

FINAL OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS¹
As submitted by the organizers
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
23 September – 4 October 2013
Warsaw, Poland

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

The side events below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 23 September

Time: 14.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Combating hate on the Internet
Convenor: Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA)
Working languages: English

Summary: The Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA) Task Force on Hate on the Internet published its groundbreaking report in May 2013. The Task Force is unique, bringing together parliamentarians, experts (lawyers, academics, NGO representatives from all sides, government representatives) and most importantly, all the major industry players (including Facebook, Google, Youtube, Twitter, PayPal, Pinterest, Yahoo). For the first time, all these representatives got together and discussed effective and realistic ways in which hate on the Internet is confronted. This side-event will introduce the approach as well as the results presented in the task force reports and introduce the on-going work of the working group, established as a result of this discussion.

Time: 13.30-14.45
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Using innovative approaches to prevent gender-based violence against women in the North Caucasus
Convenors: NGOs Sintem, Women for Development, Women of Don Region
Working languages: Russian (Power Point presentation with English translation)

Summary: Three leading women NGOs in the North Caucasus will share their views on the pressing challenges facing women, specifically in the Republic of Chechnya, through a prism of social and political analysis of the situation. Additionally, the event will feature personal stories, photographs, and an overview of the employed mechanisms to battle gender-based violence in a post-conflict society.

Refreshments will be provided

¹ This is an unofficial document.

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: On-going human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region
Convenors: Amnesty International, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
Working languages: English

Summary: This year OSCE will mark the tenth anniversary of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti in OSCE Area, which was adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council in 2003 and five years after ODIHR's first Status Report (2008) assessing efforts by participating States aimed at implementation of the Action Plan. This year ODIHR will presents its second edition of the Status Report 2008 - 2013. The preliminary findings of this report suggest that despite some important positive developments (more policy documents adopted, institutions, and financial instruments available to tackle the problems Roma and Sinti populations face), still significant gaps remain between Roma communities and the mainstream society in such areas as housing, education, employment and access to public services and justice. Moreover, key developments of the review period and areas of concern are racism, intolerance, and discrimination against Roma and Sinti manifested with anti-Roma rhetoric and violent acts in a number of European States. Similarly the most recent ERRC country profiles on the Czech Republic, France, Italy, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine outline that major issues are yet affecting Roma communities across Europe. The ERRC reports conclude that despite some efforts to improve the situation of Romani individuals and communities, they are still denied basic human rights.

Amnesty International has documented continuously the human rights violations against Roma individuals and communities noting that little efforts have been made by governments to end discrimination and racism against Roma in the region. Forced evictions of Roma continue to take place unchallenged and – if not left homeless – they are resettled in segregated housing. Amnesty International brings examples of such evictions from France, Italy, Romania and Serbia. Moreover, little efforts have been made by governments to eliminate school segregation in countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Greece. Thousands of Romani children continue to be placed in segregated schools or classes offering substandard education.

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 24 September

Time: 8.30 – 9.30
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Wake Up Call: addressing hate crimes in the OSCE region – ODIHR's tools and resources
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Working languages: English

Summary: This one-hour breakfast session will provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about ODIHR's tools and resources for addressing hate crime. In addition, ODIHR's annual hate crime report and the draft guide on data collection will be presented for comments from delegations and NGOs.

Breakfast will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The role of education in promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity in sexual orientation

Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: “Some say that sexual orientation and gender identity are sensitive issues. I understand. Like many of my generation, I did not grow up talking about these issues. But I learned to speak out because lives are at stake, and because it is our duty under the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to protect the rights of everyone, everywhere.” This quote comes from Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is illustrative of the growing international consensus on the right of LGBT people not to be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

The United Nations note that “in recent years, many States have made a determined effort to strengthen human rights protection for LGBT people. An array of new laws has been adopted, including laws banning discrimination, penalizing homophobic hate crimes, granting recognition of same-sex relationships, and making it easier for transgender individuals to obtain official documents that reflect their preferred gender. Training programmes have been developed for police, prison staff, teachers, social workers and other personnel, and anti-bullying initiatives have been implemented in many schools.”

Comprehensive security for all parts of society includes countering violence, harassment and discrimination suffered by LGBT people. The role of education is key here. This side event will present information and experiences from across the OSCE region on the current role of education in helping to achieve or in thwarting this goal. One source of information is the recent major study by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union on LGBT discrimination, which found that school was one of the most problematic arenas for LGBT youths. Campaigns to improve the school environment for young people will be presented. The effects of initiatives to repress open discussion on sexual orientation will also be discussed.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Relevance of OSCE commitments for the implementation of Roma and Sinti integration measures at local level
Convenors: Open Society Foundations, Making the most of EU funds for Roma and ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
Working languages: English

Summary: The OSCE/ODIHR Status Report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (2008) underlines the importance of policy implementation at the local level while emphasizing that local-level administration and local civic actors play a significant role when it comes to Roma inclusion efforts.

With on-going decentralization in many participating States of the OSCE, the areas of competence and the policy instruments at the disposal of local administrations to address social problems such as employment, access to education, health, combating discrimination, public order and minority cultural rights, often exceeds those of national-level government or those of supra-national entities. It is therefore crucial that further efforts are made in order to stimulate the involvement of local authorities in the Roma inclusion process.

Chapter IV “Addressing socio-economic issues” of The Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area calls for “measures at the grass-roots level, (...) to promote the integration of Roma and Sinti people into social and economic life and to combat their isolation and poverty” providing a strong mandate for further action to promote pragmatic approaches to Roma inclusion at the local level.

Open Society Foundations' Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma (OSF MtM) is an instrument meant to connect the Decade of Roma Inclusion objectives to EU financial resources and thus support European, national, and local governments in realizing the targets of the Roma Decade. OSF MtM approaches the issue through project development assistance, financial and human capacity-building, and advocacy, seeking to create a critical mass of concerned governmental actors at all levels to keep Roma inclusion high on the policy agenda. Since its inception, the OSF MtM has accumulated ample experience in addressing critical issues related to development of Roma communities in several participating States of the OSCE. For example, through its initiative *Mayors Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion (MERI)*, it provides a platform for local authorities to exchange, learn, and support each other in their efforts towards Roma inclusion.

Co-organized by ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti and the Open Society Foundations' Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma, the aim of this side event is to explore both the positive developments and the challenges present at the local level in Roma communities while showcasing pragmatic approaches of co-operation between authorities and the Roma community.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Jewish and Muslim co-operation in fighting hate crime: a case study
Convenor: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The purpose of this side event is to demonstrate how faith-based organizations have shared best practice to establish rigorous and effective mechanisms for monitoring and reporting hate crimes and so help participating States to combat hate crimes across the OSCE region. Successive governments in the UK have recognized that hate crime often goes unreported and have committed to increasing this reporting, through a range of measures including support for civil society groups that provide an alternative reporting mechanism where victims lack the confidence to report directly to the police.

The event will be chaired by Louise de Sousa, Head of the Human Rights & Democracy Department in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Guest Speaker: Dave Rich, Community Security Trust (CST). The Jewish Community Security Trust has been held up as one of the foremost non-government security organizations in the UK. Almost exclusively funded from community donations, the organization has established effective working relationships with law and enforcement agencies, Government and the Jewish communities throughout the UK. The CST has assisted many other organizations from different interested groups throughout the UK and internationally to monitor and combat hate crime.

Guest Speaker: Fiyaz Mughal OBE FCMI, Founder and Director of a not for profit organisation called Faith Matters, which works to reduce extremism and interfaith and intra-faith tensions and develop platforms for discourse and interaction between Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jewish and Hindu communities across the globe.

From the inception of Faith Matters' reporting hate crime project, its leadership formed a strategic partnership to learn from CST's experience and to form collaborative relationships which would send a clear message of leadership to both communities and thereby improve the services of both organisations. The two organizations regularly share a public platform and believe that the ultimate goal of protecting their relevant community is best served by protecting the rights of all groups to be free from hostility and abuse.

The side event will hear the experiences of key figures from each organization and will offer a model of collaboration that would be transferable to similar and civil society organizations and participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Gender and police oversight
Convenors: ODIHR Human Rights, Gender and Security Programme in co-operation with the OSCE Gender Section
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Gender Section and with participation from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF), is organizing a side event during the 2013 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) on *Gender and Police Oversight*. The event will entail a discussion of the internal and external mechanisms that exist, or should exist, within police structures in order to ensure that grievances filed by women and men working in the police are properly addressed. Such grievances usually include gender-based discrimination in pay and advancement, curtailed benefits and rights, including absence of or limited maternity or paternity leave, and no policies or procedures to protect against sexual harassment or assault on the job. Such external or internal oversight can, and should also address the manner in which the police respond to the every-day security needs of women in the community, such as violence against women.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Understanding and implementing the obligation to prohibit incitement in the OSCE
Convenors: Center for Media and Communications Studies, Central European University (CEU), Article 19
Working languages: English

Summary: This event will examine the legal and non-legal policy implications of the Rabat Plan of Action (RPA) for States and non-state actors in the OSCE region. The RPA was adopted in October 2012 following a series of regional workshops on international law's prohibition of "advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence" organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2011. The workshops were intended to: examine "legislative patterns, judicial practices and ... policies" concerning the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred around the world; produce a "comprehensive assessment of the state of implementation of this prohibition"; and "identify possible actions at all levels". The resulting RPA envisages a holistic approach to the implementation of States' international obligations encompassing criminal, civil and administrative sanctions and anti-discrimination legislation, as well as policies and practices to promote mutual respect and understanding.

The aims of the event are twofold. *First*, it will identify some of the on-going challenges concerning the prohibition of incitement in the OSCE region by spotlighting the situation in states, looking at the situations in Turkey and Russia in particular. It will highlight how laws and policies on incitement are being used to target minorities, with a chilling effect on others, while "real" incidents of incitement and harmful speech tend to be ignored. *Second*, the event will propose and highlight the practical steps that should now be taken for implementing the recommendations of the RPA by State actors and civil society in a broad sense, including the media and artistic, educational and religious organizations in the OSCE region. In fleshing out in further detail the implications of the RPA for the OSCE region, this event will draw on the legal and policy work of ARTICLE 19, in particular *Prohibiting incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence* (December 2012), and *The Content and Context of Hate Speech – Rethinking Regulation and Responses* edited by Michael Herz and Peter Molnar, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Educational initiatives and approaches for addressing anti-Semitism and intolerance against Muslims
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Working languages: English

Summary: In a number of OSCE Ministerial Council and Permanent Council decisions, OSCE participating States have recognized the crucial role education plays in addressing the root causes of intolerance and discrimination. They have committed to developing educational strategies and programmes to counter prejudice and to drawing on ODIHR's assistance in this regard. The ODIHR/Anne Frank House *Teaching Materials on Anti-Semitism* deal with historical as well as contemporary anti-Jewish prejudices. They have been adapted for use by 15 OSCE participating States. Furthermore, ODIHR, UNESCO and the Council of Europe developed *Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education*. The Guidelines have been translated into several languages. While these educational tools engage with anti-Semitism and intolerance against Muslims in their specificity, they are designed for the same target audience – educators, students and other relevant stakeholders in the OSCE region. Both are firmly anchored in the OSCE's commitment to combat intolerance through a comprehensive approach, with the common denominator being the need to deconstruct stereotypes and promote mutual respect and understanding.

The side event will examine different educational activities designed to address both intolerance against Muslims and anti-Semitism. Good practices and experiences will be exchanged in order to jointly explore challenges and opportunities offered by this approach.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Empowering women in Tajikistan
Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will discuss the challenges facing women and families in Tajikistan's small towns and remote areas, focussing on how civil society can address them.

The situation of women and girls in small towns and rural areas of Tajikistan is especially difficult. Economic transition has resulted in the weakening of many structures that once supported women in combining roles. The decrease in the resident male population due to labour migration has left many women as heads of household. It has also led to informal, legally unrecognized polygamy, which leaves second or third wives and their children without legal protection. Poverty, early marriage and social mores inhibit enrolling girls in school. Families are more likely to withdraw girls than boys from school to attend to agricultural work. Increased pressure at household level and on relations within the family has manifested itself in increased violence, a problem recognized in the country's new law on preventing family violence.

To help address these issues at local and policy levels, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan offers programming to promote women's empowerment and help curtail disempowerment, with a focus on small towns and rural areas. The 12 civil society organizations in the Women's Resource Centers extra-budgetary project use a combination of community mobilization, psychosocial counseling and legal advice to find local solutions to combat domestic violence, further girls' education and help women access their rights. At the same time, Tajikistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, in co-operation with the OSCE Office, has established special teams to deal with family violence and work with civil society to assist families at risk.

The event will be addressed by the First Deputy Minister Nurillo Oripov of the Tajikistan Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ambassador Katja Pehrman of the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE, Head of Human Dimension Department Barbara Davies of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan as well as Ms. Ziyoda Ashurova, Head of Kumsangir Women's Resource Center. Ambassador Miroslava Beham of the Gender Section of the OSCE Secretariat will moderate the event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Because of who I am: homophobia, transphobia and hate crimes in Europe
Convenor: Amnesty International
Working languages: English (*Amnesty International will provide consecutive translation from/to Italian for the Italian human rights activist*).

Summary: The aim of our side event is to highlight the urgency to tackle homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in Europe in light of legislative gaps in many European countries, flawed investigation and prosecution practices, and lack of adequate support to victims of institutionalized homophobia and transphobia.

We will present the main points of our regional briefing *Because of who I am: homophobia, transphobia and hate crime in Europe*, which will be published on 18 September 2013.

During the event, we will focus on two of the countries covered in the briefing – Italy and Bulgaria. The panel will include the author of the briefing, Marco Perolini (Amnesty International) and two human rights activists from Italy and Bulgaria, respectively: Porpora Marcasciano (from an Italian Trans Organization, *Movimento Identità Transessuale*) and Radoslav Stoyanov (Bulgaria Helsinki Committee).

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Belvedere room
Title: The problem of xenophobia and aggressive nationalism in the modern Europe. Is there any solution?
Convenors: International Human Rights Movement “World without Nazism”? Experts of National human rights and Anti-fascists organizations from Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Finland
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Today the peoples of a number of European nations give preferences on the elections to radical nationalists and just neo-Nazi. The Parliaments of Greece, Hungary, Ukraine, Latvia and other European countries have already separate factions of political parties that advocate an aggressive stance against immigrants, ethnic and religious minorities, as well as members of the LGBT community. Sometimes this xenophobia and intolerance has the racist forms.

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

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

An example of countries where the radical nationalists have the representation in the Parliaments inspired by their counterparts in neighboring states. They are very active in all European countries, they create new

political parties and NGO, etc. We can observe today that a list of the countries where hate crimes are becoming commonplace is growing.

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

Wednesday, 25 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Presentation of the new ODIHR Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Health Workers and Guidelines on Human Rights Education for Human Rights Activists
Convenor: ODIHR Human Rights Department
Working languages: English, Russian

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

Health workers, whose main goal is to enhance health, are key actors in protecting, respecting and promoting the health-related human rights of every individual. Human rights competencies strengthen health workers' professional performance, therefore, human rights should be a part of any training or educational programme for all categories of health workers.

OSCE participating States acknowledge the key role that human rights activists play in ensuring full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. To perform this task successfully and responsibly, and to continually advance their understanding and skills, adequate training for human rights activists should be made available and encouraged.

The side event will be an occasion to discuss how the new tools may support the advancement of human rights education in the OSCE area and what the role of the OSCE and ODIHR should be.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Freedom of expression as a human right
Convenors: Gustav Stresemann Stiftung e.V., Bürgerbewegung PAX EUROPA (BPE)
Working languages: English, German

Summary: The OSCE considers freedom of expression a fundamental human right. This freedom may only be infringed to safeguard other basic rights, such as human dignity. For good reason: freedom of expression is the foundation for other human rights, especially freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly as well as academic freedom. For without the freedom to speak one's mind and to freely receive information, all other freedoms would be absent.

The side event will address the constitutional implementation of freedom of expression in the OSCE region. The main focus will be on freedom of expression as a negative and individual right, which with respect to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) can only be granted to humans. Competing concepts of group rights as well as hate speech and blasphemy laws will be disseminated in light of the UDHR and individual rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Discrimination of women prisoners, with a special emphasis on the South Caucasus
Convenor: Penal Reform International, Head Office (London)
Working languages: English

Summary: Because women and girls represent less than a tenth of the prison population, their characteristics and needs have remained largely unmet by criminal justice systems. Prisons and their regimes – from the architecture and staff to security procedures and healthcare – are usually designed for men.

A considerable proportion of women offenders are in prison as a direct or indirect result of the multiple layers of discrimination, experienced at the hands of their husbands or partners, their family and the community. Treating women prisoners in the same way as men fails to achieve gender equality.

This side event seeks to raise awareness about the discrimination women prisoners face and the gender-specific standards adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2010 to tackle this problem, the so-called ‘Bangkok Rules’. It will present the research undertaken by PRI in Armenia and Georgia to find out more about the characteristics of women prisoners and the impact on their children. The report, one in a series of comparable research projects, seeks to contribute to policy change by increasing the knowledge about what triggered these women’s confrontation with the criminal justice system, about their background and the consequences the incarceration has on them.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.00
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Legal limitations affecting Christians in Europe with a special focus on hate speech legislation
Convenor: Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians
Working languages: English

Summary: On the basis of a European wide expert survey, the Observatory compiled a concise report on legal limitations affecting Christians in Europe. Barbara Vittucci, the Observatory’s research assistant, will present the most important findings in a 10-minute presentation.

Hate Speech legislation is a tightrope walk with regard to freedom of expression. UK lawyer and author of *Censored – How European Hate Speech Laws are Threatening Freedom of Speech* Paul Coleman did an in-depth-analysis of the different European legal approaches and will present an analysis in a 15 minute-presentation. Further information on these publications and the work of the Observatory is available on www.IntoleranceAgainstChristians.eu

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: The role of social media as opinion-former
Convenor: EMISCO - European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion
Working languages: English, French

Summary: Media, whether traditional or new, have performed the task of disseminating information across increasingly larger audiences. Their success has also meant that their power has increased exponentially. Media have the power not only to inform, but also to influenced and form opinions, as well as to promote particular political agendas. They are essentially a kind of fourth power that

is very difficult to touch. Any criticism of the media's role or influence is often rebuffed by stressing the principles of freedom of expression, the rejection of censorship, and the idea that anyone should be free to criticize anyone in a democratic world.

More recently, we have witnessed the phenomenon of new Internet-based social media that has become a significant part of our modern civilization and daily life. The spread and success of social media is a testament to how integrated our social interactions have become. Social networking giants like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn have contributed to create a whole new world where we are free to express our opinion and share it with our friends, peers and even with strangers across the world.

Social media have also become an important source of information, opinion-forming and a powerful vehicle of social mobilization. While the credibility of some sources can clearly be contested, news channels tweet or give updates on significant happenings all over the world. Their availability on social networks makes news more accessible. Additionally, news quickly gets passed around the networks in ways never experienced before. These have furthered interaction by such a massive scale that is hard not to notice it. It allows people to keep in touch in a more regular, and sometimes more intimate basis than ever before because of time and space constraints. People cities- or continents-apart can keep in touch so effortlessly, creating an opportunity to experience different cultures.

This side event aims to explore how social media can be transformed from agents of freedom and positive change to spaces where hatred, prejudice, racism, and misinformation reign. The event will also discuss how social media can be used responsibly and effectively in the modern globalized world to promote intercultural values of mutual respect and understanding; and what kind of action should be taken against abuses of freedom or lack of responsibility in using them.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Freedom of expression in Ukraine: corruption and the media
Convenor: Freedom House
Working languages: English

Summary: Freedom House and the Institute for Mass Information will host a panel presentation by leading experts to discuss the intersection of media, corruption, and human rights in affecting the state of free expression in Ukraine. Participants will assess Ukraine's progress in meeting its OSCE human dimension commitments; describe challenges to the freedom of expression posed by media consolidation, corruption, and government media policies; and highlight activists successes in reporting on corruption through an innovative portal Nikorupciji.org. The results of breakthrough investigations on official corruption in Ukraine will illustrate the complex interplay of factors undermining free expression in Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Human rights monitoring in Central and Eastern Europe in theory and practice
Convenor: International Institute of Newly Established States
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Human rights monitoring in Central and Eastern European countries often becomes a subject of controversies when it comes to methodology and subjects realizing projects in this field. The panel should answer the question if one common standardized approach to the topic could be implemented to avoid accusations of biased attitude.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Transparency of media ownership in the Eastern Partnership countries and Turkey
Convenors: NIRAS and Media Law Institute
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: NIRAS, an international consultancy company headquartered in Denmark, in co-operation with the Media Law Institute, a Ukrainian NGO and think tank, intends to organize a side event on 25 September 2013 on the margins of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

It shall be devoted to *Transparency of Media Ownership in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Turkey*. Pluralism of mass media – as one of the preconditions for freedom of expression – can be guaranteed mainly through the visible pluralism of media ownership. And a lack of the media ownership transparency, which is witnessed nowadays in the EaP countries and Turkey, seems to tangibly jeopardize pluralism in the sector. Wide public in this region has little or no reliable information on the owners of media companies, whereas drawbacks of national legislation on access to information allows the local politicians and oligarch groups make use of the existing advantages and acquire mass media through intermediaries.

With the topicality of the media ownership transparency in the EaP region and Turkey, a pool of experts from Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey will share their country-specific experience on the matter with a view to work out jointly the recommendations on its improvement. Experts from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media office and from Article 19 are also to intervene.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Freedom of information in Tajikistan: challenges and opportunities
Convenors: News Agencies “Faraj” and “Asia Plus”
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This side event will cover several topics on freedom of media and information in Tajikistan starting with more theoretical view on how and why non-democratic regimes tolerate independent and partially free media, moving to the discussion of recent development of the media field in Tajikistan, with further briefing of the major challenges and obstacles in access to information.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 26 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Understanding the other religion and its psychology. Religious psychology and meditation between religious communities and society
Convenor: Christian Solidarity Austria (CSI)
Working languages: English, German

Summary: This is a European Master Study in co-operation between CSI, Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule Wien, Alma Mater Europea, University Benedict XVI. Heiligenkreuz and Institute Friede (Islamic Fethullah Gülen organization).

The goal is to educate people in a master course to understand how religious communities think and live and how these communities can better be integrated in the social and political progress in Europe where they live. A special interest will be given to the general education possibilities and the strengthening of the self-responsibility of women. At the end the participants should be able to work as mediators between

religious communities in European towns, based on the knowledge of understanding religious values and traditions and the ability to organize grass root meeting inside and between communities.

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Recognition and registration of religious communities
Convenor: Alliance Defending Freedom
Working languages: English

Summary: Freedom of religion is a fundamental right to be enjoyed collectively as well as individually. However, many OSCE participating States place burdensome restrictions on the recognition and registration of religious communities, thus infringing the right to freedom of religion and freedom of association. Drawing on vast international litigation experience in this area, Alliance Defending Freedom lawyers will provide case examples from several OSCE participating States and will also consider best practices and possible policy aspirations for OSCE implementation in the future.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Institutional discrimination of religious and spiritual minorities; Italy and Romania
Convenor: Soteria International
Working languages: English

Summary: Unconstitutional practices – witch-hunts in the media – and social marginalization: stigmatization of minority religions and spiritual movements.

Speakers: Raffaella diMarzio, Theologist and Psychologist, leading Italian cult expert; Camillo Maffia: Freelance Journalist; Willy Fauté, Director of Human Rights Without Frontiers; Monica Dobrin, Director of LAYMS; Marco Perduca, Italian Senator 2008-2013 – video interview; Cosimo Campidoglio, ARKEON practitioner – video interview.

As minority religions and spiritual movements gain momentum in the modern world, so do those who criticise them, often helped by sensationalist media and institutionalized interests. The large propagation of misinformation, based on interpretations, rumours and exaggerations, often lead to marginalization and persecution of spiritual practitioners. One would expect modern democratic countries to effectively mediate such discriminations. Instead, authorities themselves often fall into a trap of sensationalistic threats proliferated by media and traditionalists.

The Italian Anti-sect Squad (SAS) was founded in 2006 and carries out numerous attacks on spiritual movements. The very decree of its creation is unconstitutional as it depends on private interest groups. SAS systematically fails to present substantial evidence for the police operations they perpetrate and has been questioned repeatedly by Italian Members of Parliament. However the Italian government has continued to fund and support the squad. In Italy and other European democracies there are attempts to re-introduce the “plagio laws”, created by Mussolini to stop unwanted groups in society, by accusing them of “mind manipulation”.

Romania is another example where totalitarian practices, especially in the field of conscience and belief, prove to persist, despite the continuous EU efforts and critique in the European Commission’s CVM reports. “Operation Christ” was the code name for the notorious attack of the Romanian police against yoga practitioners. Three hundred heavily armed policemen from the anti-terror squad attacked the yoga school MISA. During this operation, in its aftermath, Romanian authorities severely breached the fundamental rights of the Romanian yoga practitioners. The case remains unaddressed and violations in the case continue. “Operation Christ” is the biggest police action in post-communist Romania, just like Italy’s biggest police attack ever which was targeted at the spiritual school Damanhur.

Authorities justify the attacks on spiritual movements by accusations such as terrorism, human trafficking, sexual corruption, and paramilitary extremism. However, no evidence is presented in support of such allegations. They seem rather based on information from media campaigns and private conservative “anti-sect” interest groups. Politicians, experts, human rights activists, victims and previous “anti-sect” activists all contribute to a vivid discussion on the stigmatization of minority religions and spiritual practitioners in Europe today.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15 - 14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Freedom of religion or belief in the Kyrgyz Republic
Convenor: Open Viewpoint Public Foundation
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The current Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic was not aligned with the current Constitution adopted in 2010. The new version of the draft law that was designed in 2010 by the Working Group of the Ministry of Justice has not been submitted to Jogorku Kenesh (Kyrgyz Parliament). Contradictions of legal provisions affect the implementation of international commitments.

Freedom of religion is rather considered as a security threat. This justifies the imposition of restrictions on international commitments. The level of competence and personal identity of public servants affect the freedom of religion and situation of religious groups. The global campaign against terrorism and extremism affects the situation of the ordinary believers.

The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted after the change of government in 2010 for the first time in the history of the Kyrgyz statehood incorporated the full list of rights and freedoms and their definitions that are consistent with international human rights obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic within the UN and the OSCE. In addition, the situation is influenced by regional processes and surrounding States.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: How bad definitions violate fundamental OSCE commitments
Convenor: International Civil Liberties Alliance
Working languages: English

Summary: ICLA will discuss the problem of poorly defined terms leading to legal insecurity and erosion of fundamental freedoms. Ill-defined terms, whether due to sloppy legal work or deliberate attempts of deception, constitute a severe challenge to our understanding of fundamental human rights and civil liberties.

ICLA will discuss a series of such problematic terms, including “tolerance”, “discrimination”, “Islamophobia”, “stereotypes”, “far right”, “hate speech” and “human rights” as well as variations thereof, showing how they are misused to muddle public discussion and even to smear human rights defenders. ICLA will present several cases where the misuse of such terms have led to violations of fundamental freedoms of speech, association and assembly, as well as impunity for extremist groups attacking persons and groups peacefully using their right to raise issues of importance.

As a special case, it will be shown how the proposed definition of “Islamophobia” (Tirana, May 2013) is deeply flawed, and thus is useless for genuine human rights work.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: State responses to “leaderless” and semi-permanent mass protests, and similar recently emerged types of assemblies in the OSCE region
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization Department, Legislative Support Unit
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will focus on the emergence of new forms of assemblies over the last decade (i.e. spontaneous mass protests with no identifiable organizers, semi-permanent/long-standing assemblies, etc.) on the one hand, and State authorities’ responses to these new forms of assemblies, on the other. The discussion will concentrate on, among other issues, how State authorities can ensure the peacefulness of spontaneous assemblies and prevent violence in the absence of identifiable organizers, the length of time and circumstances in which mass semi-permanent assemblies should be permitted to continue, how such new types of assemblies might be legitimately dispersed and if and when it might be acceptable for the police to use force in their dispersal. The debate will be framed in the context of the principle of proportionality, and how the challenges posed by these distinctive but increasingly common kinds of assemblies could be reflected in existing legislation regulating assemblies in OSCE participating States. Special attention will also be given to the role of social media and new technologies in this context.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The State intervention in internal religious affairs of minorities and the freedom of religion: the case of Western Thrace Turkish Minority
Convenors: Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) and Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA), in partnership with European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion (EMISCO)
Working languages: English

Summary: In 2007, the Greek Government passed Law 3536/2007 on the appointment of 240 religious personnel, i.e. Imams, to serve at the mosques in Western Thrace under the authority of the official muftis (appointed by the State) in Komotini, Xanthi and Didymotico. The Turkish minority does not recognize the appointed muftis on the ground that the Government has no right to interfere with religious affairs of the Turkish Minority. Due to the strong reactions from the Minority, the Law 3536/2007, which is publicly known as “240 Imams Law” has not been implemented.

The Greek Government adopted the Law 4115/2013 on the status of Muslim preachers in Western Thrace in 2013 despite the objections of the Turkish deputies in the Parliament and strong opposition from members of the Turkish minority. It is argued that the recent legislation would further allow the government to expand its control over religion in public schools in the region through the new provision providing the teaching of the Quran by appointed Muslim preachers in public schools in Western Thrace in which minority students are enrolled.

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) and Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA) intend to organize a side event in order to discuss the State intervention over religious affairs of the Minority in Greece. At that event, experts will describe the situation in Greece based on their observations in the region and consultations with minority representatives. Additionally, they will share their opinions about the recent legislation on the status of Muslim preachers in the region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Assembly and association concerns in the OSCE region

Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The fundamental freedoms of assembly and association are central to the protection of human rights and the development of democratic institutions. Restrictions on these fundamental freedoms, including registration requirements, restricting access to foreign funding, and the arbitrary application of laws and regulations will be discussed. Panelists representing civil society from several OSCE participating States will also discuss new developments, both negative and positive, affecting the implementation of OSCE commitments to protect the freedoms of assembly and association.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 27 September

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Xenophobia in the Russian Federation – challenge for civil society
Convenors: International Partnership for Human Rights, SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, Anti-Discrimination Centre (ADC) Memorial
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Prevalent xenophobia and homophobic attitudes among the general public in Russia offer fertile ground for the abuse of the rights of minority groups. Among the most affected are migrant workers and LGBTI communities. The Russian Government's apparent lack of commitment to promoting the rights of minority groups and eliminating discrimination is evidenced by the treatment of such groups by the law enforcement agencies. While ethnic profiling remains to be persistent, people from Caucasus and Central Asia seem to be particularly targeted. Abuses against such groups are common in police detention and prison system. While Russia remains to be one of the largest recipients of migrant workforce, at the same time it fails to protect migrant workers against serious forms of discrimination. Migrant communities endure extreme discrimination in employment, partly, due to the burdensome process of obtaining work permits. Those workers, who fail to obtain papers needed for staying and working in the country, fall victims to exploitation by both intermediary employment agencies and employers.

The work of LGBTI communities, organizations and human rights defenders to improve visibility, acceptance and the social standing of LGBTI people is further hindered by legislative initiatives that place restrictions on the freedoms of assembly and expression, fail to provide protection of discrimination, or limit the functioning of non-governmental organizations. Human rights defenders that protect victims of discrimination and vulnerable groups are themselves subject to reprisals because of their work. Many of the Russian media outlets play active role in reinforcing xenophobic propaganda, chauvinistic attitudes and justify violent action against minority groups.

The keynote speakers of the panel include: Alexander Verkhovsky, SOVA Center, Andrey Yakimov and Inessa Sakhno of the ADC Memorial. The panel will be moderated by Simon Papuashvili of IPHR.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-14.30
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Belarusian Yearbook 2012: the Deep Freeze
Convenors: Agency for Social and Political Expert Appraisal (Minsk), German Marshall Fund of the United States, Solidarity with Belarus Information Office (Warsaw)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: A panel of prominent Belarusian experts will present the main political and economic trends in Belarus identified in the *Belarusian Yearbook 2012*.

Key trends include: “narrowing” of the State – decision taken by an ever diminishing circle; lack of technical, financial and human resources; growing economic and foreign policy dependence on Russia; rise in pro-European moods and fewer efforts to integrate with Russia; reduced social obligations of the State, stagnation of electoral ratings and trust levels toward authorities; crisis of State policy and inability to propose a vision for the future.

The Belarusian Yearbook 2012 is the fourth edition of an annual multi-disciplinary analysis of trends in the Belarusian State and society. The Yearbook was published by the Agency for Social and Political Expert Appraisal, and supported by the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Watch out: cunning democracy in Kazakhstan
Convenors: Freedom House and Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Main topics: freedom of peaceful assembly; freedom of speech; freedom of religion or belief; possibly one or two other areas of concern.

What is a cunning democracy? It is a when a country in transit on a political level declares that it shares the values of pluralistic democracies, including the respect for human rights and rule of law, while simultaneously on a national level undertakes controversial or hostile steps to curb democratic freedoms, such as changing legislation to restrict or violate basic human rights, close down media outlets or crackdown on political parties.

While declaring that democratic development is taking place in Kazakhstan, the government is moving in a still more authoritarian direction. How has it succeeded in convincing the international community that the opposite is true? What are the “tricks” and rhetoric used?

Side event participants will demonstrate commonly used government traps and will reveal the sense of Kazakhstani democracy through their speeches.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Implementation of European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judgments in South Caucasus
Convenors: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Legal Education Society
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The goal of the event is to share among experts from different OSCE participating States that are also members of the Council of Europe views on how to improve the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (“ECtHR”), with the particular focus on South Caucasus countries.

The lack of timely and effective execution of judgments of the ECtHR is a problem common to many OSCE participating States. The problem is clearly visible in relatively new members of the Council of Europe, such as Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. At the same time, proper implementation of the ECtHR judgments is crucial in order to effectively protect human rights. Non-execution of Strasbourg decisions by States demands systemic changes (in the law and practice) that should involve all branches of power as well as non-state actors. In Poland, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights has recently initiated a high-level dialogue on the role of the parliament in the implementation of Strasbourg judgments and has been

actively promoting the need for an increased involvement of civil society organizations and other actors in the procedure.

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

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The situation of human rights of military personnel in the independent States of the former Soviet Union
Convenor: International network of human rights organizations «AMPARO – Society and Army»
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: International network of human rights organizations «AMPARO – Society and Army» will present a comparative analysis on the situation of rights and freedoms of military personnel in the States of the former Soviet Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The participants of the event will discuss such problems as human rights protection of conscripts and soldiers, realization of the right to conscientious objection to military service in the aforementioned countries and at unrecognized territories, etc.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Observation of the rights for peaceful assembly in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus: latest finding from years 2012-2013 and experience of networking approach to the monitoring of the peaceful assemblies.
Convenors: Center for Civil Liberties, Coalition for Fundamental Freedoms in Eurasia, International Youth Human Rights Movement, Civil Solidarity Platform, International Coalition of NGOs on Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship, International Network on Freedom of Assembly
The side event is organized with financial support of the European Commission.
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will present findings of the international network of the monitors observing peaceful assemblies in three neighboring countries where human rights are under constant or growing pressure. Trends identified from observation of more than 50 events in all three countries will be presented. Part of the attention will be allocated to the future plans of the Network to widen its activities and involve more organizations and monitoring groups from all over OSCE area.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Human Rights and traditional values: contradiction and controversies
Convenor: International Institute of Newly Established States
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: It is often claimed that traditional, particularly religious worldview might be opposed to human rights protection, including minorities' rights. During the debate different approaches to the subject will be presented and discussed, including those related to majorities, who often feel threatened by focus on minorities, their problems and issues.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: South Ossetia – European view of a young republic
Convenors: NGO “Sandidzan” and NGO “Ossetia accuses”
Working languages: Russian

Summary: Meeting on European view of young South-Ossetian Republic.

Monday, 30 September

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Enhancing trust in parliaments: the role of gender equality and parliamentary ethics
Convenors: ODIHR Democratization Department and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed themselves to support the development and consolidation of democratic institutions, recognizing that the will of the people is the basis of the authority and legitimacy of all governments (Copenhagen 1990, para 6). Yet across the OSCE region, representative institutions such as parliaments are facing major challenges that call into question their legitimacy, particularly in light of unethical behaviour by parliamentarians (MPs) and the continuing under-representation of women in elected office, including in decision-making.

This side event, organized in co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, will highlight the work of the OSCE in the field of parliamentary support, and will feature presentations of ODIHR's recent publications on parliamentary ethics and parliamentary structures for women MPs in the OSCE region. Participants will discuss parliaments' role in overseeing professional/ethical standards, and enhancing gender equality in elected office as well as women's substantive representation. In addition, the side event will seek to facilitate a discussion on the work of other stakeholders (e.g. Transparency International) working on parliamentary assistance, in order to draw upon these experiences and good practices.

The event aims to gather MPs, political stakeholders and experts, civil society partners, international organizations, as well as OSCE field operations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Ten years after the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Victims' rights' protection – Where do we stand?
Cases, challenges, the way forward
Convenor: OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
Working languages: English

Summary: Ten years ago, the OSCE participating States adopted the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, putting the protection of the rights of victims at the centre of the

OSCE's anti-trafficking response. Practice shows, however, that policy makers and practitioners, State actors and civil society organizations, still encounter challenges in ensuring that trafficked and exploited persons have access to assistance and justice, including that perpetrators are held liable and victims awarded compensation.

This side event will bring together expert practitioners working in the justice system and civil society to discuss what challenges victims encounter in having their rights protected and what public institutions and support organizations can do better. The side event discussion will focus on key issues such as ensuring that victims are not punished as criminals or offenders, but identified and assisted regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended or brought to justice and that victims receive legal assistance and compensation. The side event will also explore ideas for a possible Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Two sides of the same coin? The blurred line between freedom of speech and hate speech
Convenors: The Finnish Committee for European Security (STETE), Safer globe Finland, Plan Finland. Sponsored by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Working languages: English

Summary: How to tackle hate speech without suppressing freedom of speech? How to foster freedom of expression without allowing hate speech to grow and take root in the society? The side event will discuss the challenging and multifaceted problematic underlying the hate speech phenomenon in a modern society that values and cherishes freedom of expression. The focus of the presentations and discussion will be on youth, women, journalists and human rights defenders.

People's freedom of expression or freedom to use the Internet can be suppressed by the means of overly restrictive legislation allegedly aimed at tackling hate speech. Journalists and human rights defenders may find their words suppressed, their physical safety jeopardized or they may face charges of defamation. The right of everyone to free Internet offers great opportunities for people to voice their opinions and find networks of likeminded people to further worthy causes. However, there is also the other side of the coin. With the growing use and influence of the Internet, more and more youth are being bullied on the web. Anti-minority and anti-immigrant rhetoric is expanding in Internet chat groups. How can the youth be protected both in the physical society and in the cyber world? Women all around the OSCE area, from North Africa to Europe, have experienced limitations to their freedom of speech or have increasingly become targets of hate speech: especially influential women who dare speak out loud of injustices they face. These different forms of hate speech phenomenon must be tackled - however, without limiting freedom of expression.

The interactive discussion with the speakers and the audience will aim at bringing forth and comparing problems related to the topic that have arisen in different OSCE countries, and at mapping suggestions for their solution.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Islamophobia: prevent full citizenship
Convenor: COJEP International
Working languages: English, French

Summary: In last years, through the war on terrorism and the rise in extremist violence, the European politicians and some mainstream media have exploited the unwanted situation to target Muslim communities and Islam. Far right movements, academics and a part of clergy have become very vocal in ridiculing and demonising all Muslims who live in Europe. Physical attacks, vandalism and anti-Islam legislations are spreading.

This relentless campaign has resulted in widening the gulf between Muslim communities and the majority as well as in increase of the negative perception to such an extent that Muslims feel under siege and in some cases are turning their back towards the society.

COJEP International is working to counter this trend and raise awareness among Muslim people, thus supporting the process of social cohesion. At the same time, we are appealing to the European decision-makers and political establishment to remember the humanistic spirit of Europe and strive for the continuation and even redefining the democratic culture. This is our New Europe Project with Full Citizenship.

In short, we are looking for a new model of an inclusive Europe, where Muslim communities can feel safe, appreciated and useful, and not degraded and marginalized.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Launch of the second edition of Guidelines for Reviewing a Legal Framework for Elections
Convenor: ODIHR Elections Department
Working languages: English

Summary: Ministerial Council Decision 19/06, adopted in Brussels in 2006, tasked the OSCE/ODIHR to "further strengthen the observation methodology." At this side event, the OSCE/ODIHR will present the second edition of Guidelines for Reviewing a Legal Framework for Elections. The guidelines will provide guidance to both reviewers of electoral legislation and to national authorities when they draft or amend election-related documents. The publication will represent an update to its first edition published in 2001 and will take account of various developments in international standards and practice pertaining to democratic elections.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Current conditions and new threats faced by human rights defenders in the former USSR
Convenors: Center for Civil Liberties, Coalition for Fundamental Freedoms in Eurasia, International Youth Human Rights Movement, Civil Solidarity Platform, International Coalition of NGOs on Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This side event will present the report prepared by the Coalition for Fundamental Freedoms in Eurasia covering period of 2012-2013 and 12 countries of former Soviet area: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan with regards to the threats faced by the human rights defenders (HRDs). HRDs from the region will present latest findings and recommendations to address systematic threats through co-operative efforts of the civil society, media and international organizations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Mass statelessness in Latvia and Estonia as a result of ethnic discrimination
Convenors: World without nazism, Latvia without nazism, Estonia without nazism, Anti-Fascist Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: After independence, 75 per cent non-titular population in Latvia and 90 per cent in Estonia were forcibly deprived of their rights of citizenship and acquired the status of "non-citizens". These are Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Poles and Jews. Non-citizens were also deprived of their ability to work for the State apparatus, engage in many professions, and are limited in property and social rights. After spending two decades, in Latvia 40 per cent of non-titular population in Latvia and 20 per cent in Estonia are non-citizens.

Institute of non-citizenship is an instrument of ethnic discrimination. Other instruments of ethnic discrimination in the countries under consideration include compulsory restriction on the right of minorities to use their mother tongue in official way, prohibition of education in the mother tongue, imposition of a distorted picture of the history of a minority, and language restrictions in private media. The acute ethnic conflict is a result of the systematic application of these means of discrimination in Latvia and Estonia.

International organizations have repeatedly pointed to Latvia and Estonia the need to take measures to eliminate the mass statelessness and put an end to ethnic discrimination. However, these governments ignore those recommendations and the international community has no enforcement tools to perform advice.

Latvian non-citizens have elections body to represent them - Parliament unrepresented. Discussion of the problem of mass statelessness in Latvia and Estonia at a round table with stakeholders would mainstream the issue. Parliament unrepresented involves sharing experience in the organization of alternative elections held for the first time in post-Soviet space.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Recent endangers to the freedom of speech in Poland
Convenor: Ordo Iuris Law Centre
Working languages: English

Summary: The event is focused on the endangering of the freedom of speech as constituted by recent legislative initiatives, which aim at extending anti-discrimination legislation to media content. The proposed legislative provisions will be presented and their social consequences explained. A striking phenomena of using human rights rhetoric in order to limit human rights and freedoms will be discussed.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera room
Title: The influence the economic situation in Belarus has on Human Rights
Convenor: Belarusian Analytical Workroom
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: A panel discussion on the current situation in Belarus, in particular, what influence the economic situation has on human rights in the country. The speakers will present their views to the audience and encourage active discussion and feedback.

Tuesday, 1 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Distance monitoring as a form of international election observation
Convenor: Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The round table could focus on the following issues:
- Optimal forms of monitoring in the XXI century;
- Search for new forms and methods of international election observation in order to increase its effectiveness;
- Principles of distance monitoring;
- Methodological bases of distance monitoring;
- Distance monitoring as a form of non-governmental organizations to ensure the political rights of citizens;
- Some of the practical results of distance monitoring of elections in 2012-2013.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Scenario for Peace operations 2025
Convenor: Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF)
Working languages: English

Summary: The world of peace operations has changed tremendously in recent decades and will continue to do so in the future. But how will it change? What will be the drivers and key factors? What kinds of conflict will we face and what concepts, instruments and resources will we have to face them? Building on the contributions of a group of international experts, practitioners but also non-insiders to peace operations, ZIF has applied modern scenario methodology to generate four scenarios for peace operations 2025: *Erratic Progress, National Interests, Regional Diversity, Global Cooperation*. A number of identified key factors, ranging from climate change to the rise of new political and economic powers, drive these four “possible futures”. While they do thus not specifically focus on them, human rights issues – and specifically international mechanisms to protect and enforce them – form one of the underlying themes of the scenarios. Both the presentation of the scenarios and, hopefully, the following discussion with the audience will address their influence in more detail.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Launch of the Handbook for the Observation of New Voting Technologies
Convenor: ODIHR Elections Department
Working languages: English

Summary: The use of information and communication technologies in elections has increased considerably in recent years. Several OSCE participating States have implemented or tested new voting technologies during their elections. In an effort to "further strengthen the observation methodology" in line with the Ministerial Council Decision 19/06, the OSCE/ODIHR prepared a *Handbook for the Observation of New Voting Technologies* to take account of this development. The handbook, which will be presented as this side event, is designed to provide basic guidance on how to observe the use of new voting technologies in electoral processes.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Constitutional law: Russian history and experience. 20 years of the Russian Constitution
Convenor: Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: In 2013 the Constitution of the Russian Federation celebrates its 20th anniversary. The event will be dedicated to the history of the Constitution and to the development of the constitutional law in Russia.

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Azerbaijan 2003-2013 – New stage on history of Land of Fires
Convenor: TURSAM – Center for Strategic Studies

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Presenting Azerbaijan Republic to participant of OSCE ODIHR. The last 10 years (2003-2013) will be main focused period. The main theme of this event will be human rights, elections, fighting against terrorism, gender equality, freedom of expression, free media and information, Democracy at the national, regional and local levels and integration of Azerbaijan Republic to EU family.

Wednesday, 2 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Abolishing Death Penalty in the OSCE Region: The Role of Civil Society and International Organizations
Convenors: Andorra, EU, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Since the last HDIM, two major international events concerning the abolition of death penalty have taken place: in December 2012, the UNGA adopted by a vast majority unseen in earlier votes a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its universal abolition. This was followed by the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty which united in Madrid from 12 to 15 June 2013 the members of international civil society, politicians, and legal experts in an effort to elaborate abolitionist strategies for the years to come at the national, regional, and international levels, and to send out a clear message: that universal abolition is essential for a world where human dignity and justice must prevail.

The OSCE should not stand on the side lines in this debate. All but six participating States of the Organization have abolished the death penalty. Executions are carried out in two participating States while four participating States are de facto abolitionist. At the same time, there have been encouraging developments in the OSCE area lately such as the abolition in Connecticut (2012) and Maryland (2013), US, or the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR by Mongolia on 13 March 2012. How can abolitionists capitalize on these developments? What stumbling stones remain on the way towards universal abolition? What role can both intergovernmental organizations and the civil society play in this regard? These are some of the questions that the panel of civil society actors, representatives of IOs and governments will address in this side event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00

Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Launch of the Handbook for Monitoring Administrative Justice
Convenors: ODIHR Democratization Department, Rule of Law Unit and Folke Bernadotte Academy
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This side event is intended to launch and discuss the *Handbook for Monitoring Administrative Justice* developed by ODIHR together with Folke Bernadotte Academy as a new tool aimed at building the capacity of local and international monitors to conduct trial monitoring within the administrative justice system. The Handbook provides an overview of main fair trial rights and OSCE commitments applicable to judicial hearings in administrative justice, as well as practical information on establishing and running a trial monitoring operation within an administrative justice system. Special considerations in fair trial standards and operational practices which differentiate administrative justice monitoring from criminal trial monitoring are also highlighted.

The Handbook continues the ODIHR's tradition of providing expertise and guidance for promoting OSCE commitments and international standards within fair trial rights. It is intended to be used complementary to ODIHR's Trial Monitoring – A Reference Manual for Practitioners (revised edition) and ODIHR's Legal Digest of International Fair Trial Rights, which were both launched at the HDIM in 2012.

Participants in the launch will include the ODIHR Rule of Law Unit, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Council of Europe, NGOs/civil society engaged in trial monitoring within administrative justice and representatives of OSCE Field Operations, participating States and international organizations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Prove they are alive: the disappeared in the Turkmen prisons. Re-introducing the OSCE Moscow Mechanism in Turkmenistan after 10 years of inaction by the Turkmen government
Convenors: Crude Accountability and Civic Solidarity Platform
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: It has been ten years since the OSCE implemented the Moscow Mechanism with regard to Turkmenistan, and ten years since dozens of people who were imprisoned for allegedly organizing an attempted coup and assassination attempt on then-President Niyazov have been in prison. The list includes former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador to OSCE and former speaker of the Parliament. For all these years, there has been no word about the fate of these individuals from Turkmenistan's President Berdymukhamedov or anyone in his government. Their families have received no information about them; many do not even ask, fearing reprisals. This side event will raise concerns related to the families of the imprisoned, those in prison, and the issues that were raised in 2003 in Professor Decaux's Moscow Mechanism report about the circumstances around the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of Boris Shikhmuradov and the approximately 30 other people who have also disappeared in Turkmen prisons in relation to that incident.

The side event will raise questions about Turkmenistan's failure to act on its OSCE commitments, focus on updated information about the situation with those imprisoned more than ten years ago, and make one simple request of the Turkmen government: Prove They Are Alive.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Accountability for human rights violations in the context of countering terrorism
Convenor: Open Society Justice Initiative

Working languages: English

Summary: The panel will address the growing trend of exceptionalism and human rights abuses associated with national security policies in the OSCE region. Among other issues, it will address targeted killings (including by drones), unlawful surveillance, torture, and detention at Guantánamo Bay.

Time: 13.00-15.00

Venue: Opera Room

Title: Administration of justice and detention conditions in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Belarus and Azerbaijan

Convenors: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Human Rights Movement Bir-Duino (Kyrgyzstan), Promo-LEX (Moldova), Human Rights Centre 'Viasna' (Belarus), Human Rights Centre of Azerbaijan

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: One of the many challenges faced by the post-Soviet countries is the administration of justice. Detention conditions are often deplorable, acts of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in prisons are common and go unpunished.

Despite the fact that these countries have ratified major international conventions that expressly prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other forms of degrading treatment, the dichotomy between legislative commitments and reality on the ground is striking. Humane and respectful treatment of all persons deprived of freedom remains a distant goal.

The event will focus on four countries: Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Belarus and Azerbaijan. Invited NGOs will discuss major challenges, share their recent reports on administration of justice and conditions of detention and make recommendations to the OSCE participating States and bodies.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 1

Title: Challenges facing the Central Asian countries in the field of prevention of torture

Convenors: Open Society Institute, Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan, OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Reflecting international human rights and humanitarian law, Central Asian countries have made the commitments prohibiting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Despite this, torture and other forms of ill-treatment continue to exist in varying degrees in a number of Central Asian countries and these States should be arisen against this problem. The side event will provide for discussion of achieved results and perspective of challenges to solve.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 2

Title: Rule of law in freedom of conscience rights exercise. Russian readers of the Qur'anic tafsir 'Risale-i Nur' by Badiuzzaman Said Nursi prosecution. Religious literature prohibition.

Convenors: Suffa Cultural and Educational Centre (Istanbul, Turkey), Asian part of Russia Office of Islamic Religious Affairs Committee of Muslims Rights Protection (Moscow, Russia)

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Report on religious literature prohibition (by the example of the Qur'anic tafsir 'Risale-i Nur' by Badiuzzaman Said Nursi) and subsequent criminal prosecution of the readers.

- Case of imam I. Merazhov;
- Prosecutions of Muslims in St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Chelyabinsk, Naberezhnye Chelny;
- New legal cases regarding affirmation of Risale-i Nur books to be extremist;

Speakers:

- Dr. prof. Shemseddin Turkan (Suffa Cultural And Educational Centre);
- Dr. Sergey Mikhailov (Asian part of Russia Office of Islamic Religious Affairs Committee of Muslims Rights Protection);
- Mustafa Okur (Erzurum Cultural and Educational Centre).

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 3

Title: Time for an enhanced protection of human rights defenders in the OSCE region!

Convenors: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the protection of human rights defenders (OBS), Front Line Defenders, Human Rights House Network

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In view of the deteriorating situation of human rights defenders and NGOs and their members increasingly facing judicial harassment and arbitrary detention in a number of OSCE participating States, and given the development of recommendations by ODIHR focusing on the protection of human rights defenders, the Observatory, Front Line defenders and Human Rights House Network invite you to a side event, which will be the occasion to discuss concrete ways to strengthen the safety and security of defenders and NGOs in the region.

Representatives from human rights organizations in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation will provide examples about the challenges they are facing in their daily work for the protection of human rights. The human rights defenders will through concrete examples give recommendations to the present and future Chairmanships of the OSCE concerning how the organization can strengthen the protection mechanism of human rights defenders in the OSCE region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Opera Room

Title: Human dimension priorities of the incoming 2014 OSCE Chairmanship

Convenor: Switzerland

Working languages: English, Russian

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

Thursday, 3 October

Time: 13.00-15.00

Venue: Meeting Room 1

Title: 2013 Ullaanbaatar Declaration and its democracy support guidelines

Convenor: Community of Democracies Permanent Secretariat

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Community of Democracies (CD) channels the voices of all elements of democratic society – government, civil society and the private business sector – into a unique international forum for discussion, sharing of best practices and co-ordination of positions and actions. At this side event, representatives of the Community of Democracies will present the democracy support guidelines as delegated by the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Participating States of the Community of Democracies at its Ministerial Conference in Ulaanbaatar in April 2013. The hosts will seek to engage participants of the side event in a conversation on possible actions as deriving from the guidelines.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Young Roma Professionals – How to prepare Roma for work in government institutions
Convenor: Best Practices for Roma Integration, OSCE/ODIHR regional project in the Western Balkans
Working languages: English

Summary: The purpose of the Young Roma Professional programme is to increase the participation of Roma in public life and to bring young Roma with diverse academic backgrounds closer to State institutions. Some ten Young Roma Professionals will present objectives, aims as well as impact of the programme at the HDIM with their own statements and audio-visual materials. It provides 25 young Roma from the Western Balkans region a five months placement in an OSCE Field Operation followed by five months in a government institution. The programme was designed to give young Roma opportunities to be trained and prepare to take up leadership positions and plan for a future engagement in policy planning and implementation for the benefit of their communities.

The Best Practices for Roma Integration project is funded by the European Union and supported by OSCE participating States, implemented by ODIHR and the OSCE Field Operations in the Western Balkans.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Asylum and human rights challenged by EU directives
Convenor: Soteria International
Working languages: English

Summary: Mr. Bivolaru is a Romanian refugee with asylum in Sweden. He has been persecuted since the Ceausescu regime. In June 2013, Romanian authorities issued a European Warrant of Arrest for him to be handed over for six years of imprisonment. Swedish authorities are obliged simultaneously to protect the refugee and to take part in the persecutions from which they protect him.

This reveals an alarming unsolved conflict between asylum rights and EU directives. Are human rights sacrificed in EU to cover faulty practice?

Speakers: Gabriel Andreescu, human rights activist and political scientist, Willy Fautré, director of Human Rights Without Frontiers, and Mr. Bivolaru represented by Mihai Stoian.

Political asylum may be granted because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. Asylum is a fundamental right and granting it is an international obligation recognized in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the protection of refugees.

In the EU, an area of open borders and freedom of movement, countries share the same fundamental values and Member States guarantee high standards of protection for refugees. But there can be no such thing as

political asylum between EU Member States. Refugees from former totalitarian regimes should no longer fear persecution in their home countries. However, on the 19th of June 2013, Romania asked Sweden to hand over a refugee to be imprisoned for six years. He has been persecuted since the Ceausescu regime and is protected by asylum in accordance with the Geneva Convention. EU directives leave no room to question the new EU Member State's warrant of arrest, so who will now protect the refugee from continued persecution? The Bivolaru case is ongoing and highlights an alarming conflict between human right obligations and EU directives. The problem is evidently that Romania de facto does not meet the Copenhagen Criteria.

The European Commission's CVM reports continue to point out lack of judiciary reforms to secure the rule of law in Romania. But to state openly that one Member State needs to protect the citizens of another Member State would be impossible for the EU project.

Sweden was pushing for Romania to be included in the EU in 2007. The same year Sweden granted the Romanian refugee Mr. Bivolaru asylum from Romanian persecutions. Today Sweden and the EU face a dilemma: will human rights of the individual be sacrificed to cover faulty practices of a member state? Who is responsible?

We invite you to a thought provoking discussion that is new to the legislative history of the European Union.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Political Persecution of Independent Groups in Kazakhstan 2012-2013
Convenor: Open Dialog foundation
Working languages: Polish, Russian

Summary: This side event will address the topic through following issues:

- From the media delegalization to personal threats to journalists;
- Interpol as a tool to chase political opponents in the EU;
- The Zhanaozen aftermath - the current situation of the striking oil workers, their families and imprisoned opposition leaders;
- Terrorism and emigration as new elements of the religious group situation in Kazakhstan;
- Unusual form of persecution of the civil society activists - forced psychiatric detentions and intimidation of families.

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Observance of human rights in Belarus: current situation
Convenors: International Federation for human Rights (FIDH), Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus, Human Rights Centre "Viasna", Legal Transformation Center
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: FIDH and other Belarusian NGOs' representatives will talk about current situation with the human rights in Belarus. The speakers will cover the topics of the greatest concern for the Belarusian human rights defenders.

The FIDH representative will report on the situation with political prisoners in Belarus. Particular attention will be paid to the current situation with the vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights, Ales Bialiacki, who has been imprisoned since August 2011. Conditions of political prisoners' detention will be assessed.

Vice-chairman of the Human Rights Center "Viasna" will report on the situation with the freedom of peaceful assembly, as well as on the situation with the penitentiary system in Belarus, basing his report on the 2013 detention facilities monitoring.

The representative of the Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus will talk about the development of the Belarusian legislation regulating NGO activities and about legal practice in this field in 2013. Particular attention will be paid to the changes that have been introduced to the law “On public associations” and the law “On political parties”. The speaker will dwell on the practical application of legal restrictions regarding NGOs receiving foreign and domestic donations that was imposed in autumn 2011. The speaker will also talk about current situation with the registration of new NGOs and the application of Article 193.1 of the Criminal Code of Belarus which punishes unregistered NGOs for any activities.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Why is child begging still continuing?
Convenor: Best Practices for Roma Integration, OSCE/ODIHR regional project in the Western Balkans
Working languages: English

Summary: The Young Roma Professionals, who are part of the project Best Practices for Roma Integration (BPRI), selected the topic of child begging amongst themselves, showing their deep concern for this issue.

The focus will not only be on Roma children who are begging, but they will present the issue of child begging in general. Keeping in mind the rights of the child, the Young Roma Professionals will try to find practical ways to address this issue. From their own background they may share why this issue is so important to them. In a wider sense, the socio-economic dimension will be highlighted as well as poverty culture, which can be considered one of the underlying sources of this type of child exploitation. Anyone is welcome to support the eradication of ‘child begging’, and/or to understand why this phenomenon is so hard to address.

The Best Practices for Roma Integration project is funded by the European Union and supported by OSCE participating States, implemented by ODIHR and the OSCE Field Operations in the Western Balkans.

Refreshments will be provided