has recently launched a new version of its legislative database – Legislationline.org. The online database, originally created in 2002, contains a compilation of national legislative acts, a selection of international standards on human dimension issues, legal reviews, assessments and guidelines prepared by ODIHR, and a collection of documents providing insights into legislative processes in OSCE participating States. The database has more than 11,000 documents in English and Russian on topics such as independence of the judiciary, gender equality or counter-terrorism. The tool is designed to assist OSCE participating States in bringing their legislation into line with OSCE commitments and other international standards in various human dimension areas. The side event is planned to be a presentation of the new website for officials from participating States, members of civil society and international experts. It intends to explain the new functions of the website and outline its content. Speakers include the LSU Consultant who manages the database and OSCE Field Operation staff member who will speak about the practical application of and usefulness of the website in the field. The presentation will be followed by discussion on possible areas of development of the database.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Racism, intolerance and violence against Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Co-convenor: European Roma Rights Centre; Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
Working language: English

Summary: As early as 1990 the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has recognized, starting with the Copenhagen Document, the particular problems of Roma and Sinti, in the context of the proliferation of racial and ethnic hatred, xenophobia and discrimination. Since then, the OSCE and its participating States have repeatedly reinforced through all commitments concerning Roma and Sinti the importance of combating racism, hate crimes and violence, and eradicating discrimination against them.

Despite these important frameworks and commitments, the anti-Roma public discourse and frequently occurring racist violence against them throughout Europe remain major obstacles to Roma and Sinti inclusion and the eradication of systemic discrimination affecting them. The repercussions of these have a huge impact on the situation of Roma and Sinti, which hampers their capacity to enjoy equally their rights as citizens, and precludes them from adequate access to public services such employment, education, housing, and health care.

In the recent years, ODIHR has continued to receive worrying reports indicating that racist and stigmatizing anti-Roma rhetoric in a number of participating States has become part of the public and political discourse at the highest levels, many of such attitudes and behaviors going unchallenged and being manifested in a climate of impunity. Moreover, we witnessed a continuation of hate-motivated attacks and violence against Roma and Sinti being perpetrated by extreme-right groups and organizations, actions which were poorly handled by authorities and the national justice systems.

This side event provides a platform to raise awareness among OSCE participating States about the ongoing racism, intolerance and hate-motivated violence against Roma and Sinti and the broader negative impact and consequences of these manifestations to the inclusion of Roma and Sinti into the

wider society. Moreover, the event will stimulate an open discussion between representatives of participating States and civil society about the measures undertaken to tackle the violence and its root causes affecting Roma and Sinti, and to effectively prevent hate-motivated violence against them.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Tajikistan Continues Severe Violations of Human Rights
Convenor: Association of Central Asian Migrants
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Tajikistan Continues Severe Violations of Human Rights Human rights in Tajikistan, a country in Central Asia, which has become an issue of international concern. The access to basic human rights remains limited, as corruption in the government, leading to the systematic abuse of the human rights of its citizens, slows down the progress of democratic and social reform in the country. Tajikistan's human rights record worsened further in 2017, as authorities deepened a severe, widespread crackdown on free expression and association, peaceful political opposition activity, the independent legal profession, and the independent exercise of religious faith, says HRW. According to Amnesty International: "A year on from the arrest of 14 high-ranking members of the opposition Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), in September 2015, Tajikistan's human rights landscape has worsened dramatically. They were all convicted following an unfair trial and sentenced to long-term imprisonment; scores of other individuals have since been criminally prosecuted in connection with the same events. Information relating to their prosecution is extremely sparse and patchy, and points to numerous human rights violations." According to the US Department of State's report on human rights in Tajikistan, citizens are denied many of their rights and have limited ability to change the system of government. Other restrictions include restrictions on media, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of worship, as well as restrictions on political opposition. Speakers: 1. Edward Lemons, Central Asia Expert, University of Columbia 2. Muhiddin Kabiri, chairman of the IRPT 3. Vaisiddin Odinaev, activist and brother of the blogger Ehson Odinaev 4. Alim Sherzamonov, political activist and blogger 5. Mahmudjon Faizrahmonov, president of Tajik Centre for Human Rights, Vienna, Austria. Moderator: 6. Timur Varki, senior journalist and expert

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Seeking for the truth and justice in Ukraine
Convenor: Truth Hounds- Georgia
Working language: English

Summary: For four years since the conflict first erupted in Eastern Ukraine it is still taking lives of many civilians, leads to destruction of civilian property and forces people to flee, but also to direct and indirect environmental crimes and environmental Impacts of the war. Most of these incidents were acts of war crimes, committed by combatants of both sides of the conflict. Local and international actors have been documenting violations.

While documentation efforts continue from the civil society side, there is little effort to bring perpetrators to justice, a practice which reinforces already enshrined culture of impunity in Donbas. The side event is aimed at promoting accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity through international and national criminal justice mechanisms, responsibility of the both sides of the conflict, fighting impunity in the field of tortures and crimes against humanity, environmental crimes.

This side event that will be hosted by Truth Hounds together with International Partnership for Human Rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Presentation of the Annual Report 'Xenophobia, Radicalism and Hate Crime in Europe, 2017-18'
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: There is the presentation of the next annual report of leading experts from around the world on the manifestations of hatred in the European space, this time in 2017-18. The paper analyzes the factors influencing the formation of a public request for radicalism, manifestations of xenophobia and racism, statistics on hate crimes are provided. A separate subject of research is the prerequisites of xenophobia and the role of political parties and groups in the formation of a public request for radicalism in 2017-18. The analysis is based on the example of 13 EU countries - Austria, Great Britain, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia and France, as well as two non-EU countries, and the economic processes in Europe - Russia and Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Independence of judiciary
Convenor: Commissioner for Human Rights Protection, Poland
Working language: English

Summary: The independence of Poland's entire judicial system is increasingly under threat. The way the judicial overhaul has been implemented so far shows that the overall goal is political: the replacement of judges in key positions with people whom the minister of justice trusts. This threatens to undermine the separation of powers, with judges being portrayed as elitist and enemies of the people, and governmental interference with judicial matters becoming routine.

This side event seeks to situate contemporary challenges to judicial independence in their legal and sociopolitical contexts. It will bring together Ombudsman of Poland academic scholars, judge and legal professionals. The side event asks what core shared democratic values judicial independence seeks to protect, and how can threats to that independence be protected against.

Refreshments will be provided

Monday, 17 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Protecting and promoting human rights by protecting Human Rights Defenders – best practice for states, institutions and civil society
Convenor: United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Everyone has the right to promote and to protect human rights. Anyone exercising this right, who either choose to or finds themselves defending human rights, must also be protected from discrimination. However, too often Human Rights Defenders face discrimination, harassment and persecution. The Helsinki Final Act recognised “the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms” and confirmed “the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights and duties in this field”. In Vienna in 1989 States built on this and agreed to respect the right of citizens to contribute actively, individually or in association with others, to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. States also agreed to ensure that no individual exercising, expressing the intention to exercise or seeking to exercise these rights and freedoms or any member of his family, will as a consequence be discriminated against in any manner. The OSCE Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders states that “the key characteristic that defines human rights defenders is not who they are, but what they do and the principles they stand for”. Anyone can be a Human Rights Defender. This event will hear personal stories from Human Rights Defenders in the OSCE region and offer advice for States, OSCE institutions and civil society on what more must be done to protect and promote human rights, and to protect those who act to defend our universal rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Torture in Ukraine Between Reform and Impunity
Convenor: Expert Center for Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In 2014, Ukraine found itself in a situation of armed conflict, and simultaneously began the process of reform. During this time, the new bodies were created, namely the National Police and the State Investigation Bureau. The State Penitentiary Service was liquidated. The laws and structure of the law enforcement bodies have changed, which supposedly was to improve the human rights situation. At the same time, the military conflict has exacerbated the problem of violence and impunity and made a part of society doubt that the prohibition of torture is absolute. The experts of the newly initiative, ZERO Torture, will tell how these factors affect the scope of torture, about successful and failing practices, as well as steps which Ukraine is taking and could take to counter the torture. Speakers: Yevhen Kravchuk, expert of the Association of Ukrainian Monitors for Human Rights in Law Enforcement Yuriy Belousov, Executive Director of the Expert Center for Human Rights Oleksandr Pavlichenko, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Association Marharyta Tarasova, Project Coordinator of the Human Rights Information Center Organizer: ZERO Torture Initiative (Ukraine)

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan, a complete pullback from the basic principles of the OSCE
Convenor: Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety
Working language: English

Summary: Azerbaijan has a long unfortunate history of human rights violations. At this event we will speak about media freedom, political prisoners and the role of civil societies.

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: 10 Years after the Georgia-Russia Conflict: Human Rights of the Conflict-Affected Population
Convenor: Amnesty International
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Amnesty International will present its initial findings on the human rights situation of the people living in the immediate conflict-affected areas, as a follow-up to its 2008 report *Civilians in the Line of Fire: The Georgia-Russia Conflict* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur04/005/2008/en/>). The particular focus of the findings and the proposed discussion is on the human rights impact of the establishment of 'hard borders' between Tbilisi-controlled territory and Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and the enforcement of restriction of movement across them. The organisers strongly welcome an open debate during this roundtable.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Human Rights in Crimea: Female Perspective
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
Co-convenor: Public Organization CrimeaSOS
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The side event organized by the Public Organization CrimeaSOS (Kyiv, Ukraine) together with Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw, Poland) is dedicated to the experience of female relatives of political prisoners, the new reality in which they have to exist, their human rights activities and the persecutions they face due to it; the experience and work of the Crimean female advocates and human rights activists involved in monitoring and documenting the human rights violations on the Peninsula, representing the interests of victims of human rights abuses before the de facto courts. Although the majority of the human rights violations in Crimea have been committed against men, women are also being targeted by de facto authorities. Among women who have been subjected to prosecution following the Annexation, are journalists, advocates, members of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, civic activists, representatives of Crimean national intelligent society and women who have somehow demonstrated disregard for the occupational regime. Women are also indirect victims of human rights abuses – as mothers, wives, daughters. It is those women, human rights and civic activists, who after the return of the Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine will become one of the centers for the dissemination and consolidation of ideas of democratic state of law where there is no place for discrimination, persecution and outrages upon personal dignity. Speakers will share their stories about what have changed in their lives after the Annexation, what had an impact on their

decision to become human rights activists/lawyers, what challenges they have faced in connection with their work and what are their recent human rights activities.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Persecution of journalists and hate speech in Crimea
Convenor: Crimean Human Rights Group
Co-convenor: Human Rights Information Center
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Organizers: Human Rights Information Center and Crimean Human Rights Group For four and a half years of the Russian occupation, Crimea has turned into the informational ghetto, where dissenters and independent media outlets are persecuted, and the media space is filled with propaganda and hate speech. During this time, more than a hundred journalists have been forced either to leave Crimea or to leave the profession. Ten local media outlets have moved to the mainland of Ukraine, where they continue to work, mostly being blocked online on the Crimean peninsula. The websites of more than thirty Ukrainian media outlets have been blocked in Crimea. These and other issues will be discussed during a side event within the framework of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018, where Yuriy Lukanov's book 'The Press: How Russia Destroyed Media Freedom in Crimea' will be presented. The book contains memoirs and testimonies of twenty Crimean journalists who have left Crimea because of persecution and threats. In addition, the human rights activists of the Human Rights Information Center and the Crimean Human Rights Group will present the results of the research on hate speech spread on the Crimean peninsula after the occupation, name the main groups subjected to hate speech in the Crimean mass media, main Russian TV channels broadcasted in Crimea and on the websites of bodies of the occupying power. Participants: Iryna Siedova, researcher of the Crimean Human Rights Group; Yuriy Lukanov, author of the book "The Press: How Russia Destroyed Media Freedom in Crimea"; Tetiana Rykhtun, Crimean journalist, news editor at Public Broadcasting of Ukraine; Osman Pashaev, executive producer of UA: Crimea.

Moderator – Tetiana Pechonchuk, head of the Human Rights Information Center (Ukraine).

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Promoting human rights compliant assembly policing practices in the Western Balkan region
Convenor: OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Co-convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ECNL
Working language: English

Summary: The side event will discuss challenges and good practices in the area of human rights compliant assembly policing in the Western Balkan region and the efforts to address key shortcomings in this regard by ODIHR, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and ECNL. It will showcase activities to advise legislators on creating a legal framework for the exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly which is in line with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments, to build capacity of the police to facilitate assemblies and to monitor how the freedom of peaceful assembly is exercised in the region. ODIHR will launch the Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian and Macedonian language versions of its Human Rights Handbook on Policing Assemblies, which is a tool for law enforcement officials and commanders with key information on upholding human rights standards in the context of assemblies and public order management (<http://www.osce.org/odhr/226981>) and will present the

results of its training workshops conducted in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Podgorica, Montenegro in 2018. The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will present its efforts in bringing national legislation and policing practices in line with international human rights standards on freedom of peaceful assembly. ECNL and Partners Albania will present the key conclusions of their assessment of the enjoyment of freedom of peaceful assembly in the Western Balkan region, based on the organizations' monitoring work.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: A state-led assault on online expression in the OSCE Region: How is it facilitated and how can we resist?
Convenor: ARTICLE 19
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Questions to discuss: - What tactics (policies and legislation) are repressive governments across the OSCE region using to restrict freedom of expression online? - What are the international standards and documents governing how states should protect freedom of expression online (particularly those relevant to the OSCE)? How can governments address legitimate public policy concerns relating to online content, such as national security or protecting individuals from violence, while upholding international human rights law? - How do repressive approaches to policing online content affect technology companies? Are they obliged to protect human rights online? - What can governments and private companies (especially technology companies) do to ensure that the right to freedom of expression can be enjoyed by all people equally, in particular for marginalised groups as well as those defending rights and expressing dissent? Chair: Susan Coughtrie, Senior Programme Officer ARTICLE 19

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Independence of judiciary – main challenges in times of rule of law crisis in Poland and Hungary
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Issues related to independence of the judiciary is broadly discussed by both – civil society activists and by the academia. As a core element of the right to fair trial, independence of the judiciary is the main condition of the effective human rights protection. Undermining the independence of courts leads directly to weaken the foundations of the rule of law. In case of Poland, the limitation of the independence of judiciary is a result and a part of rule of law crisis. The constant widening of the political supervision over the judiciary system may eventually lead not only to the systemic violation of the right to fair trial in Poland, but also to undermining the cooperation between judiciary systems within the European Union. The recently presented plans for changes in the judiciary system in Hungary, has similar aims as the amendments introduced in Poland. The governing majority's main attempt is making the judiciary beholden to politicians and eliminating the safeguards for judiciary independence. The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Hungarian Helsinki Committee would like to invite you to join the discussion how to prevent undermining the independence of the judiciary – what is the role of NGOs, courts and academia? The invited speakers will present their diagnosis of the introduced or planned changes to the judiciary systems of Poland and Hungary. Eventually, the

discussion should answer the question how the systemic violation of judicial independence can be restored – on the institutional and social level.

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Recently signed Convention on the Legal State of the Caspian- implications for human rights and extractive industries for Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Russia
Convenor: Crude Accountability
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea was signed on August 12, 2018 in Aktau, Kazakhstan. In addition to defining regulations on fishing, research and navigation, this convention is particularly relevant for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan with regard to extraction, development and transportation of Caspian oil and gas. The Convention divided up surface water and subsoil use, allowing, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan to build pipelines across the Caspian, as Russia withdrew its long-standing veto in this Convention. This means that Turkmenistan can now build a Trans-Caspian Pipeline (TCP) across the body of water into Azerbaijan, thereby pumping more natural gas into the Southern Gas Corridor to bring gas into Western Europe. Crude Accountability's long-standing work on hydrocarbons and environmental and human rights in the Caspian has demonstrated that investments in oil and gas projects, especially by international financial institutions, have dire impacts on governance, civil liberties, local communities and the environment. This event will bring together experts on Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan to discuss the implications of this Convention on development and transportation of hydrocarbons, especially natural gas, on human rights and the environment, especially for local communities in the region. Specifically, the event will address the realization of the Trans-Caspian Pipeline, as it relates to the Southern Gas Corridor, regional security, and the role played by international financial institutions. Recommendations for western and multilateral financiers will be discussed and developed.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Forcible Expulsion of the Civilian Population from the occupied territory of Crimea by Russia
Convenor: Regional Center of Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: 1. From the first days of the occupation, the Russian Federation declared all residents of Crimea its citizens. Although the Russian authorities attempted to create the illusion that Crimeans voluntarily acquired Russian citizenship, in fact it was a choice without the ability to choose. Refusal to obtain an enemy/occupation passport led to the restriction of basic rights. Even the right to remain living in own home would depend on the permission of the Russian authorities. In the context of an armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the imposition of citizenship by the aggressor is a way of suppressing loyalty towards Ukraine and forcing people to swear allegiance to the Occupying Power. About these aspects will tell Sergiy Zayets – lawyer of the Regional Center of Human Rights. 2. Having occupied Crimea, the Russian Federation transferred its legislation, used to limit and control all spheres of life of the population, to the peninsula. Using so called legal mechanisms, the Russian Federation actually squeezes Crimeans outside the peninsula. The Russian authorities massively expel citizens of Ukraine, foreigners and stateless persons, who for various reasons found themselves in this

territory. For the period from July 2014 to May 2018 on the basis of the decisions of the Crimean ‘courts’ no less than 2,500 persons were forcibly expelled. According to the legislation of the Russian Federation, this means an automatic ban on entry for a period of five to ten years into the territory of Crimea. Additionally, since the beginning of the occupation, more than 4,700 civil prisoners were forcibly transferred from Crimea to the territory of the Russian Federation. Vitaliy Nabukhotny will talk about these aspects – lawyer of the Regional Center of Human Rights. 3. Political persecution in the Crimea began immediately after the appearance of ‘green men’ on the peninsula and since then have only a tendency to increase. More than 40 Ukrainian citizens: Crimean Tatars, pro-Ukrainian activists and just civilians were arrested in Crimea from 2014 for political reasons. The most famous thing at the moment is the case of Oleg Sentsov. They are charged with espionage, extremism and terrorism. This leads to the fact that these illegal detentions are continued in the courts in the territory of the Russian Federation, most often in Rostov-on-Don, and after sentencing, none of the detainees was returned to the Crimea. Oleksandra Romantsova - deputy Head of the Board of the Center for Civil Liberties, and coordinator of the international campaign #LetMyPeopleGo 4 will talk about these aspects. Simultaneously with the cleaning up the territory of Crimea from ‘undesirable elements’, the authorities of the Russian Federation at the state level began to introduce programs for the populating of the occupied territories by their own loyal citizens. During the first years of occupation the population of Sevastopol increased more than 10%. State programs provide for the compensation payment for medical workers who move to Crimea, as well as permanent employment and provision of housing to immigrants from different regions of Russia. As a result, for a relatively short period of time due to targeted actions of Russian authorities, the demographic situation on the peninsula has changed significantly. Nataliia Ryzhenko – lawyer of the Regional Center of Human Rights will talk about these aspects.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Armed Forces and Freedom of Speech
Convenor: European Organisation of Military Associations - EUROMIL
Co-convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed themselves to ensure the right to freedom of expression and freedom of speech of their citizens, a principle which is enshrined in key international human rights instruments. In times where new tools of mass communication, social media and modern technologies enable every citizen with internet access to share his or her thoughts with a potentially worldwide audience, the freedom of speech becomes increasingly important. On the one hand, citizens are encouraged and empowered to use their freedom of speech, communicate and discuss with others, on the other, especially online communication comes with certain risks linked to privacy, security, and the protection of sensitive data. In the special case of the armed forces, restrictions are often imposed on the freedom of speech of the military personnel, in part because of the need for them to be seen as politically neutral and, in part, to prevent dissent and insubordination and to protect the confidentiality of sensitive information. The side event will aim at sharing experiences and fostering constructive discussion on good practices in the OSCE region on the right to freedom of speech, exploring how states regulate freedom of speech in the context of the armed forces.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Freedom from torture and other ill-treatment in penitentiary system in Kazakhstan
Convenor: Public Observation Commission for the North-Kazakhstan Region
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Experience in the implementation of international norms, the implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism, public monitoring commissions and other initiatives to combat torture and inhuman treatment. A review of the experience with the implementation in law and practice in the protection of human rights in the field of freedom from torture and other ill-treatment in closed institutions through the Public Observation Commission and the National Preventive Mechanism.

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 18 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Bringing security - on the move. Side-event on the rights of women migrants
Convenor: OSCE Secretariat
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will provide an opportunity to have an exchange with experts and practitioners on the specific challenges, opportunities and situation of women migrants in the OSCE region. The focus of the discussion will be to identify good practices in developing gender-responsive policy interventions that promote the rights of migrants and contribute to their protection and global security. Recommendations provided by HDIM participants will be noted and used to inform stakeholders in the OSCE region on effective strategies to promote and support the rights of women migrants. Key questions which will be addressed during the side event are: - What are specific challenges facing women in migration flows? - What are barriers for migrant women to access their human rights in the OSCE region? - Which good practices and lessons learned exist in integrating a gender perspective in migration policies and practices? - How can the protection of women and girls in migration flows be strengthened? Migration-related security challenges are high on the agenda of international organizations. Large migration flows, when not managed in a human rights-compliant, comprehensive and co-ordinated way, have the potential to undermine co-operation, stability, and security. As refugee emergencies show, persons on the move are the first and most direct victims. While migration flows pose general challenges, there are very specific gender considerations which have to be taken into account to develop effective and comprehensive approaches which take into account the different needs and opportunities for women and men in all stages of migration, from the decision to migrate to integration in host countries. Several reports prepared in the past years point out gaps in effectively addressing the particular needs of women migrants and adequately protecting them from gender-based violence. Furthermore, the gender dynamics around root causes of migration and the impact of labour migration on families are profound and often not addressed in-depth. The OSCE is committed to addressing the migration phenomenon cross-dimensionally and by capitalizing on the added value it can bring to regional and global solutions, and confirmed its commitment to addressing migration challenges in the region in the Ministerial Council Declaration (MC.DEC/3/16) on OSCE's role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. The 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/4/14) tasks the OSCE to ensure a gender perspective is integrated into OSCE activities, programmes and projects, with the aim to promote gender equality as an essential component of comprehensive security.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Norwegian Barnevernet (Child Protection Services) in the light of Resolution 2232 (2018) of PACE
Convenor: Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture
Working language: English

Summary: The side-event aims to evaluate the threats to the human rights system that may result from activities of child protection services, as recognised in the Resolution 2232 of PACE. Child protection

law and practice will be analysed with emphasis on foster care regulation, care orders and grounds for separating children from their families in the light of the Resolution and international guarantees.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Protection of the rights of national minorities in Crimea
Convenor: Regional Bulgarian National-Cultural Autonomy of the Republic of Crimea named after Paisii Hilendarsky
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: At this event will be presented materials about protection of the rights of national minorities and the preservation of the international peace in Crimea.

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Kleptocracy vs Democracy, the biggest issue for the Post-Soviet countries
Convenor: Global Ukraine Foundation
Working language: English, French, Russian

Summary: The Post-Soviet Countries like Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and others suffer because of the oligarchic kleptocratic regimes. This kleptocracy has a strong impact inside but also outside the countries. Lot of poverty, lack of economic development, human rights activists' persecutions inside the country with a kleptocratic regime; corruption and huge migrants' issues on the international level. We have some new ideas to share and to discuss with human rights activists and journalists interested by Eastern Europe and Post-Soviet countries. A new international agenda will emerge by the end of this round table. Key speakers: 1. Dr Violeta Moskalu, International development expert, Head of Board, Global Ukraine Foundation (France/Ukraine) 2. Ana Ursachi, lawyer, human rights defender and civil activist, founder of the civil movement NUmaTem (Moldova) 3. Emin Huseynov, Executive Director, Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijani journalist and human rights activist (Switzerland / Azerbaijan) 4. Vitalyy Tytych, lawyer, coordinator of the Public Integrity Council, the judiciary's civil-society watchdog (Ukraine) 5. Alexandru Machedon, civil activist, owner of the IT company StarNet (Moldova)

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Violation of minority rights in Ukraine
Convenor: International Platform 'Global Rights of Peaceful People'
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Facilitator: Sergey Markhel, President of Global Rights of Peaceful Peoples. Speakers: Vasiliy Volga, Chair of Leftist Alliance of Ukraine party, Elena Gleshinskaya, Chairperson of Peoples Congress of Black Sea region, Tamás Krausz, historian, Saadi Isakov politologue, journalist, Mihail Tyasko, Chair of World Council of Sub-Carpathian Russins, Oleg Muzyka, Aleksandr Todorov, Bozhesku Aurika, Denis Vasilyev, Aleksandr Kondryakov, Svyatoslav Vyshinskiy, Anastasia Marks, Oleg Denisov human rights activists.

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Building Civil Society Resilience against Corrosive Russian Influence in Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus
Convenor: Chatham House
Working language: English

Summary: Russia uses a variety of tools to undermine the democracy-building efforts inside the Eastern Partnership countries. Part of this backlash on democracy is due to the Kremlin's determination to preserve control over the post-Soviet space. The Kremlin's undermining of either reform efforts or state building in Russia's neighbourhood has become increasingly prominent in the past five years. The Russian leadership has been interfering in Eastern Europe by using a number of clearly identifiable but nevertheless subtle levers of political, economic, societal, and cultural influence. The sovereignty-undermining effects of Russian influence are often compounded by repression from national governments, polarization of societies and rupture of social cohesion. Under these circumstances it is crucial that civil society increases its understanding of regional trends and builds resilience. Regional CSOs could address some of these issues by modifying their strategies, especially to domestic and international advocacy, public outreach and wider citizen engagement. This event will present the findings of a Chatham House project aimed at increasing civil society resilience to corrosive Russian influence in Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus. The initial presentations will analyze the main vulnerabilities in each of the three countries, and suggest possible strategies to strengthen their societies. The speakers will also offer recommendations for civil society organizations, state actors, and western donors. The speakers' initial remarks will be followed by discussion among all participants.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Possible alternative to immigration detention of children in Russia and the other CIS countries
Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Children constitute an essential part of mass migration between ex-USSR countries. The return of children to their countries of origin is still regulated by the so called Chisinau Agreement (The Agreement on cooperation of the CIS states on the return of minors to countries of their permanent residence, 2002). The Chisinau agreement is outdated both for formal reasons (the composition of the CIS, the system of children's institutions has changed) and for its content: its provisions do not correspond to the modern standards of children's rights. Human Rights defenders had already noticed it and called for a reform of the Chisinau agreement and national legislation of the CIS countries (a campaign of the Child Rights International Network (CRIN) 'Stop detention of unaccompanied children in the CIS', 2014). The Chisinau Agreement continues to be applied, first of all because it regulates financial and logistical conditions of transportation of children across borders. Many countries in the region humanized the transit procedures for children, but special children institutions existing in the police or social care / education system remain to be places of detention: children are not allowed to go out, the institutions are not transparent for relatives or independent observers. The application of the Chisinau Agreement in new context leads to continuing violations of children's rights: long detention in the institutions, denial of access to education and family environment. The participants of the side event will discuss experience in humanization of transit system of migrant children in the countries of the region; possible alternative to immigration detention of children which was recognized as unacceptable by the UN Committees on the Rights of the Child

and on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Refreshments will be provided.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Update of the ODIHR National Referral Mechanism Handbook: The Process
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been active in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region since 1999, focusing on the promotion of international human rights standards and gender sensitive measures in responses to trafficking. As a result of its work, ODIHR has developed expertise and a significant role in the domain of victim protection and the promotion of the rights of trafficked persons and groups who are at risk. In particular, ODIHR has assisted its participating States in the creation of National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs), drawing on guidance provided in ODIHR's National Referral Mechanisms Handbook, as well as paved the way in promoting trafficked persons' access to justice and effective remedies, including compensation. The importance of establishing an effective NRM has been confirmed by the participating States in numerous OSCE commitments and documents. The OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings recommends to participating States to establish NRMs by creating a cooperative framework within which participating States fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings in co-ordination and strategic partnership with civil society and other actors working in this field (MC. Dec. No. 2/03, Annex V.3.1). This effort is supported by various studies and publications, including a practical handbook developed by ODIHR in 2004 on National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons which is currently in the process of being updated, as well as the 2005 Addendum Addressing Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (PC.DEC/557/Rev.1) and the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later (PC.DEC/1107/Corr.11). ODIHR has been carrying country visits in selected OSCE participating States focusing on the assessment of the functioning of their NRM systems. The participating States visited thus far are Poland, Georgia, UK, Croatia, USA, Spain, and a visit to at least one additional participating State is planned. Findings gathered during these visits will serve as a qualitative basis for determining the context and the direction of the NRM Handbook. As a part of the process, ODIHR will also survey stakeholders across the OSCE region to gather information on the gaps and promising practices to be addressed in the updated NRM Handbook. Finally, further meetings involving senior experts working in the field of human trafficking as well as international organizations and NGOs will take place in 2018/2019. The schedule for the launch of the updated NRM Handbook is September 2019. The objectives of the update of the NRM Handbook include: To define and standardize terms utilized in the NRM; To develop standards (minimum and gold) for terms/principles utilized in the NRM Handbook; To consider gaps and promising practices in operationalizing the NRMs by the participating States to date and to provide technical guidance on implementation of promising practices, which are adoptable and can be replicated, while remaining country-context specific; To incorporate new trends/types of trafficking NRMs need to be responsive to; To develop sections within the NRM Handbook on trafficking of children, identification, criminal justice process, victim assistance standards, durable solutions and cross-linkages between THB and migration; To develop addenda on survivor centered and trauma informed guidelines for NRM stakeholders; and To ensure the updated NRM Handbook is gender mainstreamed. The side event will provide a forum for discussion of the process of the NRM Handbook update by experts from the NRM Handbook Advisory Group. It will aim at promoting

exchange of information and views among OSCE delegations, international actors and civil society on challenges, gaps and promising practices of NRM implementation across the OSCE region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Rights and authority of immigrant parents to their children in Europe
Convenor: Pantarey Foundation
Working language: English, German, Polish

Summary: At an international seminar, we will present the problem of authority and the rights of immigrant parents to their children in Europe.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: The humanitarian and social consequences by the armed conflict in Donbas
Convenor: Civil Holding 'Group of Influence'
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Members of the coalition 'Justice for Peace in Donbas' have been documenting since 2014 the facts of serious human rights violations resulted from the armed conflict in the Eastern Ukraine. Today more than 3 million people continue to stay on occupied territories in Donbas. All of them are limited in obtaining social services of the state of Ukraine, as well as in the ability to freely provide for their humanitarian needs and the needs of their families. Members of the Coalition organizations travel with missions to the east of Ukraine, as well as take requests of the staves as hot lines and with a personal contact. During the side-event, they will talk about: The loss of civilian population and the destruction of housing and infrastructure; The use of means and methods prohibited by international treaties on the objects of infrastructure and communications necessary for the survival of the civilian population and the destruction of medical facilities; Involvement of children in the armed conflict and the social and humanitarian consequences of these actions; Access to education / Existence of schools on the territory under the control of the Ukrainian government adjacent to the contact line; Crossing line and freedom of movement as a whole (including 'internal' checkpoints); Situation with state pension payments to IDPs and citizens residing in the temporary occupied territory of Donbas In addition, the organizers are ready to propose for discussion their recommendations in this regard for both Ukraine and international organizations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: How governments imprison journalists: Worldwide experience and the analysis
Convenor: Information Group on Crimes against the Person
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The freedom of speech is an inalienable part of the democratic society. One of the main indicators of it is an opportunity for journalists to express their opinion without any fear for their life and freedom, to criticize the government and to solve any conflicts appear with them in the legal field. In case if the government openly leaves the legal frames with its actions, it pursues oppressive policy. In this particular case, the government would for sure impose the conception of the ongoing struggle

between the “ours” and the “enemies” to the society, where journalists are often listed among the “enemies”. We would consider the cases of illegal oppression of journalists from the side of the governments and prison terms as one of the extreme examples of the pressure exerted by the governments on the freedom of speech values.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Global Diaspora Platform for Democracy
Convenor: Global Ukraine Foundation
Working language: English, French, Russian

Summary: Recently we saw different diaspora initiatives trying to help their original countries: diaspora protest manifestations in Bucharest and Chisinau, #Global Ukrainians – a Ukrainian expatriates’ network that was initiated after the EuroMaidan Revolution in Ukraine, etc. We want to create a global migrants’ sharing platform. Our vision is clear - we need to strengthen cooperation for democracy in our origin countries. 1. Dr Violeta Moskalu, International development expert, Head of Board, Global Ukraine Foundation (France / Ukraine) 2. Ana Ursachi, lawyer, human rights defender and civil activist, founder of the civil movement NUmaTem (Moldova) 3. Emin Huseynov, Executive Director, Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijani journalist and human rights activist (Switzerland/zerbaijan) 4. Vadim Truhan, Head of Board, European Movement of Ukraine NGO 5. Alexandru Machedon, civil activist, owner of the IT company StarNet (Moldova)

Wednesday, 19 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Women's Power Breakfast - Women in the Justice System: Women's Representation in Justice System Institutions and its Impact on Justice Outcomes
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Co-convenors: Penal Reform International; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Amongst all justice sector institutions - law enforcement, prosecution service, judges and penitentiary staff - women remain under-represented and experience barriers to equal representation and effective participation. The under-representation in numbers reflects a persistent lack of gender equality in employment and undermines the trust of women in a justice system in which they are not represented. But what is more, the lack of representation of women in the justice system has been found to have a substantive impact on the fairness of justice system outcomes for women. The event seeks to reflect on the representation of women amongst the main justice sector institutions (law enforcement/ police, the prosecution service, judges and penitentiary staff) as well as on the impact of representation on the fairness of outcomes for women as users of the justice system. The speakers will illustrate how gender discrimination and/ or lack of representation in one sector of the justice system has an impact on the entirety of proceedings by way of a cross-sectoral analysis and will identify recommended changes in the policies and practices that perpetuate underlying inequalities and stereotypes.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Civic Space in Ukraine: Mounting Threats to Civic Activists and Human Rights Defenders in Government and Non-Government Controlled Territories
Convenor: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will focus on the overall situation and cases of interference with the work of human rights defenders and civil society activists in Ukraine, both on the governmental-controlled and occupied territories. In particular, legislative changes which adversely affected freedom of association in Ukraine will be discussed as well as the incidents of threats, physical violence, fabricated criminal cases and smear campaigns against activists. The crackdown of civil society in Crimea and imprisonment of human rights defenders will be specifically addressed. The event is co-organized by Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, the Human Rights Information Center and Freedom House. Breakfast will be served.

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Youth in Progress
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Unlike other forms of identity, youth is by definition “transitional” as it marks the move from childhood to self-sustained adulthood. 2018 was an important year for the progression of the Youth and Security Agenda worldwide. The publication of the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, commissioned by UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), paved the way to the adoption of the new UN Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018). The Study underlines the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. One of the key aspects of the Study is the resilience of the youth cohort to resort to violence: “most young people, even in the face of legitimate social, political and economic grievances, remain peaceful”. In the OSCE region, there have been clear signals of promising developments of the Youth Security Agenda, including: 1. the launch of Youth Progress Index by ODIHR and partners, one of the first tools measuring the quality of young people’s lives independently of economic indicators; 2. the take-off of the OSCE youth mainstreaming project; 3. the inclusion of youth in the reform agenda of the OSCE Secretary General, and 4. the adoption by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly of the Resolution “A Shared Priority: Fostering Peace and Security Through Enabling Young People to reach their full potential”. How can we build on these achievements and better inform our future work? This side event aims at taking stock of recent developments when working for youth and with youth also in view of potential deliverables at the Ministerial Council in Milano.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Gender dynamics of trafficking in human beings: lessons learned, promising practices and challenges for women, men, boys and girls
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Co-convenors: OSCE Secretariat; Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
Working language: English

Summary: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been active in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region since 1999, focusing on the promotion of international human rights standards and gender sensitive measures in responses to trafficking. As a result of its work, ODIHR has developed expertise and a significant role in the domain of victim protection and the promotion of the rights of trafficked persons and groups who are at risk. In particular, ODIHR has assisted its participating States in the creation of National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs), drawing on guidance provided in ODIHR’s National Referral Mechanisms Handbook, as well as paved the way in promoting trafficked persons’ access to justice and effective remedies, including compensation. The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was established in 2003 as a high-level mechanism to assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations set forth in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its addenda as well as relevant Ministerial Council Decisions. The Office provides a co-ordinating function among OSCE structures and institutions involved in combating trafficking in human beings with a focus on the following activities: enhancing the awareness and understanding of trafficking in human beings (THB) across the OSCE region; policy planning and advocacy especially in the area of emerging trends of THB and effective approaches to combating THB; and direct assistance to participating States in practical and technical areas, at their request. Trafficking in human beings is often gender specific, as are its consequences, harms and recovery processes. Assistance to survivors therefore needs to be gender specific and tailored, as well as mainstreamed in all other elements to combat THB including prevention, protection and prosecution. The identification of victims of trafficking is often hampered by a number of factors, including lack of adequate training or functioning referral mechanisms. At the

same time, other factors, such as implicit or explicit bias, prejudice and gender stereotypes may negatively impact assistance to survivors of trafficking. In September 2017, UN Member States adopted a political declaration at the Periodic Review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (GPOA) reaffirming their commitments to address human trafficking including the centrality of the Palermo Protocol, and recognizing that women and children represent an overwhelming percentage of detected trafficked individuals. UNODC's biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons estimates that 71% of detected trafficked persons are women and girls and that 96% of detected individuals trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation are women and girls. All of the OSCE participating States have unanimously committed to ensuring that all female victims of violence will be provided with full, equal and timely access to justice and effective remedies (MC Decisions 15/05 and 7/14 on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women). Although victims of trafficking for labour exploitation are all genders, many male victims of trafficking in human beings often remain undetected, although "the most frequently cited global statistics on human trafficking indicate that men and boys represent nearly half of the total number of human trafficking victims. Additionally, the identification and proper care of male victims remains an enormous challenge to governments and care providers around the world. When they do escape their trafficking situations, they are likely to be neglected by governments and service providers whose programs were established to shelter and assist women and girls." At the same time, male survivors of trafficking rarely identify themselves as such due in part to their gendered misconceptions of trafficking in persons. Male victims of trafficking may also have significant difficulty, in comparison to women and girls, in accessing the provisions of the non-punishment principle due to gender bias. For these reasons, both recent MC Decisions Nos. 6/17 and 7/17 encouraged participating States "to adopt a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach that takes into account the respective gender-specific concerns of girls and boys..." The side event will provide a forum for discussion of gender dimensions of trafficking. It will highlight the differences in identification, stigmatization, criminal justice and rehabilitation processes as experienced by both female and male survivors of trafficking in persons. It will also demonstrate the necessity of ensuring a gender-tailored trauma informed approach for frontline professionals as a critical tool to provide appropriate support for female and male survivors of trafficking in human beings. It will aim at promoting exchange of information and views among OSCE delegations, international actors and civil society on rights based, gender-sensitive and comprehensive protection approach: lessons learned, promising practices and challenges across the OSCE region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Building Capacities for Migrant Integration
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The recent humanitarian crisis pertaining to migrant and refugees and the increased number of arrivals to the OSCE region has highlighted the need for greater coordinated action in the field of migrant integration, including the need to build the capacities of different actors involved in the process, from institutional bodies to civil society organisations. Among ODIHR's responses, the office has launched a Training Manual on Good Practices in Migrant Integration in line with OSCE Commitments and International Standards. While a limited number of published handbooks on aspects of migrant integration cover EU policies and frameworks, there are currently no manuals or training resources to support capacity building on this topic for other countries within the OSCE region; by filling in this gap the manual goes a first step towards some of the demands in technical assistance

from participating States by consolidating, standardising and expanding our existing training material in the field of migrant integration. This session will discuss different aspects of capacity building for migrant integration: it will include a presentation of ODIHR's training manual as well as presentations covering efforts being undertaken by government bodies and civil society actors from across the OSCE region. It will be enriched by contributions from participants.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Tajikistan's Soviet-style Crackdown on Independent Media and Journalists
Convenor: Association of Central Asian Migrants
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Tajikistan's Soviet-style Crackdown on Independent Media and Journalists. Following crackdown on opposition in 2015, Tajikistan is dramatically stepping up pressures on the remaining independent media on the pretext of combating terrorism. This led to migration of tens of journalist who and sought refugees mostly in European countries. Tajikistan's government has quietly asserted the right of authorities to control the content of both state-run and privately owned broadcasters in a move that appears aimed at tightening officials' already firm grip on news and mass media. The Tajik government has been widely criticized for restricting media freedoms and stifling independent media outlets. Tajikistan has consistently been rated Not Free by Freedom House, including in that U.S.-based watchdog's 2016 annual report. The Freedom House report noted that Tajikistan's "authorities continued to arbitrarily limit free speech, access to information, and the right to civic organization in 2015." Tajikistan was recently ranked 150th out of 180 states in the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) annual index, slipping 34 places from the previous year. In November 2016, the authorities forced the closure of Nigoh, an independent weekly newspaper as well as the website "TojNews" was shut down. Speakers: 1. Timur Varki, senior journalist 2. Alim Sherzamonov, political activist and blogger 3. Ravshan Timuriyan, senior journalist and expert 4. Bobojon Kayumov, activist and journalist 5. Muhammadjon Kabirov, director of CA TV and Eurasian Dialogue. Moderator: 6. Muhiddin Kabiri, chairman of the IRPT

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Gender-based violence: A barrier to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) - The importance of a comprehensive approach
Convenor: Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The OSCE has for a long time strived towards gender equality, since equal rights are essential to fostering peace, sustainable democracy, and economic development. In doing so the efforts to combat gender based violence, and in particular violence against women, have been promoted in all participating States. A comprehensive approach, however, remains more needed than ever. Including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in the OSCE's comprehensive approach is a necessity rather than an option. Gender-based violence can take many interconnected forms, encompassing the experiences of violence in the everyday life of women and girls and violations of their sexual and reproductive health. Sexual and reproductive health offer a unique entry point to begin to address violence against women.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Human rights of conflict affected population in Georgia
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Georgia to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: Side event aims to facilitate an exchange of view on and about the human rights of conflict affected population in Georgia, as well as the challenges related to no access of international human rights mechanisms to the occupied regions of Georgia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Connecting the dots: Gender issues and state safety
Convenor: Parent All-Russian Resistance
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: We invite experts and other speakers to express their views on how gender approaches affect state legislation. Speakers will talk about the experience of different countries and try to answer the following questions: How gender approaches affect the protection of the rights of women, children, men and families. How the gender approach contributes to the democratization of legislation How gender approaches contribute to the strengthening of state institutions.

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Democracy in the pipeline: How can international financing of oil and gas infrastructure impact Azerbaijan's human rights record?
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The government and the economy of Azerbaijan highly relies on extraction and export of natural resources, particularly oil and gas. And while international economic and energy cooperation has long been seen as unrelated with poor Azerbaijan's human rights and democracy record, local and international civil society is offering ways to bridge this gap. The international financial institutions (IFIs) that have financed and continue to finance the biggest Azerbaijan's natural resource infrastructure projects have mechanisms aimed at ensuring sound and ethical management of their environmental, social and political consequences. However, they have not yet been effectively enforced in Azerbaijan, which offers ample opportunities for the civil society to step in. The side event will be led by local and international experts working to raise awareness about the opportunities offered by the natural resource sector in advancing human rights in Azerbaijan. They will discuss the following questions: - How is the work of the IFIs related with governance, rule of law and human rights record of Azerbaijan? - How could improving conditionality and ensuring proper application of existing safeguards of the IFIs have a positive impact on human rights, governance and rule of law in Azerbaijan? - What is the role of civil society in bringing about this change? - What are the opportunities available and challenges faced by the groups working the field?

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Freedom of speech and religion in Ukraine
Convenor: International Platform 'Global Rights of Peaceful People'
Working language: English, German, Russian

Summary: Facilitator: Saadi Isakov politologue, German journalist. Speakers: Svyatoslav Vyshinsky, Oleg Denisov human rights activists.

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Human Rights in Contested Entities: The Price of Living in the 'Black Holes' Of International Law
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Basic freedoms and rights, including the right to life, health care, education, citizenship, property and movement are regularly violated in the six territories in Europe considered to be disputed or in conflict with the de jure state they are part of under the international law: Crimea, Eastern Ukraine, Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Access to justice or humanitarian aid in some of these territories, like Eastern Ukraine, is extremely limited, and the lack of redress and accountability for human rights abuses in others, like South Ossetia, leave local populations feeling hopeless and fearing re-escalation of conflicts with catastrophic consequences. While Eastern Ukraine is more often in the international spotlight, recently the global concern over the protracted military conflict there dwindled significantly. Difficulty in providing access to humanitarian assistance in Donbas, as well as access outright in the case of annexed Crimea, results in limited information about human rights violations. Torture, illegal detentions, absence of the right to a fair trial are coupled there with humanitarian issues mentioned above. FIDH member organisations on the ground continue defending and promoting human rights in these territories by providing legal and humanitarian assistance, advocating for a peaceful solution of conflicts, advancing the rule of law, human rights education and reconciliation programs and monitoring the situation first-hand. The side event shall gather speakers who will discuss the situation in disputed entities as of today, international responses, or lack thereof, opportunities for change and ongoing challenges.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 20 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Presentation of European Islamophobia Report
Convenor: Georgetown University, The Bridge Initiative
Working language: English, German

Summary: The European Islamophobia Report (EIR) is an annual report, which has been published since 2015. The EIR documents and analyses trends in the spread of Islamophobia in various European nation states. Every year on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), EIR is published online and hardcopy and disseminated among leading stakeholders, politicians, NGO's, and anti-racist organizations. The EIR is presented at several supranational institutions such as the OSCE ODIHR, the European Parliament and other important international and national institutions. These reports will be also published online to be easily accessible. The executive office disseminates the reports among key policy makers, journalists and NGO activists from the local, national and European level. In this context SETA will organize a side-event about the presentation of the European Islamophobia Report 2017 in Warsaw/ Poland during the "2018 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting" organized by OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In this side-event, the findings of the past year's report and the events related to Islamophobia happened so far in European countries will be discussed. Panellists of the side-event include the editors of the European Islamophobia Report Enes Bayraklı and Farid Hafez, and the author of national report of Germany Anna-Esther Younes. In the light of current developments, the event will serve to draw attention to the rising level of Islamophobia in the European countries.

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Title: Why Does Europe Hate Speech? The Fallout From Mandating "Tolerance" and Silencing Concerns about Immigration and Sharia
Convenor: Wiener Akademikerbund
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will explore the political and policy fallout from OSCE Participating States' multiplying attempts to silence citizens' legitimate concerns with respect to immigration and the Islamic law known as Sharia. It will include speakers from across the OSCE Region expressing specific concerns with respect to such so-called "hate speech" measures imposing mandatory tolerance. In addition, speakers will recommend a way forward for Participating States that wish to conform better to their human dimension commitments such as tolerance and diversity – without violating commitments to freedom of expression, or sacrificing actual tolerance of diversity in the process.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: The multiculturalism and the Human rights
Convenor: Cojep International
Working language: French

Summary: We are going to discuss the multiculturalism in Europe and so to discuss on the situation of human rights. We are a structure organizing a lot of event and so we want to express us experiences and to discuss on the future of human rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Support and protection of elderly people in Russia
Convenor: Union of Women of Russia
Working language: Russian

Summary: The discussion on the topic of support for older people involves discussion of the problems of older people, national strategies of aging, their active participation in society, social protection in Russia.

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Lunchtime Discussion: ODIHR Guidance on Supporting Hate Crime Victims
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The side event will discuss the engagement of criminal justice system bodies' with the victims of hate crime. Main shortcomings will be discussed and ODIHR will present its forthcoming Hate Crime Victims in the Criminal Justice System: A Practical Guide and plans for its implementation. In addition, the interim findings of hate crime reporting for 2017 will be presented. The side event will include a panel presentation, addressing the following questions: (i) who are the victims of hate crime; (ii) what do victims of hate crime need and how can civil society organizations support them; (iii) what should governments do to support the victims of hate crimes; (iv) how can ODIHR best support participating States in implementing the Guide's recommendations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The Human Dimension Work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Convenor: OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
Working language: English

Summary: The event will present the potential for the use of technology, such as UAV's and cameras, for monitoring Human Dimension related topics.

Time: 13:15-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Strategies in overcoming discrimination in Eurasia region
Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Discrimination based on different grounds remains a serious problem in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Among violations of the rights of vulnerable groups, there are restrictions for women in employment (lists of banned professions); hate crimes against Roma; discrimination, including its multiple forms, against LGBTI, people with disabilities, HIV-positive, stateless persons. Despite a number of important cases related to discrimination had been won in international courts (UN Committees, European Court of Human Rights) and influenced national legislation, litigation has been insufficiently used in the region as a way of opposing discrimination. Bringing cases to international bodies, together with advocacy actions on national level, can form strategies for protection of particular vulnerable groups. Human Rights experts from Eastern Europe and Central Asia – participants of the side event will present their experience in overcoming discrimination of women, Roma, LGBTI, HIV-positive people, stateless persons. During the side event, a special publication by Anti-Discrimination Centre Memorial will be presented: Summary of strategic litigation cases related to discrimination. The book might be useful for experts and lawyers working in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Refreshments will be provided.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Policy Report Presentation: Interreligious Engagement Strategies - A policy tool to advance FoRB, a consultation process in the context of the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship
Convenor: Freedom of Religion or Belief and Foreign Policy Initiative
Working language: English

Summary: The Interreligious Engagement and Freedom of Religion or Belief (IE&FoRB) project aims at co-producing innovative knowledge on interreligious engagement – dialogue and collaboration – as a policy tool to advance FoRB for all. The multi-stakeholder consultation process is led by the University of Sussex (FoRB& FPI) and run under the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Policy Planning Unit) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The project aims to impact the dominant policy approach adopted by governments and international organisations in response to the global crisis of FoRB, resulting in the adoption of interreligious engagement strategies and their support and facilitation in foreign policy at both international and domestic levels. Two consultation meetings have been held this year – in Bologna in the context of the European Academy of Religion and in London in the UK Parliament and at Lambeth Palace. These consultations will feed into a policy report that identifies interreligious engagement strategies, which will be presented, in draft, for the first time at this side event, with a view to receive feedback and improve the report that we aim to launch it in the context of the OSCE next Ministerial Council in Milan on 6-7 December 2018. Among the key questions to be discussed are: To what extent and how does interreligious engagement improve respect for FoRB (and human rights more generally)? What is and what should be the role of the State in interreligious engagement? Can religious language and interreligious dialogue contribute to promoting FoRB more effectively than the secular framework and language of human rights? What are the limitations of this approach? How to apply more specifically this approach to the OSCE context both inside the region through its soft diplomacy mechanisms and outside through the foreign policy of its member states?

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: New international instruments for protection of family life and combating violence: Istanbul Convention and draft Convention on the Rights of the Family
Convenor: Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture
Working language: English

Summary: The purpose of the event is to analyze the phenomenon of domestic violence and violence against women, identify its actual sources on the basis of numerous governmental and non-governmental research on the family and critical assessment of international obligations and norms protecting family and its members from violence. The analysis will also aim to compare norms introduced by the Istanbul Convention and by the draft of the Convention of the Rights of the family as a new legal tool setting the contemporary standards of family protection against current threats.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: The growth of the political influence of far-right movements as a factor of destruction in Eastern Europe
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The growing influence of far-right movements threatens the stability and democratic development of countries of the Eastern Europe, since this process is accompanied by the challenge of basic values and freedoms of Europe. Under the influence of far-right ideologies, the practices condemned for years, such as compulsory assimilation. These practices find their expression in the discrimination of the languages of the minorities and civil legislation of certain countries. The situation in Eastern Europe is a bright example of it.

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Cooperation between Government and Civil Society Organizations in Post Soviet Countries
Convenor: Association of Visegrad Scholarship Programme Alumniees in Poland
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Panel discussion about the cooperation between Government and Civil Society organizations will combine representatives of Governmental and Civil Society organizations to discuss nowadays challenges of the cooperation, as well as to create new ways of cooperation. There will be 3 reporters, who will present the researches implemented in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. After the presentation representatives of Governmental and non-Governmental organizations will have a chance to ask questions to reporters and to discuss new ways of cooperation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18:15-19:45
Venue: Opera Meeting Room
Title: Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime: innovative practices to address hate crimes in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Poland
Convenor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
Working language: English

Summary: This side event is based on the activities within the project Building a Comprehensive Criminal Justice Response to Hate Crime (<https://www.osce.org/projects/criminal-justice-response-hate-crime>). TND, together with the project partners, will show the results and good practices resulting from the work in all four project countries, such as the development of a joint training manual on hate crimes for police and prosecutors in Bulgaria; creation of an Agreement for inter-agency co-operation to address racist crimes in Greece; the comprehensive regional approach towards hate crimes in Lombardy, Italy; and a survey of unreported hate crimes using the Respondent Driven Sampling method in Poland. The event will share the products developed within each of the project countries and will also announce a comprehensive toolkit which will be available to any state institution and/or civil society organization interested in undertaking similar activities in OSCE participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 21 September

Time: 08:15-09:45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Violation of Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine, covering additional topic
“Ukraine as a Source of Neo-Nazism in Europe”
Convenor: Institute of Legal Policy and Social Protection named in the honour of Iryna
Berezhna
Working language: Russian

Summary: This year our Institute offers report on the issue “Violation of Rights and Freedoms in Ukraine”, covering additional topic “Ukraine as a Source of Neo-Nazism in Europe”. During the presentation, we are ready to show the film in English to our audience.