

**2010 OSCE Review Conference
OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS
As submitted by the organizers
30 September – 08 October 2010
Warsaw, Poland**

ENGLISH only

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE (now 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 Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled at the request of participants in the 2010 OSCE Review Conference. The content for each meeting was prepared by the organization convening the events and does not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers.

Friday, 01 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Websites for democratization: *Agora*, *Legislationline*, and *iKnow Politics*
Convenor: ODIHR and UNDP (Agora Consortium)
Working languages: English

Summary: Web-based platforms are increasingly important for sharing standards, knowledge, best practices, project information, advice and contacts in the field of democratic governance assistance.

The panellists will discuss ways how such websites can be of direct use to the work of the OSCE, including ODIHR, and other international organizations and stakeholders in strengthening democratic institutions and participation.

The meeting will also provide the opportunity for a broad range of Review Conference participants to get first hand information and insights into the knowledge and practical resources that the web portals offer. The websites are:

- *Agora* (www.agora-parl.org) the new Global Portal for Parliamentary Development, is the newest. Launched in March 2010 and developed by a broad coalition led by UNDP, the World Bank, the EC, NDI and International IDEA, it is quickly becoming a comprehensive reference and networking tool for all those interested in strengthening and developing parliaments. Agora and ODIHR are currently developing a closer partnership.
- *Legislationline* (www.legislationline.org) is ODIHR's reference tool for sharing international norms and standards relating to specific human dimension issues as well as to domestic legislation and other documents of relevance to these issues. These data and other information available from the site are intended for lawmakers across the OSCE region.
- *iKnow Politics* (www.iknowpolitics.org), developed by a consortium of international organizations, has for some years been a premier platform for sharing information and resources for all those interested in advancing women's participation in political life.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Questions and Answers with the Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Working languages: English, Russian (consecutive)

Summary: The side event will present an opportunity for an informal and open discussion with the Advisory Council on issues related to freedom of religion or belief in the OSCE area. It is structured around a Q&A format to make the debate more focused and dynamic. Interested participants will be able to benefit from the Advisory Council's expertise on specific subjects.

Additionally, the Advisory Council will gain a deeper understanding of themes and issues discussed by the participants. It is expected that this discussion will inform the Advisory Council's current update of the 2004 Guidelines for Review of Legislation Pertaining to Religion or Belief.

Please submit your questions in advance by e-mail to **simona.santoro@odhr.pl**

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Women's Rights in Central Asia: the outcome of the EU-Central Asia Civil Society Seminar
Convenor: European Commission
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The event will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of the recommendations developed during the EU-Central Asia Civil Society Seminar on Women's Rights which was organised by the European Commission in Brussels on 21-23 June 2010. It will also be an opportunity to present the EU human rights dialogues and civil society seminars more generally.

This Seminar took place within the context of a strengthening relationship between the EU and Central Asia and of including the voice of civil society in the partnership, in particular on human rights issues. It drew together representatives from all Central Asian states, EU and other interested parties. The topics discussed during thematic and country specific workshops included gender-based violence, promoting a culture of women's rights in overcoming discrimination in business, society and in development, the integrity, health and welfare of women and current dangers from domestic violence, trafficking and limited access to healthcare, as well as the topics of women and the environment and women and conflict.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: The Spanish Conflict over “Education for Citizenship” and the Rights of Parents
Convenor: European Centre for Law and Justice
Working languages: English

Summary: The Spanish educational system established a new area of knowledge called “Education for Citizenship” (EFC), that introduces both evaluable and compulsory subjects at Primary and Secondary school. The core subjects of EFC have been designed (as the official curriculum admits) to shape the conscience of children getting deep into their values and their personal and family privacy and, in many cases, conflicting those values. These subjects are strongly rejected by an important part of the Spanish society and nearly 55,000 parents have conscientiously objected to the participation of their children to this compulsory subject. Parents have formed more than 70 local and regional associations to support objectors and inform parents and society about EFC.

Nearly 2,300 judicial complaints have been lodged in less than two years as a consequence of EFC in the national compulsory curriculum. In most of the cases (aprox. 86%), during 2007 and 2008, local and regional courts sentenced against Government. In 2009, the Supreme Court denied the right of parents to object to the EFC curriculum, in spite of the controversial ethical aspects included in it. Some parents have claimed before the Constitutional Court, which has already declared the inadmissibility of some of these claims. On March, 19th 2010, 305 plaintiffs (parents and their children) lodged a complaint (N° 15976/10 *Ramos Bejarano et Autres c.España*) before the ECHR against the Kingdom of Spain, for violations of their rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Human Rights in Kyrgyzstan: The June Conflict and Beyond
Convenor: Freedom House and OSI
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The large-scale violence that swept through Kyrgyzstan in June made headlines the world over as international media and NGOs covered the resultant humanitarian crisis, refugee crisis, loss of lives, and widespread destruction that the chaos brought to the nation’s south. While several organizations have launched statements and have conducted reports on these events, several questions remain. Who is responsible for the violence? What short- and long-term steps should Kyrgyzstan and the international community take to better safeguard the nation and the region against similar outbursts? How have interpersonal relationships been influenced, and what are the prospects of reconciliation so close to the parliamentary elections? Please join Freedom House for an engaging discussion on the causes of the large-scale violence that swept through Kyrgyzstan in June and on possible paths to reconciliation. Panelists include Vitaly Ponomarev (Memorial), who will present the executive summary of his forthcoming report on the recent violence, and local human rights defenders Aziza Abdirasulova (Kylym Shamy), Cholpon Djakupova (Adilet), and Jenish Toroev (Human Rights Advocacy Center), who will discuss such issues as inter-ethnic tensions, forthcoming parliamentary elections, the country’s new constitution and legal framework, and protecting human rights and human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan’s current challenging setting.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Religious Liberty and Rights of Conscience in the 21st Century
Convenor: Alliance Defense Fund
Working languages: English

Summary: Ever increasingly, legislation in participating OSCE states has created a clash between the fundamental rights of religion and expression with the principle of non-discrimination. The Alliance Defense Fund is an NGO which daily engages in legal and policy matters in this controversial area. Its presentation will examine the battle with first-hand accounts of the problems that occur when laws and rights clash, will provide expert legal analysis of the governing international law and will discuss policy aspirations for possible OSCE implementation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The Position of Non-religious People in Europe: The Lautsi Case and Wider Considerations
Convenor: The European Humanist Federation
Working language: English, French, Italian

Summary: The case of Lautsi v Italy, on which the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber's appeal judgement is awaited, raises a complex of vital questions: what does it mean to be a 'secular' state (like Italy), should the customary privileges of majority populations or their churches overrule the human rights of individuals? what is the scope of the 'margin of appreciation'? how far are governments subject to the rule of law? can the Court distance itself from politics and deliver a judgement based squarely on legal principles?

More widely, the case highlights the position of non-believers in Europe - who are they? how numerous? should their interests be subordinated to those of believers despite international law putting philosophical beliefs on an equal footing with religions? How far do governments and international institutions recognise them in practice? should their treatment be a matter of concern for them alone, or should the frequent absence of formal institutional representation and consultation be a source of concern for all those who uphold equality and the rule of law?

History teaches us that discrimination is a breeding ground for tensions and conflicts. The European Humanist Federation is convinced that a problem needs to be stated if it is to be addressed and holds that all discriminations should be addressed, especially in the context of OSCE whose mission is the prevention of conflicts.

Monday, 04 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Presentation of the 2nd edition of the OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly
Convenor: ODIHR Legislative Support Unit
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The right to assemble peacefully, together with freedom of expression and freedom of association, rests at the core of any functioning democratic system. The OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission have been providing legislative support to the participating States to assist them in ensuring that their legislation on freedom of peaceful assembly complies with OSCE commitments and international standards. The development of these Guidelines is a cornerstone of this assistance, adding to ODIHR's *LegislativeOnline.org* database [www.legislationline.org] where lawmakers can obtain good examples from other countries' legislation that can help them frame their own choices. They formulate thresholds that should be met by national authorities in their regulation of the right. The Guidelines are designed for drafters of legislation, those implementing it, and those affected by the implementation. The Guidelines do not attempt to provide ready-made solutions, but rather to clarify key issues and discuss possible ways to address them.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Kyrgyzstan – A weak state, political instability: civil society caught up in the turmoil. Presentation of the FIDH report
Convenor: FIDH
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This event will be aiming at analysing the situation in Kyrgyzstan by launching the English version of the report of the FIDH international mission *Kyrgyzstan - A weak state, political instability: civil society caught up in the turmoil*

The side-event will gather human rights defenders from Kyrgyzstan and members of the FIDH international mission:

Cholpon Djakupova (*Legal Clinic Adilet*, Kyrgyzstan)

Tolekan Ismailova (*Citizens Against Corruption*, Kyrgyzstan)

Aliaksandr Bialiatski (*Viasna*, Belarus)

Moderation:

Vanessa Rizk (FIDH)

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Civil Society of Belarus on the Eve of Presidential Elections
Convenor: The assembly of Pro-democratic NGO's of Belarus
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Representatives of the Assembly of NGOs of Belarus and experts from several Belarusian human rights organizations will present the analysis of the legal status of the national civil society on the eve of presidential elections, which will soon take place in Belarus. The emphasis will be made on the freedom of association and the problem of criminal liability for performing activities on behalf of unregistered public and religious associations (implied by Article 193.1 of the Criminal Code of Belarus).

During the event, expert opinions of lawyers and human rights activists will be presented, information about the STOP 193.1! campaign aimed at abolition of Article 193.1 of the Criminal Code will be given, as well as presentations of persons who have been prosecuted for performing activities on

behalf of unregistered organizations will be made. The side-event's participants plan to evaluate the dynamics of freedom of association and the current state of NGOs in Belarus, compared with those during the period of previous presidential elections.

Time: 13.15-14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: Stakeholders' Views on a Legal Framework for the OSCE
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE/Netherlands Mission to the OSCE/Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Strengthening of the Legal Framework of the OSCE
Working languages: English

Summary: The OSCE has always been work in progress. One piece of its unfinished business concerns the Organization's lack of legal personality. This has many disadvantages, from financial repercussions to the OSCE's inability to safeguard its staff (two thirds of whom are local) by means of diplomatic privileges and immunities, and for other responsibilities of the Organization.

Over the years there have been many attempts to secure legal capacity for the OSCE. In 2007, the participating States even agreed on the text of a draft Convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities of the OSCE. Some states, however, conditioned their approval of the Convention on adoption of a more far-reaching OSCE Charter. Others objected to the Charter, convinced that it would undermine the flexible, political commitments that are so fundamental to the work of the OSCE.

Participating States have taken part in a series of informal discussions in Vienna on the OSCE's legal framework and this event is an effort to extend those discussions to key OSCE stakeholders from the non-governmental community.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: ODIHR's Work on Political Parties
Convenor: ODIHR Legislative Support Unit
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The purpose of the Side Event will be to explain to the audience the OSCE commitments and other relevant international standards pertaining to political parties, as well as the various activities which ODIHR has undertaken over the years to monitor and review compliance with said standards and commitments. In particular, the speakers will present the draft ODIHR Guidelines on Legislation Pertaining to Political Parties and explain the inclusive and consultative process through which these Guidelines have been developed over the course of 1.5 years.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: The Sergei Magnitsky Case and its implications for Russia
Convenor: Hermitage Fund
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management William Browder soared to fame and fortune investing in Russian equities amid the chaos and corruption of the post-Soviet economy. He achieved success by finding hidden values in Russian companies and driving up their share prices by exposing corporate malfeasance and mismanagement. His widely publicized campaigns for shareholder rights and corporate governance helped propel the Hermitage Fund from US\$25 million in 1996 to US\$4 billion a decade later. However, he was banned from Russia in 2005 as a threat to national security.

In June 2007, police raided Hermitage's Moscow office and that of their law firm. The people involved in the theft (which included Police, Interior Ministry Officials, lawyers, judges, tax officials and convicted killers) used the documents to steal ownership of three companies from Hermitage and to arrange sham court judgments against them. The judgments were then used to create losses that were the basis for getting US\$230 million in fraudulent tax refunds from the Russian treasury. The refunds were granted in just one day, indicating that very senior officials in the tax department must have approved them.

Sergei Magnitsky, an anti-corruption lawyer, who had uncovered the initial fraud, testified against the officials involved and in retaliation, he was arrested and imprisoned without trial by those very same government officials. He was systematically tortured in an attempt to force him to retract his testimony. For almost a year, he suffered and his health completely broke down. He lost over 20 kilos and developed pancreatitis and gallstones. Despite 20 written requests to get medical attention, he was denied such help. Mr Magnitsky documented his alleged torture in 450 complaints written while in prison. On 16 November 2009 he died, aged 37.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Presentation of the 2010 Annual Report of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders: remaining challenges for civil society activists in the OSCE area.
Convenor: FIDH, OMCT
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This event will be aiming at launching the Russian version of the 2010 Annual Report of the Observatory, which presents an analysis of the situation in which human rights defenders operated in 2009.

The side-event will gather human rights defenders from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan, who will outline their working environment, focus on the main obstacles to their activities, and formulate key messages to State authorities, the OSCE, and the international community at large.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Recent re-election of judges and prosecutors in Serbia
Convenor: Judges Association and Prosecutor's Association of Serbia
Working languages: English

Summary: The Serbian Government took major reform process in relation to reform of the judiciary. Two major moves were: establishment of the new court network and re-election of all judges and prosecutors.

The re-election process itself had a numerous flaws and major breach of the international standards in relation of the safeguard of the independence of judiciary. The re-election process also raised concerns of the EU Commission and Council of Europe.

The two independent professional organisations of judges and prosecutors will present the major shortcoming of the process of re election and will draw the attention on the consequences of this process.

Time: 19.30
Venue: Lithuanian Embassy, Warsaw, Al.Ujazdowskie 14
Title: Incoming Chairmanship's Briefing
Convenor: Lithuania
Working languages: English

Summary: In the framework of the Review Conference human dimension segment in Warsaw, Lithuania as the incoming Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2011 will host a side-event meant to exchange ideas for possible CiO priorities in the human dimension for the next year.

Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the OSCE Ambassador Renatas Norkus will use the opportunity to present the ideas that Lithuania sees as challenging and relevant for the organization to be focused on in the human dimension work in 2011 and to hear the views of the participating States' governments and NGOs taking part in the Review Conference.

The Lithuanian MFA Ambassador for the OSCE Human Dimension Alfonsas Eidintas will introduce representatives of Lithuanian civil society who will be thereto brief about the implementation of the OSCE Human Rights commitments and to inform about situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratization and tolerance and non-discrimination in Lithuania. Also they will touch upon ethnic minorities issues and current challenges faced by the government.

Participants of the briefing: Mr. Henrikas Mickevičius, Director of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute of Lithuania, Prof. Šarūnas Liekis, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University professor and Director of Yiddish Institute in Vilnius, Mr. Adam Blaškevič, Head of the Pope John Paul II Polish Gymnasium in Vilnius.

The briefing will be followed by a Q & A session and a reception.

Tuesday, 05 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Why are we still talking about torture? The need for preventive strategies
Convenor: ODIHR Human Rights Department/Penal Reform International and Bristol University
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The practice of torture and other forms of ill-treatment persists in countries of the OSCE region.

The aim of this side event is discuss the factors that make it possible for torture to recur. The speakers will approach the subject of torture from the perspective of prevention, rather than response to what has already occurred. This requires a holistic examination of existing state systems (in particular the criminal justice system), and analysis of the extent to which systemic elements contribute to the persistence of torture. It will be argued that only such an approach can lead to success in any torture prevention exercise, and that this approach lies at the heart of implementation of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Promotion of gender balance: additional competitive advantage of a state
Convenor: Union of Women Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The aim of the side event is to:

- discuss an integrated approach to gender balance through the balanced participation of men and women in decision-making process in the economic and social life, as well as discuss pros and cons to the achievement of gender balance;
- achieve gender balance and strengthen the capacity of women through involvement of women in business and management companies, including national ones;
- develop core mechanisms to promote gender balance, including through ensuring women's access to small businesses with the possibility of transition of small business into the segment of medium-sized businesses.

The discussion will be attended by representatives of NGOs involved in the promotion of gender policy in Kazakhstan.

Recommendations for ensuring comprehensive women's rights, gender balance and more effective implementation of the OSCE Action Plan may be developed as a result of discussions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00 - 15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: The OSCE chairman in 2010 as a guide of democratic values in post-soviet states: promises and actuality
Convenor: Foundation Open Dialog
Working languages: English, Russian, Polish

Summary: The analysis of discharge of promises made in Madrid compared to actual activity of the OSCE chairman in 2010 from the point of view of international NGOs, journalists and politicians. The authority of Kazakhstan and its ability to deal with geopolitical tasks, as well as its responsibility as of OSCE chairman for adoption of democratic values. Describing situation with freedom of speech in Kazakhstan in advance of its chairmanship in OSCE.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.15 – 14.45
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: A fundamental Right: Asylum – Theory and Reality
Convenor: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Working languages: English

Summary: Minimum standards for fair asylum procedures include the duty to issue decisions in writing, to inform applicants about the asylum decision and on how to appeal, to provide legal assistance and effective remedies.

States are providing information to asylum seekers – but is this information always understood and are the applicants becoming fully aware of their rights and obligations?

Access to information, effective remedies, duration of procedures and legal assistance are the areas that will be approached by the panelists from various dimensions:

- FRA key findings on the status of the right to asylum in the EU
- Screening of the documentary ‘Little Alien’ as a snapshot of the reality
- UNHCR’s study on asylum procedures

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Presentation of Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence in Eastern, South Caucasus and Central Asia
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization Department
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Judicial independence is an indispensable element of the right to due process, the rule of law and democracy. In an effort to support countries in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia in strengthening judicial independence in line with these principles, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) together with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (MPI), organized and hosted a regional expert meeting

on Judicial Independence in Kyiv. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 independent experts, among them prominent scholars and senior practitioners from 19 OSCE participating States, and from the Council of Europe and its Venice Commission.

Following an OSCE-wide in-depth research of legal systems and practices regarding judicial independence, ODIHR and MPI selected three themes that are of particular relevance for judicial independence: (1) Judicial Administration with a focus on judicial councils, judicial self-governing bodies and the role of court chairs; (2) Judicial Selection – criteria and procedures; and (3) Accountability of Judges and Judicial Independence in Adjudication. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a – non-exhaustive – set of recommendations (entitled "Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia"). The purpose of these recommendations is to further strengthen judicial independence in the region within the three selected topical areas.

The purpose of the event is to present the recommendations and provide a forum for discussion. The panelists will include Mrs. Tamara Morshchakova, Advisor to the Constitutional Court, Russian Federation, Dr. Anja Seibert-Fohr, Head of Minerva Research Group on Judicial Independence of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, and Dr. Adam Bodnar, Secretary of the Board and Head of the legal division in the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Freedom of movement of Roma moving towards positive policy responses
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point for Roma & Sinti Issues/European Roma Rights Centre/Amnesty International
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: This event aims to discuss Governments' responses, examples of policies they issued and measures they have undertaken in relation to the arrival and presence of Romani migrants, among them those from EU member countries exercising their right to freedom of movement. The intention is to facilitate discussion and provide ideas which Government representatives can consider for implementation in their countries in order, on the one hand to accelerate the process of improving the situation of their Roma populations, and on the other hand to ensure that Roma are fully able to exercise of their rights, including the right to freedom of movement.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Free Legal Aid for Refugees and IDP's in Western Balkan Region
Convenor: OSCE Mission to Serbia, Democratization Department, Human Rights Section
Working languages: English

Summary: Role of the civil society in provision of legal aid to refugees/IDPs and legal aid as a tool in promoting finding of durable solutions for refugees and IDPs in the Western Balkan region

A group of civil society organizations (CSOs), legal aid providers from the Western Balkans region has produced a policy paper that gives country by country overview of the availability and provision of legal aid to refugees/IDPs. The leading concept in developing this policy paper was the idea that the free legal aid is a necessity and the powerful tool in enabling refugees/IDPs to freely enjoy their rights, while at the same time access to justice without discrimination for all those in need proves to be a main instrument for promotion of peace and peaceful settlements in a post-conflict society. The paper was produced as a result of cross-border cooperation of 15 NGOs from: Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Added value of such joint cross-border activities lays in the fact that CSOs in the Western Balkan region providing legal aid to refugees/IDPs have managed to develop efficient modalities of cooperation and networking in the regional framework. For more than 15 years CSOs in the Western Balkan region are actively engaged in cross-border cooperation and networking with an aim to synchronize their efforts in working on the resolution of the refugee/IDP related issues in the region and multiply the effect of their individual advocacy and lobbying activities.

The OSCE support to such CSOs activities in the region provides the opportunity for the regular exchange of information between the CSOs concerning very specific cross-border issues, and offered training and capacity building programmes for CSOs on applicability and use of the principles contained in the international human rights law when developing adequate redress. Increased expertise of the CSOs organization was then utilized for producing the high quality documents and analysis that had positive impact on removal of the identified gaps in the protection of refugees/IDPs throughout the region.

Building on this positive experience, the Group 484 continues to maintain links between CSOs in the region and facilitate exchange of information, as well as collation, analysis and exchange of relevant data.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Promoting Human Rights in Kazakhstan through reform of the legal system
Convenor: Human Rights Centre "Rectum esse"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The aim of the side-event is to discuss such issues as:
- the coherence of legal reform in Kazakhstan and the National Action Plan for Human Rights for 2009-2010;
- NGO's vision of new paths and forms of integration into a new stage of reform of the legal system.

Representatives of NGOs and national human rights institutions will share their views and assessment of upcoming institutional and other changes in the legal system.

It is also expected to discuss issues related to the progress of legal reform and implementation of the recommendations of the legislative and institutional measures, obtained by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan from national reports on implementation of international human rights treaties. Discussion will also include the issue of the forthcoming introduction of the institution of police investigation of offenses, its impact on the protection of human rights in Kazakhstan and the correlation with international standards in this area.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference
Convenor: CIVICUS, Netherlands Helsinki Committee,
on behalf of 12 international and regional civil society organizations: International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Kazakhstan; Expert Working Group, Uzbekistan; Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, Russia; Moscow Helsinki Group, Russia; International Youth Human Rights Movement, Russia; Institute for Development Cooperation, Kazakhstan; Center for National and International Studies, Azerbaijan; CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation; World Movement for Democracy; Freedom House; Norwegian Helsinki Committee; Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Eurasia region, made of the countries to the East of the former Soviet border, has been witnessing systematic legal and operative restrictions in space for civil society, human rights and democracy. Regional NGOs voice their concerns that they have exhausted all possible national remedies, and their voices are often not heard at multi-lateral bodies. What is necessary and timely, given the approaching end of the OSCE chairmanship by the first former Soviet country and deepening crisis with human rights in all of Central Asia, is for NGOs and governments to look at the increasing systemic problems with implementation of OSCE commitments in the Eurasia region and propose ways to address the problem and strengthen the implementation mechanisms.

The Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference will be held **29-30 November in Astana**, in between the 3rd Review Conference and the Summit. The vision of the Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference (Parallel Conference) is to formulate regional civil society voice towards strengthening the OSCE human dimension to promote democracy and human rights in the Post-Soviet region. This is an independent, civil society driven initiative; but engagement with governments and the OSCE will be sought in lead up and at the Conference. The overall objective would be to promote and protect human rights and democracy in the Post Soviet region, through provision of concrete recommendations for the OSCE Summit on strengthening implementation of the Human Dimension within the OSCE framework. Civil society recommendations will be presented to the OSCE Summit in order to state that roll back in human rights and democratic standards at the institution will not be tolerated, and to propose concrete ways forward to the organization and the incoming chairmanship.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 06 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Women in the Security Sector: Where do We Stand on the Eve of the 10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325
Convenor: The Delegation of the USA to the OSCE and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Human Rights, Women and Security Programme)

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Ensuring the participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building is critical to achieving sustainable peace and ensuring that the needs of all affected by conflict are equally addressed. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is a landmark call to action in this respect urging nations to ensure increased representation of women in security sector institutions and mechanisms for addressing conflict. In this side event, speakers will discuss successful gender mainstreaming strategies of national security policies and institutions; strategies which are bringing countries closer to achieving their international obligations. Furthermore, speakers will highlight challenges that are still to be met and provide recommendations for the way forward in promoting women in security sector decision making.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in Public Life of Western Balkans
Convenor: Union of Balkan Egyptians
Working languages: English

Summary: The democratisation process as a whole, re-establishment of rule of law and democratic institutions and practices, as well as the reconciliation and integration of minorities are still very much under way in the countries of Western Balkans, requiring continued efforts in confidence-building and promoting dialogue between different actors and interlocutors within the societies of Western Balkans states. Recognition the civil and political rights of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination (ECVRD) persons and communities has improved over past years. However, ECVRD are still vastly underrepresented in public office throughout Western Balkans, despite constituting significant minorities in many countries.

During recent years, European international commission and committees, in their reports, expressed deep concerns related to the situation with ECVRD in some states of the Western Balkans. Even though international commissions and bodies address some hard issues related with racial discrimination and violation of minority rights toward ECVRD, states from the Western Balkans region don't show any interest to improve the situation, their indifference to combat racism and intolerance is shown in their official state reports/answers.

While issues are raised in a biased way during electoral and media campaigns by some political parties/candidates in particular countries (and therefore deserve being criticised as reinforcing the stereotypes on ECVRD) they are currently less debated among ECVRD activists/politicians themselves, in view of correcting/combatting stereotypes or, eventually, for starting discussions to challenge the cultural practices which may be at variance with the standards of equal human and civic rights, as well as responsibilities for women, men and children of both sexes in democratic societies.

Outcomes, results and obstacles of implementation of the Project financed by EU, will be presented with facilitating open discussion for further projects and activities related with issues of effective participation of ECVRD in public life.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Presentation of the Final Draft Annual Report – Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
Working languages: English

Summary: The event will be used to present the final draft version of the ODIHR's 2009 annual report: *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses*. The methodology and main findings of the report will be presented. These include lack of comprehensive and comparable data on hate crimes in the OSCE participating States. Recommendations from the report will also be presented. Emphasis will be placed on cooperation between ODIHR, participating States, OSCE field operations, inter-governmental organizations and civil society.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-14.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Understanding Diversity in Definitions of Gender for the Public Debate
Convenor: Redeemed Lives USA
Working languages: English

Summary: Gender identity is a key category for understanding what it means to be a human being with inalienable rights. But there is a diversity of definitions surrounding the term gender. Definitions of gender may come from at least four sources; science, psychology, sociology and theology. When addressing gender rights for the public debate, it is imperative that we understand and honour all definitions so as to better articulate the human rights of all people for self-emancipation

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: International Civic Initiative for the OSCE: working for greater civil society engagement in the OSCE
Convenor: ICI, Freedom House
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: International Civic Initiative for the OSCE (ICI OSCE) is an undertaking of a number of leading human rights organizations of Eastern European and Central Asian states. This side event is convened to introduce ICI to the OSCE audience and to give a perspective on the OSCE's work from the point of these human rights organizations. The participants will also discuss why civil society should have a continuing stake in the OSCE and why the OSCE process is still relevant 35 years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Hate Speech and Freedom of Expression: two sides of the internet
Convenor: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom, and the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the OSCE & the International Network Against Cyber Hate (Magenta Foundation)

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: A joint event hosted by the United Kingdom Government, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the OSCE & the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH).

During this side-event there will be a short history on the subject of Cyber Hate at the OSCE, and a video-overview of examples of cyber hate will be shown. The event will explore the appropriate balance between protection from hate material on the Internet and freedom of expression, particularly within the media. The event will examine the problems posed by internet based hate crime and efforts to combat this, including solutions that might be found in civil society and examples of best practice.

The expert speakers will discuss the issue of internet based hate crime from the academic and operational perspective, including the difficulties of effectively addressing problems in the face of rapidly advancing technology. The speakers will assess the impact of hate crime on communities, including the links between exposure to hate material and radicalisation.

Panellists and the participants will be able to discuss the subject, including potential strategies for the coming years.

Programme:

- 18.00 Welcome and opening address: Susan Hyland, UK head of Human Rights at the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- 18.10 Short video on Cyberhate and the OSCE Presentations
- 18.15 Dunja Mijatovic - the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- 18.25 Sille Jansen, Director of the Dutch Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet, The Dutch Complaints Bureau as Best Practice
- 18.35 Michael Whine, European Jewish Congress delegate to the OSCE ODIHR, and Government and International Affairs Director of the CST, From Cyberhate to antisemitism on the streets'
- 18.45 Suzette Bronkhorst, Secretary-General of the International Network Against Cyber Hate, Solutions from Civil Society
- 18.55 Discussion with the floor
- 19.50 Summary and close - Susan Hyland

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Human rights defenders in the NIS region: common threats and strategies of defense
Convenor: International Youth Human Rights Movement, Human Rights Houses Network
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The situation of human rights and civil society activists in a number of Eastern European and Central Asian states remains very complicated despite the international commitments to protect human rights defenders and efforts undertaken by a number of intergovernmental institutions and NGOs. Last years saw a number of notorious cases of murders, unlawful imprisonment, threats and other types of pressure towards human rights defenders in Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and other countries.

Representatives of organisations actively engaged in defending human rights defenders in the region will present the current situation in this sphere and propose some ideas for common response to the existing threats.

Thursday, 07 October

Time: 13.00 – 15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Prevention of hate crimes on the basis sexual orientation and gender identity in OSCE participating States
Convenor: COC Netherlands, ILGA Europe
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: For a number of consecutive years the OSCE Hate Crimes' report produced by ODIHR has provided evidence of ongoing hate motivated incidents and hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. An increasing number of OSCSE participating States take measures to prevent such hate crimes.

During this side-event examples of preventive measures and campaigns will be presented. Human rights organizations from different participating States will provide an insight on what further activities in this field should be developed.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Freedom of Speech and pluralism of opinions in mass-media
Convenor: Public Organization “Chief editor’s Club”, Kazakhsztan, Astana
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The purpose of the discussion is to raise an awareness among the OSCE participating States of the freedom of speech in Kazakhstan. The practical experts will speak at this event in the field of mass media in Kazakhstan – the chief editors of the print, electronic media, which daily shape the editorial policies of their newspapers, manage a team of journalists, contact with the governmental bodies. They will tell how far they are free to choose the names of publications, to cover and bring to society a different spectrum of opinion in the country, which they see as problems in the further development of the media in the republic, what of the current legislation makes barriers in their work, how available to them socially meaningful information. With brief reports will speak: Vice-President of the Public Association "Chief editors club" Kunbaev Mirbulat, Deputy Editor of the republican daily newspaper "Express K" Absalyamova Natalia, President of the Internet Association of Kazakhstan Sabirov Shavkat, Editor in Chief of the republican daily newspaper "Liter" Tarakov Lev, Director-General of Media Holding "Nur-Media" Dzhanahanov Kaiser, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations in the country.

At this event, we have also invited representatives of government agencies: the Ministry of Communications and Information of Kazakhstan, Human Rights Ombudsman in Kazakhstan, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who will be able to comment about the upcoming changes in legislation, the practical application of criminal penalties for defamation in the media, judicial proceedings relating to the media.

Also we manage to hear the position of the opposition media and NGOs on this topic. All participants are invited to ask questions and take part in the discussion presented so.

We look forward to a constructive dialogue between the stakeholders, which will help Kazakhstan for the further development by the path of building a modern democratic society

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Human Rights in Ukraine: is the country moving away from freedom and democracy?
Convenor: International Renaissance Foundation
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: For last six month Ukraine has been criticized by international organizations for imposing restrictions of fundamental freedoms (media, assembly, religions, etc). The presenters, who are leaders of well known non-governmental organizations, will make the general overview of human rights situation in the country

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Freedom of Expression in the OSCE Region: Perspectives from the Field
Convenor: Jefferson Institute
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: A panel of media experts from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and a number of countries of South-Eastern Europe will discuss the current situation of the media in their countries. The experts will discuss developments in the traditional, electronic and new media as well as media laws and the role the state plays in regulating the media. The panel will discuss conditions in which journalists find themselves in their countries and highlight risks to journalists and freedom of expression.

The experts will include journalists, bloggers and media law experts.

Time: 18.00-20.00
Venue: Opera Room
Title: Dynamics of Development of social and political situation in the Republic of South Ossetia under the condition of permanent terroristic threat
Convenor: NGO "Renessans"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Demonstration of photo-and video materials and discussion on the stable influence of terroristic threats on the formation of public conscience.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 08 October

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: Join the Community of Democracies as we tackle Democracy issues of the 21st century.
Convenor: Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Community of Democracies (CoD) 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 coordination of positions and actions. At this side event, representatives from each of these three pillars will talk about their sector's role in building democracy. The Permanent Secretariat will also present an overview of the CoD. We invite all participants in the event to enter into the discussion with their ideas and experiences for building, strengthening and defending democracy.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 2
Title: Prevention of human trafficking in Central Asia
Convenor: "Union of Crisis Centres" in Kazakhstan
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: During the side-event participants will discuss issues of implementation of commitments and actions related to provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking, given the recent events and situation with prevention of human trafficking in the Central Asian region.

We want to discuss problems of prevention of crimes related to human trafficking, including children, to find an agreement to minimize social consequences of human trafficking in Central Asia, to consider the issue of inter-agency/inter-state cooperation in the identification of human trafficking victims and provision of protection and assistance to them.

We will discuss the role of government and non-governmental organizations in the management of protection and support to victims of human trafficking, on the basis of international standards in addressing human trafficking and compliance of laws with them.

This event will allow in a constructive manner to resolve the issue of protection of victims of human trafficking at the regional level.

Side-event will be held in the framework of discussion; all participants are invited to actively participate in the dialogue, express their views on the topic, thereby contributing to prevention of human trafficking in Central Asia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00-15.00
Venue: Meeting Room 3
Title: Civil Society and Law Enforcement Agencies as Partners
in Fighting against Islamophobic Hate Crimes
Convenor: COJEP International
Working languages: English, French

Summary: Building trust and co-operation between civil society and law enforcement agencies is crucial to effectively respond to and prevent hate crimes. However, as pointed out in various reports of research institutions and international human rights organizations, interactions between these two key actors are still very low, in particular, in the area of combating Islamophobic hate crime, despite some tangible progress that has been made so far. The purpose of this roundtable is to review the possibilities of enhancing cooperation between Muslim minorities and law enforcement agencies. Violation of human rights of Muslim migrants by law enforcement agencies appears

as the primary reason of lack of trust and confidence. Migrants who are facing biased perceptions and behaviors hesitate to report hate crimes. This question must be addressed. On the other hand, both civil society and relevant authorities should be encouraged to intensify contacts among themselves. Co-operation between civil society and law enforcement officers in fighting Islamophobic hate crimes must be created and put into practice. COJEP International, an International NGO which operates in 15 countries in the field of human rights, youth, democracy and anti-discrimination, aims to deepen the discussion on discrimination and intolerance 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