

## **OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS**

**As submitted by the organizers**

**29 September – 10 October 2008**

**Warsaw, Poland**

*The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, 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 exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The content for each meeting was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE, ODIHR.*

### **Monday, 29 September**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Criminal Justice Reform in Central Asia: Beyond Declarations and Promises  
Convenor: Legal Policy Research Centre  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: The OSCE Participating States have expressed their conviction that full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the development of societies based on pluralistic democracy and the rule of law are prerequisites for setting up the lasting order of peace, security, justice and co-operation. Criminal justice reform play a key role in upholding the rule of law in the OSCE area. The side event will ensure the exchange of views on tendencies and challenges of criminal justice reforms in countries of Central Asia. This side event aims to promote debate on the independence of judiciary in Central Asia, compliance of the introduction of the judicial authorization of remand detention with the habeas corpus provisions of the ICCPR and recent tendencies in the reform of the penitentiary systems in Central Asia.

The speakers of the side event will include lawyers and human rights activists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan who will share their opinions on what can be done to promote criminal justice reform in Central Asia.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Tuesday, 30 September**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Freedom of assembly and freedom of association in the Newly Independent States: new threats and challenges

Convenor: International Youth Human Rights Movement  
Moscow Helsinki Group (Moscow, Russia)  
International resource centre "Human Rights and Civil Actions"  
(Kharkiv, Ukraine)  
Working language: English

Summary: Despite efforts to promote international standards on freedom of assembly and association (OSCE Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assemblies, Recommendations of Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe on legal status of NGOs, etc) the situation with those fundamental rights in the Newly Independent States remains problematic. The states continue to narrow the scope of those rights both in terms of legislation and in terms of practice. Representatives of human rights NGOs from those states would speak about threats to freedom of assembly and association in their respective countries and efforts that could be taken to counteract them both on the national and international level.

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Human Rights House Network. A platform for co-operation and legal protection  
Convenor: Human Rights House Network  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Human Rights Houses are local working communities, united in an international network. This side event will focus on the added value for human rights organizations being a member of the Network. Representatives from the Human Rights Houses in Oslo, Warsaw, London and the Belarusian Human Rights House in exile will present examples of how the concept and joint efforts between the houses could strengthen the protection of human rights defenders. As a respond to the challenges with defending rights and freedoms in national legal systems, two projects will show experience with training of lawyers and human rights defenders to apply international human rights standards in their daily activities. The organizers believe that lawyers and HR defenders working hand in hand on cases of HR violations could contribute to a change of the legal culture in the CIS countries. Results and lessons learned by the project *"Bring International Standards home: - De facto implementation of international obligations of the Republic of Belarus in the field of civil rights and freedoms"* and the ideas of the 2-years project for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, Tajikistan *"International Law in Advocacy. Electronic Human Rights Education for Lawyers"* will be discussed during the session.

*Representatives from the Human Rights House Network from Belarus, Norway, Poland, UK and Ukraine will attend the panel.*

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall

Title: Fulfilment of Kazakhstan's OSCE chairmanship commitments  
Convenor: Freedom House  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: At the 2007 Ministerial Meeting in Madrid Kazakhstan made a number of commitments in order to secure its bid for the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010. Kazakhstan promised to implement essential reforms to legislation on the media, political parties and elections by the end of 2008.

Where does Kazakhstan stand on these commitments? How much progress, if any, has been made since Madrid? How can the OSCE and the international community hold Kazakhstan accountable to implement the reforms it promised in order to secure its bid for the Chairmanship? Representatives from Kazakhstani civil society organizations and human rights defenders will join international experts to discuss these questions

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Today's American: How Free?  
Convenor: Freedom House  
Working language: English

Summary: Freedom House, which is best known for its annual survey of the state of freedom around the world, turns its full attention to the United States for the first time in its new study: **TODAY'S AMERICAN: How Free?** The report examines whether America is sacrificing its essential values in the war against terror and scrutinizes the state of freedom and justice in post-9/11 America.

"One of the most important attributes of any democracy is the ability for those within it to look honestly at its strengths and weaknesses and then work to make it better," said Freedom House Research Director Arch Puddington, who co-edited the book. "The findings in this report are not only important for Americans, but for everyone around the globe influenced by the world's only superpower."

**TODAY'S AMERICAN: How Free?** assesses how curbs on civil liberties—including the extension of executive authority without checks and balances, extraordinary rendition, mistreatment of prisoners, and warrantless wiretaps—affect Americans and how the situation compares to previous eras of crisis or conflict in U.S. history.

Thomas O. Melia, Freedom House's deputy executive director and one of the Co-authors of the study, will present the findings.

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Monitoring Freedom of assembly in Moldova  
Convenor: Resource Centre for Human Rights  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: With ODIHR/OSCE support 9 month project monitored assemblies under old law and new law. Conclusions on progress, difficulties & improvements. Report contains recommendations.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Regional and country analysis of the situation of human rights defenders in Belarus, Uzbekistan and Russia  
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights and World Organisation against Torture  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: This side event is aimed at highlighting the confirmation of strong tendencies of repression designed to hamper independent civil society's capacity for action – or even silence it completely – in three OSCE participant States

*Beverages will be provided*

### **Wednesday, 01 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Cyber Hate Kills  
Convenor: International Network Against Cyber Hate  
Working language: English

Summary: This side event will give an overview of the ever-growing relationship between online incitement to hatred and violence and the bloody results. It will focus on hit lists and other forms of threats against Minorities and Human Rights defenders. The event will start with a 'horror-show' video presentation. After this speakers from the Netherlands, Russian Federation, France and other OSCE participating States will go into depth and will also stress the need for follow-up of the June 2004 OSCE Meeting in Paris on the relationship between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: War on Terror or War on Human Rights  
Convenor: American Civil Liberties Union  
Working languages: English

Summary: The American Civil Liberties Union will host a panel discussion that will center on how the detention and treatment of terrorism suspects should be handled in the event that the U.S. prison at Guantánamo Bay is shut down. The panel will also discuss the unfair trials currently underway at Guantanamo and proposals aimed at mandating administrative detention for terrorism suspects. Additionally, the panel will look at accountability measures taken

or should be taken against officials who ordered torture and secret detention in the so-called global war on terror.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Harmonizing the European Approach towards Roma and Sinti:  
Role of National Governmental Mechanisms  
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI/The Office of the Government Council for  
Roma Community Affairs Czech Government  
Working languages: English, Romanes

Summary: The rise of intolerance and multiple forms of discrimination against Roma and Sinti populations has seen an increase recently. This is reflected in high level debates across the European Union. The institutions of the European Union and international organizations are presently debating how to effectively approach the integration of Roma and Sinti populations. Many governments have already adopted specific programs and strategies for Roma and Sinti as well as established consultative inter-ministerial bodies and the Governmental Council for Roma Community Affairs in the Czech Republic. The experiences of implementing the OSCE Action plan on Roma and Sinti will be used as platform for the discussion.

The purpose of this side event is to focus on the role of governmental bodies and their influence in formulating and implementing national and local policies that impact Roma and Sinti communities. Participants will discuss the concept of full scale integration, which relies on a three-dimensional approach: 1) human rights and discrimination; 2) social and economic inclusion; and 3) a cultural and ethnic approach. The integrated approach has proved to be the most effective, and includes the participation of Roma and Sinti in the process.

Positive practices, as well as challenges, will be presented. In addition, a definition of the role of governmental advisory bodies and agencies, and civil society will be discussed in order to find a way to use existing experiences and analysis. Conclusions from this side even will be used in the articulation of the preparatory phase of the EU Roma Policy and for a possible Roma Unit within the European Commission.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-19.30

Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Pushing for change? South East Europe's Minorities in the EU Progress Reports  
Convenor: Center for Peace, Croatia, Roma Democratic Development Association SONCE, Macedonia, Minority Rights Group International  
Working language: English

Summary: As the countries of South East Europe move towards EU accession, the European Union's annual country Progress Reports offer a unique opportunity to improve the daily lives of the region's marginalised minorities. But close examination of these Reports and consultation with grassroots community-based minority groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, shows a wide divergence between the EU messages and the realities that minorities face in their day-to-day lives.

At this event, MRG and its partner organisations will present their recently published report „Pushing for Change? South East Europe's Minorities in the EU Progress Reports” which reveals that minority protection has not been given the necessary priority in the EU Reports. The greatest weakness of the Reports is that EU officers do not engage with minorities themselves in a systematic and structured manner. Alongside the in-depth analysis of the Reports and comparisons with treaty body monitoring, grassroots minority organisations give their views and show how the EU Reports could be strengthened to effect real change.

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Combating Torture in Central Asia  
Convenor: 1. Kazakhstan Bureau for Human Rights and Compliance with the Rule of law  
2. Voice Of Freedom (Kyrgyzstan)  
3. Republican Bureau for Human Rights and Compliance with the Rule of Law (Tajikistan)  
4. Open Society Justice Initiative

Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: The human rights NGOs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will present the results of monitoring, litigation and research activities on the issues of torture and ill-treatment in respective countries. The speakers will discuss the recommendations addressed to the governments of Central Asian countries on how to improve the compliance with their international obligations regarding prevention, investigation, punishment and reparation for torture.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Thursday, 02 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit Launch: Presenting practical tools in national level implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security  
Convenor: ODIHR

Working language: English

**Summary:** The promotion of the equal role of women and men as beneficiaries and contributing actors in conflict prevention and peace reconstruction processes is a priority for the OSCE. The OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation recognize UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which reaffirms “the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building,” and call for OSCE structures to promote the implementation thereof as appropriate and in accordance with their mandate.

In order to ensure national implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, practical actions have to be developed and implemented. Day to day decision- and policy-making processes must include a gender perspective, interventions in security-related matters will be more likely to achieve their intended objectives, have greater impact and support, address and respond to the security needs of men and women, boys and girls.

Such efforts must target relevant actors, primarily those who have an obligation for ensuring the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Actors, and the institutions that they represent, who comprise the security sector, as well as supporting structures, make up the key counterpart in this regard. The Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit is a step towards supporting the development of a practical knowledge base.

The launch event reasserts the OSCE’s commitment to national level implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the ODIHR’s contribution towards supporting participating States in this process. The panel of presenters will consist of OSCE professionals as well as national practitioners.

*Refreshments will be provided*

**Time:** 13.00-14.45  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2  
**Title:** Enforced Disappearances: the International Convention and other Issues  
**Convenor:** ODIHR HRAT/ICAED  
**Working language:** English

**Summary:** Enforced disappearances undermine many fundamental human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security and absolute prohibition against torture, many of the same issues engaged in the fight against terrorism. In countering terrorism “human rights commitments can only be real and effective if they are protected by *procedural safeguards* and if effective remedies are available in cases of alleged abuse of human rights. An additional OSCE commitment specifying that commitments relating to effective remedies and arbitrary detention apply equally to international co-operation in the fight against terrorism would help to clarify that human dimension commitments are not ignored in the international fight against terrorism” (Report submitted to OSCE Ministerial Council in response to MC Decision No. 17/05, 10 November 2006, para. 91).

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20

December 2006. Thus far, only two of the OSCE's participating States have ratified (or acceded) to the Convention, Albania and Malta. A roundtable on this important Convention would promote a greater understanding of two of the major components of Working Session 4 (counter-terrorism and the prevention of torture), and promote knowledge of this very new and fundamental international instruments within the OSCE region, as well as encourage pS to ratify the Convention and/or initiate discussion about a possible new OSCE commitment in this field in line with ODIHR's position (as referenced above).

The International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) gathers organisations of families of disappeared and NGO's that work in a non-violent manner against the practice of enforced disappearances at the local, national and international level. The principal objective of ICAED is an early ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: International Drug Policy: the Unintended Consequences  
Convenor: Global Drug Policy program, Open Society Institute  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In the last ten years, international drug policy has failed to reach its targets of reducing the production, distribution and use of drugs. Instead, opiate production has doubled and cocaine production has risen by 20%. Policies which focus on eliminating drugs from society not only fail to curb the drug problem but often exacerbate other major issues. An injection-driven HIV epidemic is at large in many of the post-Soviet countries, prisons are overflowing with inmates on minor drugs charges in the United States (approx. half a million). In other parts of the world, the human rights of drug users are severely violated in the name of treatment, examples of which include being chained up in Indonesia or forced into labour camps in China. All of these serious consequences stem from the misconception that it is possible to eradicate the centuries-old culture of drug use from society.

The Global Drug Policy program wishes to draw attention to the rights of individuals being violated in the 'war on drugs' as well as to discuss how NGOs can help determine the future path of international drug policy.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Addressing Hate-Motivated Crimes against Roma & Sinti: Trends and Challenges  
Convenor: ODIHR CPRSI & TND/Human Rights First  
Working languages: English, Romanese

Summary: The Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area (MC Decision 3/03), specifically Chapter III. Combating



Racism and Discrimination, provides the framework for addressing racial violence perpetrated against Roma and Sinti.

Throughout the OSCE region, hate-motivated crimes against Roma and Sinti continue to occur. As Europe's largest ethnic minority, Roma and Sinti are persistently targeted by individuals, groups, and law enforcement officials with violence, and racism. This is given impetus and legitimacy by regular racist anti-Roma speeches by high level politicians. The recent expansion of the Europe Union has been accompanied by increased racist and xenophobic speech and violence against the Roma, especially in some older EU member states, most notably since the accession to the EU of Romania and Bulgaria.

Given the lack of accurate data on Roma and Sinti populations, it is often difficult to conceive and implement preventative programs that address the intolerance and discrimination against this minority. Additionally the absence of strong monitoring mechanisms regarding bias motivated crime against Roma and Sinti makes difficult to challenge complacency about the extent to which they are victims of bias-motivated violence.

The objectives of this side event are to provide an overview of the situation of bias-motivated incidents occurring against Roma and Sinti; to raise awareness of governments of the need to respond more vigorously to bias-motivated violence against Roma and Sinti, in accordance with the obligations of participating States; and to provide a forum to discuss how civil society can improve the process of monitoring and reporting on cases of bias-motivated crimes and incidents, by national competent bodies, ODIHR and other international actors mandated to fight hate crimes.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Efforts of the civil society in Russia, Georgia and other countries to counteract aggressive nationalism and propaganda of hate in light of the Russian-Georgian conflict  
Convenor: International Youth Human Rights Movement, Moscow Helsinki Group (Russia), Public Movement "Multinational Georgia" (Georgia), Foundation of Legal Technology Development (Belarus) International Coalition against Hate  
Working language: English

Summary: The situation of military conflict between Russia and Georgia led to wide proliferation of hate speech, war propaganda and unbalanced coverage on both sides. The side event will discuss efforts that the non-governmental organizations undertake to counteract that and present recommendations for civil society and international bodies. Findings of the International monitoring mission to Georgia, that took place on August 25-27 would also be presented and discussed.

**Friday, 03 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Education in Post-Conflict Societies  
Convenor: OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Working language: English

Summary: Education systems in post-conflict societies are often characterised by elements of intolerance, segregation and discrimination. Instead of fostering tolerance, respect for diversity and reconciliation, education in those cases contributes to further division and can eventually jeopardize stability and security.

The OSCE Mission to BiH – starting from its own experience – wants to facilitate a discussion on how to address these issues and discuss ways to raise awareness about human rights education as not just a human rights issue but a security issue. The discussion could also provide good practices and examine the feasibility and effectiveness of main-streaming human rights issues in the curricula and/or providing extra-curricular activities.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Challenging Intolerance against Muslims through education  
Convenor: ODIHR TND  
Working language: English

Summary: Various studies conducted by international agencies and academic institutions indicate increasing intolerance towards minority communities and religions throughout the OSCE region. A review of these studies shows that Muslim communities are highly vulnerable to prejudice, discrimination and intolerance in general. Personal stereotypes, institutional politics of prejudice, discrimination and exclusion have had an impact on the psychological well-being of Muslim minority communities, their sense of belongingness, their economic opportunities, their social integration, their expectations for future co-existence and the educational careers of their children.

There are various ways of combating intolerance against Muslims in the OSCE region. Since intolerant attitudes tend to develop at a young age, educational institutions have a special role to play, and teaching inspired by core human rights principles as well as principles of mutual respect and understanding can have positive consequences.

In this side event, the participants will reflect on the role that education in formal and informal education settings can play in countering intolerant attitudes and behaviors towards Muslims. The discussions will revolve around recent developments, key challenges, opportunities and barriers, lessons learned, effective and less effective methodologies and approaches, and examples of good practice from throughout the OSCE region. Special attention will be devoted to three on-going ODIHR projects that aim to address intolerance towards Muslims through educational means:

1. To create a network of professionals interested in this topic
2. To develop guidelines for educators
3. A mapping exercise of good practice in the OSCE region

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Educating Our Youth in Human Rights  
Convenor: Youth for Human Rights International  
Working language: English

Summary: Find out what Youth for Human Rights International is and how they are educating youth around the globe in human rights. Learn about their tools, unique 30 ads each depicting one article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Teacher's Manual on human rights. The event will not only teach you about this organization but also give you a forum to express yourself on this vital issue of educating our future generations in their human rights

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Experiences with the Human Rights Ombudsman in Central Asia and Caucasus  
Convenor: Human Rights Centre (Tajikistan)  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: Participating States have had varying experiences with the establishing and utilizing the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman. This session will give an overview of the Human Rights Ombudsman Institution in Central Asia and the Caucasus and will encourage a dialogue amongst peers and stakeholders (NGOs, Government and IOs).

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Monday, 06 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: The Rise of Anti-Immigrant Coalitions and Hate Incidents: Implications for the Integration and the Rights of Migrants  
Convenor: COJEP International  
Working languages: English, French, German

Summary: Anti-immigrant coalitions and platforms continue to rise both in parliaments and in civil society across the OSCE area. Public hostility to immigration is becoming mainstream, contaminating all colors of political discourse. Migrants are portrayed as a "threat" to the economic well-being and the "values" of citizens of established democracies, in complete disregard of their contributions to the local economies. Discrimination and hate incidents against migrants, documented by expert agencies and NGOs, are also on the rise. Immigration and integration policies are being formulated under pressure from anti-immigrant political movements, often neglecting or circumventing international human rights standards.

COJEP International, an International NGO which operates in 14 countries in the field of human rights, youth, democracy and anti-discrimination, aims to deepen the discussion on discrimination against migrants during this side event. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences as well as recommendations on how best to respond to anti-immigrant political trends and hate incidents.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Launch of the annual report "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses"  
Convenor: ODIHR TND Program  
Working language: English

Summary: During this event, the ODIHR will present key findings of the 2007 annual report *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses*. The participants will also be introduced with the ODIHR's tools to support OSCE States in combating hate crimes and promoting mutual respect and understanding, with a particular emphasis on the development of hate crime legislative guidelines.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Presentation: the Russian Orthodox Church's Basic Teaching on Dignity, Freedom and Rights  
Convenor: Moscow Patriarchate  
Working language: English

Summary: 26 June, 2008 the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) adopted the Russian Orthodox Church's Basic Teaching on Human Dignity, Freedom and Rights.

The document is a result of the two-year's drafting process done by the working group of the Orthodox clergymen, theologians, lawyers, philosophers, journalists and public figures. The drafting work was headed by the chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad.

The Moscow Patriarchate's representatives will present the main ideas of the above-mentioned document which is believed to enrich human rights discussion with new ideas.

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Implementing an integrated approach to economic migration, social cohesion and development  
Convenor: COE  
Working languages: English, French, Russian

Summary: The Council of Europe is committed to improving human rights in the context of migration through international dialogue and co-operation between receiving, origin, and transit countries.

The interconnections between migration, social cohesion and development make migration and the welfare of migrants a vital concern for member states of the Council of Europe. Their proper management necessitates an integrated approach.

Protecting the human rights of migrant workers, and their families and persons of immigrant background, in particular through the enforcement of the principles of

equal treatment and non-discrimination in the labour market, are essential elements in promoting an integrated approach.

These issues have been discussed at the latest Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for migration affairs on "*Economic migration, social cohesion and development: towards an integrated approach*", held in Kiev on 4-5 September 2008.

The side event will give an opportunity to present the results of the Conference and allow to have an exchange of views on :

- what are the essential elements of an integrated approach to migration ?
- how can an integrated approach be successfully implemented ?

what has to be done to create synergies between all involved stakeholders, in particular international organisations and civil societies?

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: EU Presidency Room  
Title: The role of local authorities in combating discrimination-  
practical examples from cities in the EU  
Convenor: France/European Union, Permanent Representation of France  
to the OSCE, FRA  
Working languages: English, French (tbc)

Summary: Local and regional authorities are at the front line of combating discrimination and promoting equality, given their extensive powers in the fields of education, health, transport or employment, as well as social welfare and housing. This side-event will reflect on the role of local authorities in creating a discrimination-free environment and a society based on mutual tolerance and respect.

Representatives from the cities of Nantes, Bradford and Rotterdam will present their practical experience and good practice examples on how to deliver equality for everyone in their communities. The new European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) will present some key findings from its recent report on "Community Cohesion at local level: Addressing the needs of Muslim Communities" (<http://fra.europa.eu>). The event is organised by the FRA in cooperation with the French Presidency of the EU.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-18.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1

Title: Presentation of the Russian Jewish Museum of Tolerance—a means to promote tolerance and understanding and combat anti-Semitism  
Convenor: American Jewish Committee/Russian Federation  
Working language: English (commentary in Russian as needed)

Summary: The development of the Russian Jewish Museum of Tolerance in Moscow will draw on the experience and expertise of such major museums around the world. This unique endeavour, spearheaded by the Jewish Community of Russia, will recount the history of the Jewish people in Russia and place that story in the context of the great social and political trends of the 20th century. This will be a first opportunity for many to learn about this project directly from its founding director, Boris Moshkovits.

Time: 18.45-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Combating Antisemitism in the OSCE region  
Convenor: Personal Representative of the OSCE CIO on Combating Antisemitism  
Working language: English

Summary: This roundtable discussion deals with the threat of anti-Semitism in the OSCE-region and measures to combat this phenomenon. The discussion will focus on specific countries with respect to recent events and developments.

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Addressing Homophobic Hate Crimes in the OSCE region  
Convenor: COC Netherlands, Human Rights Watch, ILGA –Europe, Human Rights First  
Working language: English

Summary: Each year numerous hate motivated incidents and hate crimes take place against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. Such incidents are often not reported and documented, and perpetrators of such crimes often go unpunished. The OSCE report “Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses 2006” signaled that out of 56 participating States only 10 reported that they include sexual orientation as grounds for bias and/or an aggravating circumstance within their national hate crime legislation.

During this side-event representatives of LGBT organizations from different OSCE partner States will present the situation in their respective countries regarding Hate Crimes incidents. They shall provide a State of the Art in regards to the inclusiveness of national legislation and shall share different best practices in combating hate crimes. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss various issues with the presenters.

*Refreshments will be provided*

**Tuesday, 07 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Religious Freedom in US Foreign Policy  
Convenor: US Mission to the OSCE  
Working language: English

Summary: 2008 marks the 10 year anniversary of the International Religious Freedom Act, a bill passed by the US Congress that focused US foreign policy on the promotion and protection of religious freedom for all faiths around the world. Speakers will discuss how interfaith alliances formed to help pass the legislation and the mechanism that the Act established.

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Christianophobia in Europe  
Convenor: Europe for Crist  
Working language: English

Summary: Several international documents mention the term "Christianophobia", i.e. irrational fear and hatred of Christians. The OSCE has a Personal Representative of the Chair in Office who focuses amongst other things also intolerance and discrimination against Christians. As the number of reported cases of Christianophobia is unfortunately increasing, the Vienna based international NGO has recently launched a website portraying selected incidents.

Dr. Martin Kugler, a historian and public affairs expert, will present selected cases as a basis of a common discussion.

The meeting will be held in English. For further information, please visit [www.christianophobia.eu](http://www.christianophobia.eu) or contact Dr. Kugler at [office@kairos-pr.com](mailto:office@kairos-pr.com)

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Video presentation of intolerance and discrimination acts against Raelian Religion from the french speaking governements of Belgium, Canada, Switzerland and France and debate on proposals for a better respect of religious minorities  
Convenor: European Raelian Religion  
Working languages: French, English

Summary: Following a 20 min video documentary showing the facts of discrimination of the french speaking governements of Belgium, Canada, Switzerland and France against members of raelian religion a lecture debate will show and discuss proposals of solutions for a real respect of religious minorities in theses countries.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall

Title: How can we respond to violations of freedom of religion or belief?  
Convenor: Forum 18 News Service  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Helsinki Final Act acknowledges as one of its 10 guiding principles "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief". OSCE human dimension commitments repeatedly stress that freedom of religion or belief - which includes the right not to believe and to criticise religions - is fundamental to the human dimension and to the OSCE concept of security. Yet even though allowing everyone to fully participate in public life is a safeguard against conflict and instability, freedom of religion and belief violations continue to occur within OSCE participating States. Citizens continue to be harassed, jailed and even killed for peacefully exercising this fundamental human right. Yet encouragingly, citizens continue to try to peacefully exercise this right despite such pressure.

This side event, convened by Forum 18 News Service <<http://www.forum18.org>>, will address the challenges of implementing freedom of religion and belief for all. After hearing from the ODIHR Advisory Council of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom on the mechanisms of their work, civil society speakers will suggest - using examples from the particular situations they work on - how we can support all citizens in exercising their freedom of religion and belief. An open discussion will then follow on how to advance this key part of the OSCE concept of security.

The event will be chaired by Professor Malcolm Evans, Professor of Public International Law at Bristol University and member of the ODIHR Advisory Council of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Simultaneous translation from Russian to English and from English to Russian will be available.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Homophobia – FRA's and Commissioner for Human Rights work on combating discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity  
Convenor: FRA/COE Commissioner for Human Rights  
Working language: English,

Summary: The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights invite you to a side-event on *Combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender*. Equal protection by EU anti-discrimination law has not yet been achieved for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons (LGBTs) living in many parts of the 27 European Union (EU) member states and 47 member states of the Council of Europe. The problems and discrimination faced by LGBTs in their every day lives is a major human rights issue. International law clearly prohibits discrimination on various grounds including sexual orientation. The European Court of Human Rights has been crucial in clarifying the legal framework related to LGBTs. In significant rulings, the Court has



ruled that consensual sexual relations in private, between adults of the same sex, must not be criminalised; that there should be no discrimination when setting the age of consent for sexual acts; that homosexuals should also have the right to be admitted into the armed forces; that same sex partners should have the same right of succession of tenancy as other couples; and that sexual orientation cannot be used as a ground to discriminate when child custody is granted. The Court has also ruled that changes of gender in identity documents should be authorised for transsexuals. The Court also affirmed the freedom of assembly for LGBTs. In the EU, until now Community legislation (Directive 78/2000) prohibits direct and indirect discrimination, as well as harassment on grounds of sexual orientation, but only in employment. There is a growing debate within the EU regarding the extension of the much more comprehensive protection of the Race Equality Directive (43/2000) to cover other grounds, such as sexual orientation, disability, age, religion and belief. In this context, the FRA responded to a specific request from the European Parliament to prepare a comprehensive study on homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. A project covering the EU 27 was put in place to prepare a comprehensive comparative analysis looking at the legal and the sociological aspects of issues affecting LGBT people in the European Union. At the side event, the FRA will present results of the studies on legal aspects of issues affecting LGBT people. The office of the Commissioner for Human Rights will reflect on the results of the study and elaborate on the LGBT Human Rights Monitoring Project his office is implementing. The Finnish Chairmanship in Office will also provide a short statement on the topic of the side event.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Places of Worship  
Convenor: Advisory Council of the ODIHR Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will be opened with a general introduction on the issue of places of worship in the context of the right to freedom of religion or belief. Three short presentations will focus on specific questions: the right to have a place of worship; the protection of places of worship; places of worship and security policies.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Briefing for the HDIM delegates "Preventing the racial and religious intolerance in Russian Federation"  
Convenor: Moscow Bureau for Human Rights  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The briefing will be given by the Director of Moscow Bureau for Human Rights, the member of Public Chamber of RF, Mr. Alexander Brod, and the Executive Director of Moscow Bureau for Human Rights, the member of the Union of Journalists of RF, the expert in the National policy affairs Ms. Natalia Rykova.

Moscow Bureau for Human Rights will represent the statistics of hate crimes caused by xenophobia at the territory of Russia and estimate the actions of law enforcement bodies and judicial system of Russia aimed to fight xenophobia. It will also present NGO efforts in this field and provide the recommendations of Public Chamber of Russian Federation "Raising the tolerance in society and resistance to extremism".

The experts of Moscow Bureau for Human Rights will also represent their program "Prevention the racial and religious intolerance in Russian Federation" and report on the situation in the republics of Ingushetia, Dagestan, Chechnya and in the republics of Abkhazia and tell about the last events in South Ossetia – from eyewitness point.

There will also be shown the documentary film "The Shadow of swastika" produced by Moscow Bureau for Human Rights. The film puts a question: Why in the country, defeated the fascism, the works of the Third Reich's ideologists are being published and the most dismal xenophobia myths are being disseminated?

### **Wednesday, 08 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Trafficking – linking countries of origin, transit and destination  
Convenor: Sweden  
Working language: English

Summary: Trafficking is a priority area where the OSCE and the Council of Europe have decided to strengthen its cooperation. Sweden (presently chairing the Council of Europe) sponsors a side event to highlight the need for further systematic international cooperation to combat trafficking at all levels. At the seminar a panel of experts and representatives from civil society will be discussing how governments and civil society can improve the cooperation across borders to address both the demand and supply side of trafficking. How can countries of origin, transit and destination assist and complement each other better in the fight against trafficking in order to change attitudes and conditions that can influence the demand for trafficking and the supply of victims?

The panel will be lead by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Eva Biaudet.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Launch of Report on Expert Meeting on Security, Radicalization and the Prevention of Terrorism  
Convenor: ODIHR  
Working language: English

Summary: The Expert Meeting on Security, Radicalization and the Prevention of Terrorism was convened in order to provide a forum for practitioners, academics and other experts working in the field of radicalization and terrorism prevention to exchange of views on three practical topics where religion and security intersect: religion in prisons and detention facilities; issues related to religious/ethnic/racial profiling; and surveillance and security re religious sites and communities. The event brought together approximately 60 participants from

governments of participating States, civil society, and academia, as well as from ODIHR, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, and the Council of Europe. The entire Meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule to allow for a frank and constructive dialogue.

The Side Event will provide an opportunity to discuss the report of the meeting, and possible next steps, together with members of the ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief who served as moderators at the meeting as well as ODIHR staff and others interested or working on these issues.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Joining forces on Migrant protection  
Convenor: Migrant Rights Network, UK, Migrant Rights Centre, Ireland, Sana Sezim Kazakhstan, Hotline for Migrant Workers, Israel.  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: The need to improve the protection of migrants is key to many specialised fields of policy and legal development emerging in recent years. But both government and civil society actors engaged with issues relevant to trafficking for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, the exploitation of children or migration are rarely joining forces, consolidating what they know and developing comprehensive responses. Instead action on these issues is highly specialised, piecemeal and in the long term failing to stem the occurrence of exploitation, irregular migration and criminality. This event brings together a number of civil society organisations dealing with different aspects of migrant protection and trafficking calling for recognition of the fact that much can be gained through the cross-fertilisation

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Setting the Record Straight: realities for human rights defenders in the OSCE region  
Convenor: Freedom House  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: There are numerous reports generated each year about the human rights situation in OSCE participating States. However these reports do not always accurately represent the challenges activists face as they work to promote human rights and democracy in their countries. This panel discussion will feature representatives, including some from States where challenges to Human Rights Defenders are most acute, who will share their personal experiences and those of their colleagues.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Making Compensation for trafficking victims come true: next steps for civil society and government actors  
Convenor: ODIHR Anti-trafficking  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The ODIHR published a report on compensation practices in 8 OSCE participating States in May of this year. The report showed that although several binding instruments of international law and domestic legal systems establish the right of trafficked persons to compensation, legal remedies for compensation are rarely used. There are numerous reasons for this: not least that States still fail to identify and assist trafficked persons, and therefore disable trafficked persons from making any legal claims; and that compensation remains a low priority for law enforcement and prosecutors. Many though believe that this is a serious issue and on behalf of victims of trafficking are taking up the challenge of making compensation a reality. This event brings together Anti-Slavery International, ABA-CEELI, the International Trade Unions Congress and the Moldovan Association of Women in Legal Careers to present on the measures being taken to push forward the agenda for compensation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Freedom of Religion or Belief: Views at odds  
Convenor: European Humanist federation  
Working languages: English, French, Italian

Summary:

◆ Demonizing Christianity, or deliberately mocking and undermining central tenets of the Christian faith as a means to promoting the rights of other groups is a clear and flagrant contradiction to the religious freedom and mutual respect that all people should enjoy, not to mention the work of building a more just and peaceful community. Such practices and must be seen for what they are: a subversive attempt to dismantle the progress made thus far in the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination. (*Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero, representative of the Holy See, HDIM 2007, session 2*)

◆ Mockery of religion may be in bad taste but it is an inalienable part of freedom of speech. Mockery may sometimes amount to incitement to hatred, but only in very limited circumstances. Religion is generally hugely privileged in our communities. It is often worthy of respect – but human rights belong to individuals, not to institutions or religions, and attempts to extend human rights to religion itself and to religious institutions are a false and dangerous development that is to be resisted. (*David Pollock, president, European Humanist Federation, HDIM 2007, session2*)

The European Humanist Federation believes that the rule of law, in a context of uncompromised human rights, acknowledges the right for all civil society actors to take part in debate in the public forum in a spirit of recognising differences and not expecting privilege. The religious should not be silenced in the public arena but freedom of religion, like all human rights, belongs exclusively to individuals and cannot be allowed to curtail freedom of expression.

**Thursday, 09 October**

Time: 13.15-14.30  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: International Election observation-the integral attribute of democracy  
Convenor: Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The round table could focus on the following issues:  
- the need for and commitments in the area of international election observation;  
- the acute challenges facing international election observation;  
- best practices of international election observation;  
- methodology of international election observation;  
- use of modern communication technologies in international election observation;  
- the increasing role of non-governmental organizations in election observation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

---

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Presentation  
Convenor: OSCE centre in Astana, Freedom house Kazakhstan, Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Working languages: Russian, English

Summary: In the light of forthcoming in 2010 Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in OSCE it is necessary to clearly represent which exactly changes are required for improving electoral legislation to meet OSCE standards.

Opinion of human rights organizations, specializing in the area of elections has a special value because it enables international society to hear independent from government professional view on this issue. Also OSCE should hear opinions of independent non-governmental organizations who professionally deals with elections in Kazakhstan and capable of providing conclusion including understanding of OSCE standards in the sphere of elections.

At this event Kazakhstan NGOs specializing in the area of elections present necessary changes to Kazakhstan electoral legislation, both conceptually and in individual instances considering certain concrete legal normative.

*Refreshments will be provided*