



2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, 19 - 30 September 2016

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

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

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

Monday, 19 September

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: The impact of propaganda on society
Convenor: Embassy & Permanent Mission of Denmark
Working language: English

Summary: The event will take the shape of a panel discussion with the main theme, “how does propaganda and disinformation affect our societies?”. This theme will be broken down into 3 elements, namely 1) an introduction to how propaganda affects societies in general, including historical examples; 2) a focus on how current pro-Kremlin propaganda has affected society in Russia; 3) a focus on how propaganda affects the media as a profession and how the media addresses this and analyses and exposes the disinformation. The speakers at the event will be: Dr. Nerijus Maliukevicius, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, University of Vilnius, Mr. Andrei Kolesnikov, Senior Associate, Carnegie Moscow Center, Mr. Maciej Bernatt-Reszczyński, Editor-in-chief of the Russian Language News Exchange Prague Bureau.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Money in Politics - The role of NGOs in Combating Corruption
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and
Human Rights (Democratization Department)

Working language: English

Summary: Money in politics is a necessary component of any democratic process, allowing for expression of political support, political participation, as well as vigorous competition in elections. At the same time, political financing also represents a concrete risk for any democratic and economic system, threatening the capture of political decision-making processes by powerful interests and episodes of endemic corruption. Building on the work done in recent years in the field of anti-corruption, OCEEA and the OSCE/ODIHR started in 2016 the joint project 'Money in Politics in Southeast Europe' with the aim of assessing the level of cooperation between relevant anti-corruption bodies in OSCE participating States in the Balkan region. The Side Event "Money in Politics – The role of NGOs in Combating Corruption" will offer the opportunity to present and discuss early findings from the project. In particular, the emphasis will be placed on the role of civil society organizations, and their good practices of cooperation with relevant national institutions in combatting corruption. Civil society representatives from Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina and Open Data Albania will discuss the need to tackle corruption in a comprehensive manner, putting together aspects of public procurement regulations, political party financing and integrity of public officials, as to recognize their interdependence and to assess potential good practices.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Standing up for free expression in an era of threats and trolls
Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This year, it is 250 years ago that Sweden got the world's first constitutional protection of free speech, through the 1766 Press Freedom Act. Staying true to these principles has always required tough discussions and an understanding of new developments. Today, threatening and trolling those exercising their fundamental right to free expression is easier than ever. We must find new ways to stand up for free speech and a genuine public debate. Join us in a discussion on experiences, ideas and solutions!

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Islamophobia in Europe presenting the European Islamophobia Report
Convenor: SETA - Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research
Working language: English

Summary: In June 2014, the website for reporting hate crimes to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) went public. In 2014, only five states

officially reported on hate crimes against Muslims, whereas civil society reported in 21 countries. Still, for the majority of the 57 member countries of the OSCE, there is no official information available. Furthermore, if one were to assess the quality of these state reports, it becomes apparent that the collected data does not always rely on a comprehensive systematic collection. Since Islamophobia or anti-Muslim racism has become a growing threat in European societies, we feel an urgent need to address this problem. In fact, there are still people denying the very existence of racism against Muslims. The European Islamophobia Report (EIR) is an annual report, which was presented the first time in 2016. It comprised 25 national reports regarding each state and the tendencies of Islamophobia in each respective country. The current report featured the work of 37 extraordinary scholars.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Supporting the digitalization of democracy
Convenor: International IDEA
Working language: English

Summary: Information Technology (IT) is rapidly changing the face of democracy around the world, from the way elections are organized to how citizens and politicians interact. Democracy assistance organizations have a growing role to play as educators and advisors in this digitalization of democracy. In this side-event, International IDEA will provide a brief overview of technology in democratic development and will present three of its latest tools: its new film, *Power in our Pockets: Social Media, Money and Politics in the Digital Age*, which explores the role of social media and digital technology in elections the Political Finance Digital Reporting and Disclosure tool, designed to assist political finance oversight agencies digitally receive and publish political party and candidate financial data; and the Digital Parties Portal, which helps politicians find the right Information and Communication Technologies and applications (ICT) for their party. Speakers: Dr Seema Shah, Programme Officer, International IDEA's Electoral Processes Programme, International IDEA Mr. Sam van der Staak, Senior Programme Manager, Wider Europe Programme International IDEA. Join us to discuss these digital democracy tools. Watch the film and talk about how these new tools are impacting political participation, accountability and transparency

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 20 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Women journalists on the frontline: experiences covering conflict and conflict-affected communities
Convenor: Delegation of Canada to the OSCE
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Women journalists have responded to various crises by reporting from the frontlines alongside their male counterparts, not only about the military activity but also about the people caught in the crossfire, about those fleeing the fighting and the strain put on host communities. In this panel, women journalists will share their experience in covering conflicts, and how conflict sensitive journalism has changed the way reporters report on war and the people affected by it. The event will be held in roundtable format at the sunlit Belvedere Room on the 1st floor of the Sofitel Hotel. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided. Continental breakfast and beverages will be served.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Discrimination of Ukrainian seafarers and OSCE standards
Convenor: Ukrainian Independent Maritime Trade Union
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The issues of discrimination of more than 100000 Ukrainian seafarers will be presented. The connected problems of total corruption and incapacity of Ukrainian authorities will be discussed, sustainable refusal of Ukrainian government to ratify the actual universal and regional human rights and maritime safety agreements such as MLC 2006 will be convicted. Issues of complex violation the seafarers` human rights by Russian government in illegally occupied Crimea and in connected maritime spaces will be presented. Potential of OSCE and other international structures for preventing, monitoring and prevention such violation also as third countries` contribution will be lighted at.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: The Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations of UN Human Rights Mechanisms of the Republic of Serbia: Lessons learned during the process of establishing mechanism
Convenor: OSCE Mission to Serbia
Working language: English

Summary: Monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in a country as well as the implementation of recommendations received from treaty bodies are key factors in ensuring the collection of data that serves as the basis for the creation of State policies and strategies pertaining to human rights. The goal of the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) is to improve the human rights situation in every country by assessing the State's human rights records and addressing infringements of human rights whenever they occur. It takes place within the UN Human Rights Council and also includes the provision of technical assistance to the State to enhance its capacity to deal effectively with human rights challenges. The Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Republic of Serbia (OHMR) bears the responsibility for reporting to UN human rights mechanisms and supervising the implementation of their recommendations. In 2014, the Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms (hereinafter the Council) was established by decision of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. This cross-sectorial body consists of representatives of the executive authority who hold the decision-making power to deal with identified deficiencies in the field of human rights protection and is led by OHMR. Independent institutions, civil society, and parliamentary committees participate in the work of the Council. At this side event, the Director of the OHMR and accompanying experts will give a presentation on the process of establishing the Council, determination of its composition and jurisdiction, its achieved results, and good practice examples.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Presentation of the 2016 ODIHR Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations and other Developments of Election Observation Methodology
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Right (Election Department)
Working language: English

Summary: The importance of follow-up to electoral recommendations has been repeatedly acknowledged by participating States. At the 1999 Istanbul Summit, for example, they committed themselves to “follow up promptly the ODIHR’s election assessment and recommendations” and recognized “the assistance the ODIHR can provide to participating State[s] in developing and implementing electoral legislation”. ODIHR has consistently sought to promote the effective follow-up of electoral recommendations, and in recent years has intensified its efforts, including the 2016 publication of the Handbook on the Follow-up of Electoral Recommendations. The Handbook, which will be presented at this side event, is designed to serve as a useful tool for participating States interested in the follow-up of electoral recommendations and as a practical guide for ODIHR in supporting states in their efforts. At the side event, ODIHR will provide additional updates on the development of its election observation methodology, including in respect of the electoral participation of persons with disabilities and the role of public security providers during elections.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Gender violence during civil armed conflicts. Example of Ukraine
Convenor: IGCP - Information Group on Crimes Against the Person
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Violence against civilians is one of the worst characteristics of civil armed conflicts. What is more, one of the most vulnerable groups for the violence is women. Violence against them is specific and it is difficult for women to apply to state services in order to obtain justice. Gender specific of violence against civilians as exemplified by the armed conflict in Ukraine will be on agenda of the round table initiated by the Information Group on Crimes against the Person (IGCP).

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Armenia: Right to Protest and State Reprisals, 2015-2016
Convenor: Open Society Foundations - Armenia
Working language: English

Summary: Armenian authorities continue to interfere with peaceful protests. Investigation of crimes is ineffective. Journalists face pressure and violence over their work. 2015 and 2016 are marked as period of unprecedented violations of human rights, ill treatment and mass arrests. On June 19, 2015, “No to Plunder” civic initiative started protest actions against the electricity price hike. On June 23, 2015, at 05:20, the police announced that the protesters’ actions are illegal and urged to leave the Baghramyan Avenue in 10 minutes. The police stood in a special arrangement (“Angels” regiment behind patrols, internal

troops round the water cannons in the middle, the Special Purpose Division /DON/ behind the cannon and 40-50 policemen in civilian clothes – some with distinctive features) and surrounded the protesters from the two sides. The water cannon directed the water flows in the direction of protesters sitting in the middle and together with the troops started to move forward. When the distance between the policemen and protesters was about 5 meters, all police units headed by internal troops attacked the protesters and tried to detain them, although the latter tried to stay in their places. Overall, 600-700 police officers participated in the operations. According to the RA Ministry of Health, 25 persons called for ambulance, 15 persons were taken to hospital with bodily injuries. Since July 17, 2016, hundreds of people were taken to the police stations and detained there for more than 8 hours. They were deprived of food, water, possibility to use the toilet. Their right to access lawyers and delivering information to the family members were violated. On July 20 and 29, 2016, the police used excessive force against the peaceful protesters. So far, after 18 days of availability of numerous facts about the abuse and violence, no public official has been charged, while the civilians taking part in peaceful protests have been arrested on charges of public mass disorder (inciting mass riots) or illegal possession of guns.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Presentation of the 2015 report of the Secretary General of COE on the situation of Human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe
Convenor: Council of Europe
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The past 12 months have seen a gear shift in Europe's security concerns. Recent terrorist attacks have sent a shockwave through our societies. Unco-ordinated responses to the migrant crisis have sustained chaos at our borders. Combined with economic uncertainty, this is creating fertile ground for nationalists and xenophobes who seek to exploit public anxiety. Such developments are posing serious problems for our shared security. This is the third annual report of the Secretary General on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The report assesses the extent to which the Council of Europe's member states are able to make the building blocks of democratic security a reality and exposes Europe's democratic shortcomings, which require immediate attention. The report also highlights pan-European trends and areas for joint action, where key recommendations have been made.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Participation of Persons with Disabilities in political and public life
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE; US. Mission to the OSCE; Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Democratization Department)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States committed in Moscow 1991 to promote and secure the rights of Persons with Disabilities, including their inclusion in the political and public life as well as in decision-making processes. More specifically, they committed to “to take steps to ensure the equal opportunity of such persons to participate fully in the life of their society (Moscow 41.2) and to “promote the appropriate participation of such persons in decision-making in fields concerning them” (Moscow 41.3). Participation of all citizens in political and public life of their societies is essential for the development of democratic societies. Yet, legal, social, economic, physical and other barriers continue to prevent many

citizens from exercising their fundamental democratic rights. This side event will mark the 25 year anniversary of the Moscow Document and take stock of the above mentioned challenges and seek to raise awareness on challenges and good practices with regards to participation of Persons with Disabilities in political and public life within the OSCE region. The side event will also allow for ODIHR to inform participants of its upcoming programmatic activities in this area, specifically the project titled “Our right to participate - promoting the participation of Persons with Disabilities in political and public life”. The side event is organized by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE and the United States Mission to the OSCE in cooperation with the OSCE/ODIHR. *The Panelists are:*

Mr. Kalle Könkkölä, Executive Director of the Threshold Association, Finland, Mr. Valery Nikitich Rukhledev, President of the All-Russian Public Society of the Deaf, Ms. Rebecca Bond, Chief of the United States Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division's Disability Rights Section

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00 – 13:30**
Venue: **1st floor, Terrace next to Belvedere room**
Title: **Opening of the exhibition: #LetsDoodle to challenge violent extremism**

Can we challenge the simplistic “us” vs. “them” thinking, often conducive to hate and violence? And how do we make the message more appealing for youth? [The OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism \(#UnitedCVE\)](#) campaign invited artists to develop a cartoon character that champions critical thinking against violent extremism. Meet Jalal Bouanani, 1st prize winner, and discover the other concepts.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 21 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: **Safeguarding freedom of the media in Turkey after the attempted coup**
Convenor: **ARTICLE 19: Global Campaign for Free Expression**
Working language: **English**

Summary: This event will bring together Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, alongside Turkish journalists and media freedom advocates (TBC) to discuss the current situation regarding freedom of the media in Turkey and to discuss the importance of safeguarding this fundamental freedom. The failure of the attempted coup in Turkey on 15 July 2016, largely thanks to demonstrations of mass support for President Erdogan’s government, demonstrated the importance that the Turkish population attaches to democracy in the country. In response to the coup, the government has invoked a state of emergency to ensure stability. This has been accompanied by mass arrests of journalists and closures of media outlets and publishers, accentuating a crackdown on freedom of expression that has been occurring in the country over the past few years. The organisers of this event believe that a free, diverse and pluralistic media is essential to guarantee Turkey’s democratic development and to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the attempted coup. The event will explore the current media situation in Turkey, and look at what needs to be done to safeguard the right to freedom of expression during the post-coup attempt period.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Promoting cooperation between the state and civil society in Ukraine
Convenor: OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Ukraine since 2013 has seen a significant period for civil-society development.

The Euromaidan protests and the current conflict have seen an unprecedented mobilization of civil society. Citizens' contributions to these events, often measured in lives lost, have also raised a clear expectation that their voice be heard across a wide range of reforms. At the same time elections and appointments have brought many activists into government at all levels. To help build on this new citizen activism, and spurred by reformers both in government and in civil society, Ukraine began implementing a new civil-society strategy in 2016, supported by the PCU. In parallel, the PCU is supporting the involvement of CSOs in providing state-funded social services, and a new law that would mandate public consultations for major decisions. The main objective of the event is to provide participants with an overview of the existing mechanisms of cooperation between the state and civil society, and discuss lessons learned for other OSCE participating States. Speakers will address opportunities and challenges and how OSCE can and does promote cooperation.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Where are we heading? Rule of law in Poland
Convenor: Professor Hołda Association
Working language: English

Summary: A coalition of watchdog organizations, including Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Institute for Law and Society (INPRIS) and Professor Hołda Association would like to invite you to a side event devoted to on-going constitutional crisis in Poland and its consequences to safeguarding the rule of law. During the side event, we would like to discuss the developments around the Constitutional Court. The origins of the crisis are connected to the adoption of the new Act on Constitutional Tribunal by the Parliament in June 2015 (it entered into force on 30 August 2015). Since autumn 2015 the independence of the Constitutional Tribunal is undermined and laws adopted by the ruling party paralyze the effectiveness of its functioning. The situation has triggered international attention, with a number of opinions prepared by the Venice Commission and the opening of the rule of law procedure by the European Commission. The new "remedial" law adopted in July 2016, raises doubts as to its constitutionality and is not in line with previous recommendations of the Venice Commission. The constitutional crisis is combined with the adoption of numerous laws, which constitutionality poses serious concerns and their effects on human rights. The increase competences of security services may affect privacy of citizens, the anti-terror law enables a serious restriction of the right of assembly and the blocking of web pages. The public media have been redesigned, with a stronger political influence on the content.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Addressing the deteriorating situation of civil society actors and human rights defenders in Europe
Convenor: Council of Europe

Working language: English

Summary: This joint Council of Europe/OHCHR event is aimed at assessing the situation of civil society and HR Defenders (examples of obstacles and good practices in overcoming it); recalling the primary responsibility of States in ensuring a safe and conducive work environment also in conformity to the obligations they undertook; and discussing the current state of interaction between civil society actors and human rights defenders on one side and regional mechanisms on the other, as well as how it can be improved.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Human Rights Compliant Assembly Policing
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Human Rights Department); Amnesty International, The Netherlands
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: ODIHR and the Dutch section of Amnesty International (AINL) are organizing this side event on human rights compliant assembly policing to discuss and present key challenges as well as good practices in this area. ODIHR, in collaboration with the Strategic Police Matters Unit of the OSCE Secretariat (SPMU), has developed a "Human Right Handbook on Policing Assemblies", which was released in March this year; AINL has developed "Guidelines for implementation of the UN Basic Principles for the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials" published in September 2015. The side event discusses the role of the police in public assemblies as an actor who can actively influence through the attitude, behavior and approach displayed, if an assembly proceeds in a smooth and peaceful way or if it ends up in disorder, violence and the police resorting to force. Experience and lessons learned will be shared in order to highlight that a carefully planned and facilitative approach based on communication, dialogue, de-escalation and peaceful settlements of conflicts is crucial to ensure assemblies remain peaceful; pointing on the other hand at situations in which a repressive and heavy handed policing approach will lead to the opposite: exacerbation of problems, escalation of tension and - in the end - violence. The Handbook is an important tool in this regard for law enforcement officials and commanders with key information on upholding human rights standards in the context of assemblies and public order management. The AINL Use-of-Force-Guidelines provide clear recommendations for authorities not only on the use of force, but more importantly, on how to avoid situations in which the use of force is needed, which is particularly relevant in the context of assemblies. The event will be opened by Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Tajikistan's Human Rights Crisis
Convenor: Human Rights Watch, Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working language: English

Summary: Description: This event will feature a discussion on responses to Tajikistan's political crackdown and the premiere of a film about Tajikistan's human rights crisis. The speakers will provide fresh perspectives and field research about Tajikistan's current crisis. They will also offer recommendations for policy responses by the U.S. government, EU, and other international partners. The round table will be led by representatives of Tajikistan's embattled civil society as well as experts on the human rights, political, and religious context.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination of Trans People
Convenor: C.O.C. - Cultuur en Ontspannings Centrum (Centre for Culture and Leisure)
Working language: English

Summary: The OSCE has many important commitments in combating any form of intolerance, discrimination, and bias based violence. Gender equality and trans rights are still infringed upon across the OSCE region. Despite increasing attention to trans people's situation, as illustrated by the recently adopted historic Transgender Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and numerous positive trans-specific policy developments, which have implemented the principle of self-determination in legal gender recognition and eliminated the sterilization requirement, trans people are still disproportionately affected by discrimination, hate crimes, hate speech and violence in Europe. In the past years the extent of violence against the community is reported to be on the rise. During this side event trans human rights defenders will showcase the increasingly hardships trans people are facing. Speakers will look at the mandate and role of the OSCE executive structures and its participating States to carry out their important responsibility to protect each and every citizen without making any distinction. This side event serves as an opportunity to collect and share good experiences, and to discuss practical policy recommendations that can be taken towards enhancing tolerance and non-discrimination of trans people.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Protecting Space for Civil Society: A Key to the OSCE Comprehensive Security Concept
Convenor: Swisspeace (Swiss Peace Foundation), Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, International Youth Human Rights Movement, International Partnership for Human Rights, Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Public Verdict Foundation, Human Rights First, Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law
Working language: English

Summary: At this briefing members of the Civic Solidarity Platform will present results of their expert workshop on "Shrinking Space for Civil Society and the Protection of Human Rights Defenders" held in May 2016, including recommendations to OSCE participating States, political bodies and institutions. Backlash against civil society has accelerated in many OSCE participating States – both East and West of Vienna. Increasing restrictions on freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, and expression as well as growing threats to the security of civic activists and the right for fair trial have a hugely negative impact on the space for civil society. In the past year, attempts have been made to further toughen legislation on NGOs and intensify

repressive practices, particularly in the context of the “foreign agents” and similar laws. Other new alarming trends occur in the light of populist autocratic developments as well as under the pretext of fighting terrorism and transnational threats. The issue of shrinking space for civil society has numerous implications for the OSCE comprehensive security concept. This is why it should be a subject of concern and common action. The inability of civil society to operate freely does not only undermine democratic public participation but the very ability of OSCE to work effectively. The implementation of recently adopted Guidelines on Freedom of Association and on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders should be put high on the OSCE agenda.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Is normal life in Donbas possible? The situation of civilians in the conflict zone in Ukraine
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Deutsch-Russischer Austausch e. V.
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Since 2014, the “Justice for Peace in Donbas” Coalition has documented human rights violations in the military conflict in the east of Ukraine and the conflict’s impact on the lives of civilians. In 2016, the Coalition members have conducted a number of monitoring missions, including in partnerships with organizations from Belarus, Germany, Poland and Russia. They have gathered ample evidence and countless victim testimonies which paint a gruesome picture of the lives in the conflict zone. The side event will be a chance to comprehensively discuss the situation of civilians in the east of Ukraine, including from the perspective of humanitarian law. NGO representatives will present preliminary results from human rights monitoring in the occupied territories of Donbas concerning, among others, the situation of children. As the evidence shows, children in Donbas are engaged in military formations and serve as soldiers, spies or guards. They undergo military training in special camps some of which are situated in the territory of the Russian Federation. The panellists will also discuss state policy on social rights of people living in the occupied territory and of internally displaced persons, summarising the results of monitoring and advocacy efforts in relation to social protection. Last but not least, coalition representatives will also talk about the scale of destructions caused by bombardments in the conflict zone, attempts to rebuild destroyed areas and victims’ perspectives for redress. They will closely analyse the application of internationally prohibited warfare methods to and attacks on civilian healthcare institutions and the subsequent use of those institutions for military purposes. Concrete cases will be presented to illustrate the range of humanitarian law violations encountered in the region. To say that war irreversibly changes lives of people in the conflict area is, of course, a truism. After all everyone knows that war means tragedy, death and destruction. Everyone knows that, yet for many, including those who make the most important decisions, it is a remote abstraction whose extent they cannot fully grasp. It is, therefore, all the more important to see what civil society contributes to peace building today and to listen to the accounts of those who document the horrors of war and its impact on civilian population.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**

Title: Crackdown on Independent Media in Russia: How the Kremlin Is Taking over Newsrooms
Convenor: Freedom House, Washington Office
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: While Russian state-sponsored media continued to press government-approved narratives abroad, the status of media freedom inside Russia has been steadily deteriorating. Over the last five years, the government has intensified pressure against independent press, through state ownership, restrictions on foreign investments in media, legislative restrictions on free speech, including high fines and regulations that encourage self-censorship, and by interfering in editorial policies and processes, complete with full dismantling of editorial boards. These moves indicate a clear pattern of silencing independent voices and driving domestic media outlets to the edge of irrelevance. This event will analyze the current state of Russia's independent media, examining the implications of the multi-layered crackdown on media freedom in Russia and its effects on domestic audiences, and will share experiences and lessons learned from media, civil society and the international community. The speakers, coming from media, civil society and international institutions, will discuss current challenges and recommendations for media organizations, the OSCE and the Participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Turkmenistan: The Imitation Game while Enforced Disappearances Continue Unabated.
Convenor: Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights; Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights; Human Rights Watch; Human Rights Centre "Memorial"; Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working language: English

Summary: Recently, Turkmenistan's authorities have significantly increased their engagement with international organisations and Western governments. In order to respond to international criticism and facilitate much-needed economic cooperation, Turkmen authorities have been forced to declare their commitment to international cooperation on human rights. However, recent steps taken by the Turkmen government that are flagged as "modest progress," are either empty declarations lacking any real improvements, or, worse, are repressive laws and policies. Promises by the Turkmen authorities to address human rights problems amount to empty rhetoric designed to impress Western interlocutors at a time when the government is in dire need of foreign economic and security assistance. In reality, the country is regressing into a full-fledged dictatorship. Enforced disappearances in prisons, widespread torture, travel bans, and other forms of retaliation against perceived critics and their families continue unabated. Civic activists and dissidents inside and outside of the country face increasing persecution. The government plans to adopt amendments to the Constitution, which amount to a legal framework for an usurpation of power for lifelong rule by President Berdymukhamedov. It is essential for the international community to prioritise progress in human rights in its cooperation with Turkmenistan. At the side event, the "Prove They Are Alive!" campaign will present new materials on the situation in prisons and the travel bans, and make recommendations to OSCE, including benchmarks for assessing the Turkmen authorities' specific steps in addressing human rights issues.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Voices from the field: Central Asia 25 years after independence. Assessing human rights performance in a troubled region.
Convenor: Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law; International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This year, it has been 25 years since the Central Asian states gained independence. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, these countries embarked on a transition process, with great hopes for what it would bring in terms of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights. However, the transition path has proved to be far from as easy as imagined at the time and the current overall trend with respect to the protection of fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, association and assembly is a downward one. While the civil society climate remains extremely repressive in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the situation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has recently deteriorated, with arguments about national security being exploited to stifle free speech, curtail political opposition, limit space for independent civil society and go after those who stand up for justice, rule of law and accountability. This side event will provide an opportunity for civil society voices from across Central Asia to share their first-hand impressions of current human rights challenges in the region, assess the human rights performance of their authorities and discuss opportunities and strategies for how to counter the current downward trend. There will also be time for discussion and open questions. The side event will be organized by Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, together with International Partnership for Human Rights and other partners. It will be held in English and Russian. Welcome!

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 22 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Rule of law, human rights and security in Turkey
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working languages: English

Summary: The side event will feature presentations by civil society human rights NGOs on recent developments in attacks on and defence of rule of law, human rights and security in Turkey. Think of the recent coup attempt, the armed conflict in the East of the country, bomb attacks, the arrival of millions of refugees, large scale arrests of people exercising official or semi-official positions, the persecution of media. Discussion will focus on how the international community can assist the maintenance and promotion of human dimension standards in the country.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: The role of cultural policy in conflict escalation
Convenor: "Historical Memory" Foundation

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Comprehension of cultural heritage and historical memory is a result of sophisticated counteraction of the society, experts and state policy. However, the 'policy of memory' often becomes not an instrument to understand and prevent tragedies of the past but a way to escalate social conflicts. What measures can be taken by social organisations to prevent the use of historical memory for destructive goals? This matter will be discussed at the round table organised by Historical Memory Foundation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: “Donbas: Surviving Hell” – Documentary evidences of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, torture and gender-conditioned violence.
Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Members of the “Justice for Peace in Donbas” Coalition have been documenting evidence of serious human rights violations in the area of armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine for three years. As a result of monitoring missions, they collected thousands of testimonies of people illegally kept in captivity by local pro-Russian armed groups. The stories of former captives form a clear picture of the work of an organized system of kidnapping and torture of civilians in the occupied territories. Currently, there are more than 3 million people living in the "gray zone" of occupied Donbass. The people are deprived of enough legal remedy from this illegal practice. During the side-event, Ukrainian human rights defenders will talk about the practice of illegal detention, torture, extrajudicial executions, sexual and gender-based violence, in particular against the members of the LGBTI community in non-control Ukrainian government territory as well as talk about legal defense of victims of these extraordinary human rights violations. Presented data and living examples will demonstrate what the lives of people turned into hell on the occupied territories and show the depth of the crisis regarding international human rights principles in Eastern Ukraine where military conflict continues.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Human Rights in Uzbekistan after Karimov
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The situation for civil society in Uzbekistan shows no signs of improving - most independent human rights NGOs continue to operate on an informal basis due to the lack of opportunities to obtain mandatory registration. Legislation adopted over the last two years has further tightened restrictions on NGO activities. Freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly continue to be curtailed and harassment of human rights activists, independent journalists and government critics continues, including through surveillance, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment, and prosecutions in retaliation for their work. In April 2016 amendments were introduced to the Criminal Code providing for harsher penalties for

those found guilty of participating in, financing or supporting the activities of banned religious organizations or distributing banned literature, including through social media networks. However, details of which groups and literature are banned in Uzbekistan are not publicly available, leading to a situation of arbitrary law enforcement which can be open to political manipulation and used to silence those who criticise the authorities. Uzbekistan has no independent monitoring mechanism for all places of detention and the authorities have refused to open their country to effective and independent international human rights scrutiny. The lack of independent monitoring in agriculture also leads to concern over forced labour and modern forms of slavery. This side event will also explore how endemic corruption in Uzbekistan affects human rights and the group will formulate joint recommendations to the OSCE participating states and the international community on how to achieve improved human rights protection in Uzbekistan.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Ever-shrinking civic space in Azerbaijan
Convenor: Amnesty International; International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR); Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety; International Media Support
Working language: English

Summary: Azerbaijani authorities have consistently failed to respect their international obligations to protect the rights to freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Dissenting voices in the country frequently face trumped-up criminal charges, physical assault, harassment, blackmail and other reprisals from the authorities and groups associated with them.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Women, Peace and Security: Lessons from the Frontline
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: A panel of distinguished speakers from across the OSCE region and beyond- and from a wide range of backgrounds including government, NGO's and international organizations- will present practical examples of how UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2242 can be implemented in the OSCE region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Human Rights in prisons and other closed institutions in Georgia
Convenor: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia
Working language: English

Summary: The side event aims at providing information on the process of reforms undertaken by Georgia in recent years. It will also serve as a useful platform for exchange of information and best practices. The event will bring together representatives of the relevant Georgian government institutions, international experts from institutions dealing with different aspects related to penitential system.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: INTERPOL's reform and rights of victims of politically motivated extradition requests: steps forward and emergence of new threats
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation, Center for Civil Liberties
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Starting from 2015, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), widely criticized for being instrumentally misused by the authoritarian regimes, opened up for civil society's recommendations and begun adopting policies of protecting persons who obtained asylum from automatism of Red Notice procedure. Recent months also brought signals that credible information on political background of the extradition requests are being treated with greater care, and number of persons who had long been at risk of being rendered to respective regimes, including executives of the former Yukos Oil Company, were deleted from the Interpol records. However, new cases and new dangerous trends emerge: Azerbaijan widely uses the INTERPOL-related schemes to persecute a wide circle of persons critical to its authorities. Russia attempts to obtain extradition of a whistle-blower, Nail Malyutin. Some old cases, positively resolved by the national judiciary of the host countries in the past, are being rebranded by the demanding regimes in order to find new rationale for extraditions (e.g. case of Tatyana Paraskevich in the Czech Republic). Questions arise about efficiency of the INTERPOL procedures in arresting perpetrators of crimes by the separatist forces/authorities in parts of Ukraine. With Turkey invigorating attempts to reach the alleged opponents of the government abroad, the Interpol, UNHCR, national law-enforcement and justice systems must proactively anticipate likely expansion of the misuse of INTERPOL in the near future, cement recent achievements and continue the reforming drive.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Parliamentary elections in Belarus: assessment from domestic observers and the impact on the development of the EU-Belarus human rights dialogue
Convenor: Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus; Legal Transformation Center; Belarusian Human Rights House
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Representatives of the civil society organizations will share information on the current civil, political and human rights situation in Belarus and the impact the 11 September parliamentary elections have on it. Two of the largest domestic election observation groups, "Human Rights Defenders for Free Elections" and "Right to Choose-2016", will give an overview of the election observation preliminary results, including the voting and vote count, and voice recommendations on improving the electoral legislation and practice. Since late 2015, the Belarusian authorities have been taking steps toward establishing closer relations with the EU and UE; the Belarus-EU human rights dialogue has been resumed during the side event,

representatives of human rights organizations will speak of ways in which they seek to contribute to the dialogue to ensure that it brings result and how the dialogue may be affected by the elections and other aspects of political life in Belarus. The human rights defenders will also share information about new forms of repressions in Belarus against the background of the seemingly improving situation: e.g. since the beginning of the year, activists have paid over 60,000 EUR in fines for participation in peaceful demonstrations. Miklos Haraszi (TBC), the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, whose mandate has been extended for one more year in June 2016, will share his opinion of the current human rights situation and prospects for its development in the coming months.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: A measure of last resort? Tackling the excessive and abusive use of pre-trial detention in the OSCE region
Convenor: Fair Trials
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The excessive and abusive use of pre-trial detention across the OSCE region is increasingly recognised as a human rights issue with an impact on the fairness of criminal justice systems, democratic participation, economic development, and the lives of those detained and their families. Human rights organizations across the OSCE region have observed that pre-trial detention is regularly ordered beyond the legally-permissible grounds, is disproportionately ordered in cases involving foreign nationals, and has been used as a strategic weapon to achieve unlawful objectives, such as to coerce a confession, punish a defendant when a sentence is not assured, extort bribes, pressure detainees to sell businesses, neutralize political opposition, or intimidate or silence civil society or other critical voices. During this event, representatives from international and domestic organisations will draw on recent research findings and case examples to examine the causes and impacts of the excessive use of pre-trial detention and to highlight the urgent need for reform.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Problem of refugees: xenophobia and the language of hostilities in Europe
Convenor: Interregional Social Movement "For Democracy and Human Rights"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: People fleeing from armed conflicts in their countries and seeking for a shelter in more stable states of the European Union face disapproval and xenophobia more and more often. A sharp increase in the number of refugees from Syria and other countries of the Middle East crisis features typical for the modern Europe. Methods of counteraction to common and political smear campaign against refugees will be discussed at the round table arranged by interregional social movement For Democracy and Human Rights. 3) The role of cultural policy in conflict escalation

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**

Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Increasing assault on fundamental rights in Russia
Convenor: Foundation "For Environmental and Social Justice"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: During 2016 the situation with human rights in Russia changed dramatically.

There were adopted number of repressive laws; violations of human rights became every day practice of Russian authorities; now we have dozens of politically motivated cases in frames of which people arrested or already sentenced to years of prison. Why representatives of Russian civil society think that Russia is on the edge of catastrophe? How many activists and NGOs are under attack? Which new repressive laws will be adopted in next month? Our side event will try to give the answers.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: The protection of human rights in preventing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Human Rights Department)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The international community has for long acknowledged the key role of human rights in the anti-terrorism context, considering that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives. There is also a growing international consensus that terrorism cannot be solely addressed through security-based measures but requires a comprehensive approach. In particular, the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters have been given increased attention at the international and regional level. A particular focus has been put on the vital role that communities and civil society organizations, including victims, women and youth organizations can play in this context. In 2014 and 2015, the OSCE participating States have adopted Ministerial Council Declarations focusing on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and the prevention of VERLT, respectively. In both Declarations, they have reiterated their long-standing commitments to take measures to counter terrorism, including specific policies on VERLT and foreign terrorist fighters, in compliance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. Yet, efforts to prevent VERLT and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters raise a number of human rights concerns in the OSCE region. This side-event will explore such concerns, highlighting the counter-productive impact of measures that are contrary to international human rights standards. It will also serve to discuss the role of communities and civil society organizations in preventing VERLT and conditions for their involvement.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 23 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**

Title: Measuring the Rule of Law: Translating the power and potential of regional and international indicators into local advocacy for justice reform
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Democratization Department)

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This side event will explore key themes in the development, implementation and use of regional and global rule of law indicators. Expert panelists from diverse backgrounds and perspectives will consider how these indicators are used across the OSCE region in national contexts to support and inform advocacy and justice reform efforts. Discussion will include an examination of indicators' methodology, the role of civil society, gender equality and mainstreaming, good practices, and other trends and developments.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Safeguards to prevent torture and other ill-treatment during police custody and pretrial detention
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and the International Organizations; Embassy & Permanent Mission of Denmark

Working language: English

Summary: OSCE participating States have strongly condemned torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, repeatedly stressing that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever may be invoked as a justification of torture. Preventing and eliminating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the OSCE region remains a challenge despite positive steps taken by participating States and the persistent efforts of civil society organizations, human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms and centers for rehabilitation of victims of torture. Procedural safeguards and due process guarantees are central in preventing torture and other ill-treatment, particularly during early stages of police custody and pre-trial detention. On 24 March 2016, the UN Human Rights Council adopted resolution 31/31 on safeguards to prevent torture during police custody and pre-trial detention, urging states to adopt, implement and comply fully with legal and procedural safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment and to ensure that the judiciary, and where relevant the prosecution, can effectively ensure compliance with such safeguards. In addition to that, the regular inspection of places of detention remains the most effective preventive measures against torture and other ill-treatment. In this context, the ratification of the OPCAT and the creation of independent national bodies to carry out unannounced visits to all places of detention certainly constitute an effective measure to prevent torture and other ill-treatment. The side event shall provide an opportunity to sensitizing OSCE participating States to the important role that procedural and substantive safeguards play in the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment during police custody and pre-trial detention. The side event will also provide a platform to discuss practical challenges and best practices among OSCE participating States and highlight the role that the OSCE can play with regards to strengthening the prevention of torture in the OSCE region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**

Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: “Human rights in zone of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine (controlled and non-controlled by Ukrainian government territories)”
Convenor: Kharkiv Human Rights Group
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Representatives of Ukrainian and Russian NGOs realized four monitoring visits to the Donetsk and Luhansk regions on the East of Ukraine. They visited cities, towns and villages on controlled and non-controlled by Ukrainian government territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, studied and compared the life conditions of local population on the territories affected by war, noticed the main threats and difficulties that local population faced with – shelling, destruction of residential and office space, respect of basic human rights on these territories - social benefits, health care, the possibility to have pre-school and school education. The presented report contains the detailed description of the positive and negative examples of the respect of basic human rights on the visited territories in the area of military conflict and formulates the recommendations to all sides, responsible for overcoming the consequences of the conflict.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Promoting Citizen-centered Democracy and Accountability Assessments
Convenor: International IDEA
Working language: English

Summary: The role of citizens is fundamental for the continual improvement of democratic institutions and their performance, and as such for democracy as a whole. Consequently, efforts to build democracy and engage in genuine social transformation require mechanisms to capture and structure citizens’ perspectives, aspirations and visions of their democracies. International IDEA’s State of (Local) democracy assessments frameworks are designed to support citizens to assess the quality of their democracy and define priority areas for democratic reforms. In democracies, people expect their governments to deliver public services in an efficient manner in a way that meets their needs and recognizes their human rights. People expect to be able to raise their concerns and to be listened to. International IDEA’s Democratic Accountability in Service Delivery Guide enables its users to assess the degree to which public service delivery is subject to democratic accountability checks and, based on that knowledge, identify areas of concrete action for improvement. At this side event International IDEA will present both of these assessment frameworks alongside examples of the implementation of State of (Local) Democracy and Democratic Accountability in Service Delivery frameworks, drawing comparative experiences and lessons. .

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: State of Law against Coup D’état
Convenor: DAF- World Justice Forum
Working languages: English, French, Turkish

Summary: Law system, which are made up to bring justice and security to the social life around the world is an important matter for all individuals. Law systems are also the basic need of peace and order in daily life of society. So, the law systems should be effective against the actions that bring disturbance to the common values of a nation besides protecting individuals' rights and freedoms. Throughout the history, there have been powerful groups to try to overtake the law system and want to use it for their own purposes. We, the World Justice Forum, want to discuss and find solutions to the interferences around the world keeping in mind that justice is the fundamental element of state of law. Turkey, in which we have our organization center, is maybe the country attempted to interfere most times. It is also the closest country to Europe with such situation. We want to emphasize the importance and necessity of State of Law and the Rule of Law by giving various examples that were lived around the world. In this one hour side event, three different speakers will discuss subjects such as "Attack on the Law System" and "Coups, DETAT and Democracy" and offer solutions to the problems.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: IRZ panel discussion: Legal and Judicial Reforms in OSCE participating States and German support
Convenor: German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ)
Working languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: It is intended to carry out a panel discussion in which the work of the IRZ in the context of legal and judicial reforms in the partner countries will be presented. The discussion will last 90 minutes in total. The following subtopics are considered to be discussed: 1. Independence of the judiciary 2. Administrative jurisdiction 3. Legal aid 4. Human rights Representatives from Ukraine, Moldavia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and other countries will report about the cooperation with the IRZ and their experience with the reforms.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Regional anti-torture initiatives by Central Asian governments
Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: At this side event representatives of the NGO Coalitions against Torture in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will present and focus on key anti-torture measures some Central Asian governments have pioneered in recent years. These efforts can and should provide examples for the other countries in this region as well as for other OSCE participating states where torture remains a difficult challenge. The NGOs will also discuss how to avoid and to adequately address the remaining shortcomings that have tainted some of the positive moves. On many occasions Central Asian governments have argued that they were unable to implement certain recommendations made by UN human rights bodies and other international human rights bodies due to financial limitations, because they found it was too "early" for their countries to do so, or for other reasons. At the same time each of the three states has pioneered a number of positive steps in recent years demonstrating that such improvements are feasible in Central Asia today. For example, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan ratified the OPCAT and set up national preventive mechanisms; Kazakhstan and Tajikistan passed legislation strengthening safeguards against torture in detention; and civil courts in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have awarded compensation for moral harm to several victims of torture or their bereaved families. Further steps are needed, of course, to end the vicious circle of torture and impunity in Central Asia. From January 2015 to the end of June 2016 the NGO Coalitions registered 241, 132 and 82 credible allegations of torture or ill-treatment in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

respectively. At this side event the human rights defenders will also discuss how to rectify the shortcomings associated with some of the positive moves mentioned above. For example, Kazakhstan's NPM lacks full independence; detainees in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are often in practice not given access to the basic safeguards that they are entitled to by law; and in the cases where courts in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have granted individuals compensation for moral harm sustained through torture the amounts have been neither fair nor adequate.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:00-14:45
Venue: Meeting Room 1
Title: The post-Soviet Judiciary: a tool for administration of justice or a tool of oppression? Lack of independence of the judiciary and prosecution of HRDs in the Eastern part of the OSCE area
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Netherlands Helsinki Committee, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of FIDH and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), together with partner organizations, would like to invite you to the side event devoted to the role of the judiciary in the Eastern part of the OSCE area. A well-functioning judiciary may be a grantor of human rights protection, acting as a shield for potential abuses by the executive power. However, the judiciary may also become a tool of human rights oppression, if there are insufficient independence guarantees. The justice system can be easily used to silence dissident voices. Belarus was one of the first post-soviet countries to pass its repressive legislative arsenal - that is still in force - and to strip its judiciary and lawyers of independence in order to close down human rights organisations and to prosecute activists for their work. The recent and ongoing civil society crackdown in Azerbaijan demonstrated the dangers of political instrumentalisation of prosecutors and judges in silencing human rights defenders. In Kazakhstan, the dire situation of civil society has deteriorated in 2016, with a sharp increase of the number of cases brought against independent activists. In Russia, more than thirty new laws severely restrict all forms of participation in public life. "Foreign agents" law resulted in closure, liquidation and - recently - in criminal prosecution of human rights organisations. Activists risk prison for acts such as unauthorized single-person pickets. In Kyrgyzstan, although the law on "foreign agents" was eventually not adopted, the initiative to amend the country's Constitution by replacing commitments to universal human rights with the so-called national values may result in a wave of prosecution of human rights activists. Finally, in Uzbekistan, the judiciary is executive's arm to harass and imprison human rights defenders. Once imprisoned, activists are rarely released after serving their term: they are being systematically charged with violation of prison rules, tried in a closed prison trial and maintained in prison for indefinite periods. The event will zoom in on accountability of countries failing to abide by the principles of the rule of law.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:30
Venue: Plenary Hall
Title: 'Hostages of the Kremlin': increase of the number of Ukrainian political prisoners in the Russian Federation and the illegally occupied Crimea
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation, Center for Civil Liberties
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Thanks to the continued pressure, the international community was able to secure the release of Nadiya Savchenko, one of the most renowned Ukrainian political prisoners in the Russian Federation. Two other 'hostages of the Kremlin', Yuriy Soloshenko and Gennadiy Afanasyev, were also recently released in an exchange procedure. However, the number of Ukrainian citizens who face politically motivated criminal prosecution in the Russian Federation and the illegally annexed Crimea has only increased over the last year. The side-event aims to present and discuss the cases of more than 30 Ukrainians who are currently unlawfully kept behind bars. The former victims of the Russian regime and human rights defenders from the EU and the Russian Federation will try to find answers on the following questions, who is a 'hostage of the Kremlin'? How to stop the increase of the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation and Crimea? What is the situation of Russian citizens who protest against the ongoing conflict in Ukraine? Moreover, the side-event will draw particular attention to the difficult situation in the illegally occupied Crimea, where, under the guise of fighting terrorism, the Russian Federation pursues the most socially active Crimean Tatars. Thus, Russian propaganda creates the image of the Muslim Tatar people as an ethnic minority, prone to extremism.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Human right violation in Tajikistan
Convenor: Eurasian Dialogue
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Tajikistan's human rights record has deteriorated dramatically in the last three years, as the authorities banned the country's leading opposition party, the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) in last September. Tajikistan's human rights record continues to deteriorate amid an ongoing crack down on freedom of expression and political opposition and pressure on the independent media. Authorities' use of torture to obtain confessions remains a serious concern. the government blocked various websites, considered introducing a new law that would require NGOs to register all sources of funding from foreign sources, subjected human rights groups to harassment, restricted media freedoms, and continued to enforce serious restrictions on religious practice, as it had in previous years.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Freedom of speech and situation of journalists in Crimea
Convenor: Human Rights Information Center
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Human Rights Information Centre invites all interested parties to participate in a discussion about the freedom of speech and situation with journalists in Crimea. The repressions against journalists in the Crimean peninsula are continuing. Russian authorities block independent media outlets, open criminal cases against Crimean journalists and attempt to limit freedom of expression in other ways. What is the current situation with media freedom in Crimea? How to protect Crimean journalists? The side event will look for answers to these questions. Participants will also discuss the problems with the access of foreign journalists to Crimea. Participants: Tetiana Pechonchyk, the head of the Human Rights Information Centre;

Alexander Popkov, a lawyer for the repressed Crimean journalist Mykola Semena; Yuriy Lukanov, Ukrainian journalist and media expert. Crimean journalists will take part in the event.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Electoral Authoritarianism in the OSCE Region - the Example of the Russian Federation
Convenor: European Platform for Democratic Elections
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Political science describes electoral authoritarianism as a sort of authoritarian regime where elections are organised but incumbents always win. "Ruling elites in electoral autocracies use repressive acts, fraudulent manipulation, abuse of state resources and restrictions on party competition to deter rival leaders, reduce domestic threats, and deflect international pressure." (P.Norris) The State Duma and the Presidential elections in the Russian Federation served as examples for international scientific analysis of the phenomenon of electoral authoritarianism in the past years. The Russian regime steadily fulfilled the main criteria of electoral authoritarianism - "to hold regular, broadly inclusive elections, but they are subject to severe state manipulation and systematically violate liberal democratic principles of freedom and fairness." (A. Schedler) The given side event gives room for discussion whether the State Duma elections of September 18th 2016 again confirm this classification or whether a positive development towards more integrity, inclusiveness and transparency of the election process can be noticed. Based on the first preliminary findings of international and domestic citizens' observation international experts and civil society activists will present their assessment of the quality of the past State Duma elections. The discussion will also provide an oversight over different mission reports produced during the State Duma elections thereby trying to classify their assessment according to their methodological approach.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: The negative dynamics of torture and ill treatment in the OSCE region and need of effective countermeasures
Convenor: International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Working language: English

Summary: Torture continues to be among the most serious problem in many OSCE participating States. In some countries and regions, torture is widespread and is a systemic issue that comes with impunity. Prosecution rates against perpetrators are shamefully low. Even where there are bona fide attempts at prosecution, these are often undermined by the lack of adequate safeguards and by corrupt, obstructive and nontransparent investigative mechanisms. Civil society actors believe that OSCE participating States and institutions should do much more to address this major problem. Civil society actors also believe that special attention should be paid to identifying ways to include the issue of enforced disappearances in OSCE work. It is important also to mention that there is certainly a negative dynamics of torture as it becomes more and more widespread and more countries with relatively better record on human rights also resort to torture more often. The impunity of torture perpetrators has become a daily routine and in cases of police officers in some countries no punishment for torture was ever recorded (Armenia). It is important also to assess the role of the OSCE and its institutions in supporting police force in the countries where torture by police is increasing. There is a pressing need for the OSCE to closely monitor

and assess the police assistance programmes implemented so far as in many cases police assistance programmes equipped police with modern gear, but not enough respect for human rights as there are more and more examples of appalling police brutalities in those countries. During the side-event representatives of Civic Solidarity Platform's members will report on situation with prevention of torture in their respected countries and measures which should be taken to eliminate this problem effectively in the OSCE region. 5 speakers from Russia, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan will be on the panel of the side event. Snacks and drinks will be provided

Refreshments will be provided

Monday, 26 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Ukraine: Hate speech and Hate crimes against religious groups. The rights of minorities and indigenous peoples to freedom of belief. The rights of religious organizations and canon law
Convenor: NGO Public Advocacy
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: During the period of 2014-2015 lawyers and observers of the NGO «Public Advocacy» conducted monitoring of human rights and freedoms in the religious sphere in Ternopil, Rivne, Volyn, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv regions, and in Transcarpathia. In all of these regions there were revealed violations of the rights of religious organizations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The event will discuss problems of relations of religious groups, the state and society in Ukraine. The event will feature reports from human rights organizations, media and other materials on the topic.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: The consequences of Islamophobic discourse in the European political parties
Convenor: European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion - EMISCO
Working language: English

Summary: The unprecedented influence of xenophobic and Islamophobic parties reflects a major normalisation of Islamophobia that runs deep into mainstream society and politics. It is very easy to notice how extreme views of Islam, originally associated with the far and the radical right, have been increasingly co-opted by liberal and conservative mainstream parties, largely normalised in everyday discourse, and absorbed into policies of European governments over the past two decades. The hate-mongering politicians of the radical right are apparently succeeding in swapping a racist agenda for an Islamophobic one; but it mainstream politicians, intellectuals, and media who have smoothed the way for anti-Muslim bigotry to move closer to the mainstream. With political trust at an all-time low, some mainstream politicians are taking advantage of voter apathy in national and local politics to advance their own cause. Islamophobia thus has become a successful political tool to mobilize the masses. The construction of the Muslim other has become a useful tool to distract from own failures and to justify miseries elsewhere. That is why, EMISCO, in partnership with the European Forum of Muslim Women, the Institute for Islamic Strategic Affairs, ThinkOut and the Centre for

cross-cultural communication is focusing on the issue of political Islamophobia that is on the increase and is more dangerous than the far right anti-Islam movements. We wish to highlight the prevailing anti-Islam discourse and bring to the attention of OSCE member states the fact that there are progressive political leaders who want to confront their colleagues, both in private meetings and in OSCE summits. All they need is support and encouragement from OSCE institutions and Chairmanship. EMISCO believes that Islamophobia as a political tool is more dangerous than any other narrative because in the hands of powerful politicians, it is becoming a norm and thus a big hindrance in the way of normal minority-majority co-existence.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Excluded from the “mainstream”: Rapid assessment of the state of LGBTI rights across Eurasia
Convenor: Amnesty International
Working language: English

Summary: A Campaigner and a researcher from Amnesty International’s Eurasia programme visited Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to make a rapid assessment of the current state of the LGBTI rights movements in these four countries. They will present the findings from their visits.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: **#StopTheHate**
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department)
Working language: English

Summary: #StopTheHate is an opportunity to share a lunch and discover the latest developments by intergovernmental organizations on their work to address hate crime. ODIHR, ECRI, FRA and the European Commission will provide attendees with an update on their work to address hate crime including: - Interim findings of ODIHR’s hate crime reporting for 2015 and hate crime updates - The joint work of ODIHR, ECRI, the European Commission and FRA to create complimentary strategies to address hate crime, by FRA - Newest products on HC from: o ECRI - key findings of Seminar on ‘the role of national Specialized Bodies in addressing underreporting’, country visits; o FRA - last report on ensuring justice for hate crime victims; o European commission - updates on the high level working group, HC projects granted; o ODIHR’s work on tolerance and non-discrimination in 2015 and looking forward to 2016: upcoming ODIHR programmes and initiatives on tolerance and non-discrimination including work on hate crime data collection, innovations to the hate crime reporting website.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Pansexual Humanism: The UK’s new State Orthodoxy –countering the intolerance.
Convenor: Core Issues Trust

Working languages: English

Summary: In advocating tolerance western states are becoming increasingly intolerant of Christian values in both the public space and private domain. Religion itself has become the frontier for subversion and state-sanctioned ideology, view-point discrimination and values-neutrality the norm. Behind this so called secular drive is a clear return to Europe's ancient natural paganism and the rejection of its transcendent Christian foundations. This session offers an analysis of pansexual humanism and how the ideology is progressing through state support in the United Kingdom with specific reference to mental health, education and the judiciary. How might the faithful, and those unsupportive of this world view respond to this secular inversion of cherished, tried and tested values, and how ought they to model tolerance?

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Refugee crisis: a Key OSCE Matter
Convenor: UNITED for Intercultural Action
Working language: English

Summary: Refugee Crisis: A Key OSCE Matter Briefing by the Civic Solidarity Platform It has been called by many names: a crisis of policies, a crisis of human values, a crisis of European values. Whatever the wording and whatever the root causes, the so-called refugee crisis has grown into a crisis that has deeply divided societies. Experts from 30 civil society organisations as well as from OSCE bodies and institutions met in Berlin on 22 and 23 February 2016 for an expert workshop organised by the Civic Solidarity Platform with support of the German OSCE Chairmanship to discuss the role of the OSCE in responding to the current increase of the numbers of refugees/ migrants. The results of the workshop, including recommendations to OSCE participating States, political bodies, and institutions, as well as the current state of affairs and an outlook to 2017 and beyond will be presented at this side-event at HDIM-2016. A key conclusion from the workshop was that the situation of refugees and migrants is not just an issue of the European Union, but should rather be dealt with on a wider regional scale, including all OSCE participating States and partner states. Indeed, the OSCE has discussed migration in many of its bodies in the past months. Another key conclusion of the workshop was that the protection of fundamental human rights of all individuals should be the main guiding principle in the response(s) to the challenges of the current movements of people through the OSCE region. This equally applies to the situation of people while they are on the move, presenting themselves at and passing borders, and to their reception in countries of arrival. The issue of migration is a complex, multi-layered and inter-dimensional one. It is also a key OSCE matter that tests a number of OSCE principles and commitments. OSCE has adopted many recommendations and commitments on different aspects of migration but little has been done lately on the practical level. This problem will be discussed in this side event as well.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: The role of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the institutionalization of Islam in the Member states of EU
Convenor: Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Working languages: Bosnian, English, German, Italian

Summary: The Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the sole and unique community of Muslims living in Bosnia and Herzegovina, of Bosniaks living outside their homeland and other Muslims who accept this community as their own. The Meshihat of the Islamic Community of Sandžak, the Meshihat of the Islamic Community of Croatia and the Meshihat of the Islamic Community of Slovenia are all constituents of the Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other than that, in most countries of Western Europe Bosniaks have founded Islamic centers which are also under the umbrella of Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina has long experience of co-life with different religions groups in secular states. Therefore, this event aims to offer part of the experience to the institutionalization of Islam in EU.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Tackling hate crime in the UK: Experiences from the frontline, and how to predict and respond to spikes in hate crime reporting
Convenor: United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: .In the week before and the six weeks after the UK referendum on EU membership, UK authorities recorded 11,000 hate crimes. Around 80% were racist and 60% were violence against the person. This was an increase of 35% over the same period the previous year. Recording hate crime is essential for understanding why it happens, preventing it from occurring, and for ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive the support they need. Tackling hate crime requires a joined up response, including police and prosecutors, community groups, political leaders, the media and other organisations. This side event will see senior UK practitioners speak about their practical experience of tackling hate crime in the UK. Offering advice and ideas, UK prosecutors and police officers will set out how they have worked together, and with local communities, to identify potential flash points that might lead to increased incidents of hate crime. They will also discuss how they work to reassure communities, prevent hate crime occurring and to ensure victims are supported. We would welcome participation in the discussion from delegates who have experience of this issue from their own countries. High levels of recorded hate crime does not mean the UK is more racist or intolerant than any other state. What it does mean is that we are able to understand the problem and can develop tools to respond to it. Weekly monitoring of reported hate crime

showed that figures subsequently returned to the normal pattern of ‘peaks and troughs’ recorded in previous years. Come along and hear why this issue matters now more than ever, and what you can do to contribute to the OSCE response to rid our societies of hate crime.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE region
Convenor: Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW); Baha'i International Community,

Brussels office; CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe;
Office of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Working language: English

Summary: This event will explore the broader threats to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), as a human right of universal significance, that arise from social hostilities, intolerance and discrimination across the OSCE region. It will discuss the importance of FoRB as part of a human rights based approach advancing open, equitable, inclusive and cohesive societies, which celebrate and foster religious and belief diversity, in light of contemporary challenges and debates. Discussants will illustrate how a disregard for the principles that underpin FoRB can lead to social hostility and violence, but also how certain practices have helped to mitigate violence and counter social hostilities that can emanate from negative discourses and intolerance vis-à-vis other religious or belief groups. The event will take the form of a panel discussion with participation from ODIHR and with ample room for comments and suggestions from the floor in order to foster practical ways forward in dealing with contemporary threats and challenges to FoRB.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Building Coalitions to Combat Hate
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE

Working language: English

Summary: This event brings together important European civil society leaders who will share their work and best practices on building coalitions to combat hate, including anti-Semitism, hate speech on the Internet, right wing extremism, and hate crimes against minorities and immigrants. The workshop will be led by representatives from Coexister, the Muslim-Jewish Conference, and Respect Zone.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Up-to-date information about the persecuted new Czech religious society
Guru Jara and Barbora Plaskova.
Convenor: Religious Society Path Guru Jara
Working languages: Czech, English

Summary: The Path of Guru Jara (religious society registered in the USA, in the Czech Republic the registration has been pending for over a year) proclaims that its leaders and members in EU have been subjected to religious persecution by some of the government bodies and the Czech media in years 2010-2016. The mystic, tantric and artist Guru Jara (civil name Jaroslav Dobes) started teaching publicly in the Czech Republic in 1996. Between 2000 and 2009, Mr. Dobes travelled extensively around the world. He settled down in Philippines together with his closest disciple Barbora Plaskova in autumn 2009. Since winter 2010, they have been running an international spiritual retreat center in Philippines with students coming from the USA, Japan and EU. In 2014 the regional court in Brno, in the Czech Republic, convicted in absentia Jaroslav Dobes and Barbora Plaskova of rape supposedly committed between years 2004-2006. In May 2015 the High Court in Olomouc overturned the convictions and ordered a new trial, which has not started yet. Since April and May 2015, Mr. Dobes and Ms. Plaskova have been detained in an immigration detention center in Philippines, where they

have applied for asylum on religious grounds. On 10 June 2015, there was an attempt to forcibly deport Jaroslav Dobes back to the Czech Republic without any legal basis initiated by the Czech police. The application for asylum in Philippines is still pending, they both appealed against the rejection. After conducting their field investigation, the Danish human rights NGO Soteria International stated in a 2015 report that there was religious discrimination against the members of the group and also possible human rights violations in relation to the police, court trial procedures and media campaigns against Mr. Dobes and his associates. The directors of both the Czech Helsinki Committee and Belgian Human Rights Without Frontiers International (HRWF) wrote letters of support expressing concerns about the case involving Mr. Dobes and Ms. Plaskova. The Austrian Forum for Religious Freedom Europe (FOREF) have recently expressed they support too. In November 2015, Soteria, and consequently HRWF and FOREF in June 2016, made fact-finding missions on the human rights aspects regarding the situation of Mr. Dobes and Ms. Plaskova in Philippines. The whole case has reached the attention of the USA International Freedom Report on the Czech Republic for year 2015. In this side-event we will bring detailed information on the history, the present and the development of the case, which represents the typical struggle of a new religion movement in the contemporary EU targeted by the anti-cult movement and persecuted by the long-term investigation that followed. The event will be moderated by the representatives of some of the participating human rights NGOs and the representatives of the Czech branch of the religious society, followed by a discussion

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Presentation of the Pan-European Report "Xenophobia, Discrimination and aggressive Nationalism in 2015"
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: European Center for Democracy Development together with the European Tolerance Center spend the past few years a study on the main European countries in order to identify problems of tolerance. The research for 2015 was attended by researchers from the world-famous Universities like Jagiellonian University in Krakow, ELTE University in Budapest, Panteion University in Athens, Teeside University in UK, the Holocaust Memorial Museum in the US and many others. At a meeting in Warsaw, we will present this joint report for the year 2015

Refreshments will not be provided

Tuesday, 27 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Establishing State Reporting on Human Dimension Commitments - Launch of the Report: "Implementation of OSCE Commitments on Human Rights and Democracy in Germany 2016"

Convenor: German Institute for Human Rights

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: On the occasion of the German OSCE Chairmanship 2016, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs has commissioned the German Institute for Human Rights to critically assess how OSCE Human Dimension Commitments are being implemented in Germany. German government and civil society commented on the report. With this report, Germany follows the examples of Switzerland (2014) and Serbia (2015) who presented such reports for the first time during their OSCE chairmanships in 2014 and 2015. This is to become good practice for OSCE Chairmanship States on a voluntary basis to promote the effectiveness of the human dimension in the OSCE area and to strengthen the OSCE in its role as a regional actor for conflict prevention and resolution. The findings of the report will be presented. The process and introduction of voluntary state reporting within the OSCE will be discussed with stakeholders involved, including from Switzerland who initiated the process in 2014. Speakers of the Panel will be from: Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, German Institute for Human Rights, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), Civic Solidary Platform

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**

Venue: **Meeting Room 2**

Title: Freedom of Religion and WAQFS:
Examples of the Only Muslim Minorities in Europe – Turks of
Western Thrace and Muslim Community in Bulgaria

Convenor: Muslim Denomination in Bulgaria

Working language: English

Summary: Waqf properties are immovable and movable property of the Muslim Communities in Bulgaria and Western Thrace, Greece inherited centuries ago. The issues of restitution of the waqf properties of the Muslim Community in Bulgaria and the state intervention in internal religious affairs of the Turkish minority Western Thrace, Greece, are one of the most important issues remained unsolved in the past decades. The Muslim community in Bulgaria is the only among the others in the country that failed to regain their inheritance, despite the changes in the legislation after the totalitarian regime. These waqf properties include schools, social centers, mosques and farmlands. The Turkish minority in Western Thrace is fighting for their fundamental rights and freedoms that have been infringed upon by different methods and tools over the years.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1**

Title: Film Review: 'Voices of the Silenced: experts, evidences and
ideology' Convenor: Core Issues Trust

Working language: English

Summary: A full-length documentary is shortly to be released which considers the ideological conditions of complementary totalitarianisms (the counter-intuitive positions of Gender Mainstreaming and radical Islam) as they move towards a zenith seeking to destroy the Judeo-Christian foundations of western civilization. The film highlights the goals of sexual politics and the silencing of views opposing the return to pansexual cultures of the pre-Christian Graeco-Roman world. It listens to the voices of 34 individuals, extraordinary in their ordinariness, including witnesses to the experience of leaving homosexual practices and

feelings. It explores how sciences become the servants of ideology using examples from history, mental health policy and archaeology. Filmed in 7 countries and in more than 50 locations, the documentary interviews 16 individuals who are emerging out of homosexual lifestyles and a further 18 commentators on the subject, including those who explode the myth of neutral secularism and its dangers for society broadly and for Christians specifically. An explanation of pansexual humanism as it operates in modern western democracies (with reference to the UK as one example) will be presented with specific references to judicial actions supporting this ideology. Excerpts from the film will be offered along with an overview of the main arguments of the participants and film makers.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Participation of the minorities to the political life and the post-colonial attitudes of the society.
Convenor: COJEP International
Working languages: English, French

Summary: Racism is an ideology which, assuming the existence of human races, believes that some races are inherently superior to others. This ideology can lead to an attitude of hostility or systematic sympathy of a particular category of people. According to this ideology, citizens from Turkish, Arab or Asian countries living in Europe become victims of discrimination and are excluded from society and even from political life.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Fundamental freedoms during the election campaigns
Convenor: Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Elections are an essential attribute of civilized democratic states. The elections, conducted in accordance with domestic legislation and international electoral standards, reflect the freedom of expression of citizens, where, in turn, the citizens must form their beliefs and opinions impartially and must have the opportunity to make their independent choices during the voting at any level of elections. However, can there be valid law restrictions on fundamental freedoms and how those limitations meet the challenges and demands of the present time? Can be permissible restrictions on freedom of thought, opinions, beliefs or speech and in what cases these limitations become prejudicial for citizens? These and other questions will be discussed in the framework of the "round table" on the topic "Fundamental freedoms during the election campaigns".

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Human Rights and Press Freedom in Ukraine
Convenor: Ukraine Committee Europe
Working language: English

Summary: The side event will discuss the development and situation of human rights, press freedom and freedom of expression in Ukraine from 2014 until today.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Persecution of Crimean Tatars as a crime against humanity
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)
Working languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: Crimean Tatars have been subject to persecution from the very first day of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. Working in collaboration with local human rights groups, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR) collected evidence on different forms of persecution of Crimean Tatars on Crimean Peninsula. Analysis of the obtained evidence suggests that this persecution could amount to crime against humanity as defined by Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. IPHR will present a report which details wide ranging forms of persecution supported by hard evidence.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Situation with the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and Their Defenders in the former CIS Countries
Convenor: Open Viewpoint Public Foundation, Kyrgyzstan
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Human rights defenders in the former Soviet countries met obstacles or threatened. Promotion of human rights became a target for propaganda. NGOs or experts or particular areas (i.e. freedom of religion or belief, preventing of torture, fair trial, elections etc) are considered as sensitive by the authorities who initiates new laws (foreign agents, LGBT propaganda ban etc) or interfere to their activities including accusations in crimes.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Vulnerability and discrimination: the fate of migrant workers from Central Asia
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The situation of migrants and their family members from Central Asia migrating to Russia and Kazakhstan remains of serious concern. Despite recent amendments in migration laws, the majority of migrants face great difficulties to regularize their status. They are at risk of extortion, discrimination, labor exploitation and violence and have hardly any legal remedies. Family members of migrants are exposed to exacerbated vulnerability, especially women and children, should they migrate or stay at home, "left behind". FIDH and its member organisations ADC Memorial, Bir Duino and International Legal Initiative will present the findings of two studies on labour migration carried out in 2015-2016 in

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The first report addresses the situation of Central Asian migrants working in Kazakhstan whereas the second sheds light on the problems encountered by women and children affected by migration from Kyrgyzstan. The findings of the reports will feed into the discussion on measures necessary to protect migrant workers and members of their families.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Announcement of annual report of ORIW in French Country in Europe
Convenor: Organisation Racism and Islamophobia Watch (ORIW)
Working languages: English, French

Summary: Racism is fully recognized as a threat on the European and international levels. The main European Union instrument of fight against discrimination is Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Chapter 3 of the Charter deals with the "equality", Article 21 states the principle of the prohibition of discrimination. It lists some discriminatory grounds such as those based on ethnicity, race or religion. Taking in account all these ideas and actions, ORIW supports and assists to people whose moral and legal values of life are in danger because of racist or Islamophobic actions in Francophone countries (France, Belgium, Switzerland). ORIW also produces monthly and annual reports to draw attention on Islamophobia and racism in everyday life and to become free of prejudice. Warsaw meeting/side event, on September 27, will be dedicated to the announcement of the annual report of ORIW.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Discrimination of Indigenous Peoples in conditions of modern Ukrainian-Russian war conflict
Convenor: Crimean Tatar Resource Centre
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Issues of risks for indigenous peoples residing in their historic Motherland in Crimea caused by Russian aggression, illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea will be lighted. Perspectives of international interference for preventing the discrimination and committing the international crimes against the indigenous peoples by occupation regime will be discussed. Problems of Ukrainian practice for deported and internally displaced representatives of indigenous peoples, as the absence the profile legislative act on statute of indigenous peoples of Ukraine will be discussed.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **18.30**
Venue: **Austrian Cultural Forum, Ul. Prozna 7/9**
Title: Priorities of the incoming Austrian CiO for the Third Dimension
Convenor: MFA of Austria
Working language: English

The side event will be followed by reception

Wednesday, 28 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Political Prisoners in Tajikistan.
Convenor: Islamic Renaissance Party
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: There are at least 200 political prisoners in Tajikistan who are the high-ranking members of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Women's Power Breakfast: "How to reform political parties from a gender perspective?"
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
(Democratization Department)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed themselves "to promote equal participation of women and men in political parties, with a view to achieving better gender-balanced representation in elected public offices at all levels of decision-making" (Athens 2009). Yet, decision-making processes within most political parties across the OSCE region remain dominated by men, creating challenges for women and other under-represented groups to enter politics and run for public office. Evaluating the internal processes of political parties is not an easy task, due to their often informal nature. The Women's Power Breakfast will provide a platform for discussion on how to assess the gender-sensitivity of political parties, for the purposes of promoting gender equality in political parties and beyond. ODIHR's methodology of Gender Audits of Political Parties will also be presented, exploring ways how political actors, civil society, media and others could use this tool for their own monitoring and reporting on gender equality in politics. The event will also serve as a platform for networking and exchange of experiences among women leaders representing governments, political institutions, civil society as well as the OSCE and other international organizations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Gender Equality: 1325 Reloaded: high time for new policies to enhance the impact of the Women, Peace, Security-agenda in OSCE participating States and beyond!
Convenor: Swisspeace (Swiss Peace Foundation)
Working language: English

Summary: Description of the event The discussion will start with a short input about the alternative report on the implementation of UNSR 1325 published lately by the NGO platform "1325" in Switzerland. Based on the reflections, analysis and recommendations in relation to security concepts and security policies the space will be open for sharing experiences and elaborating common recommendations to address the new challenges in gender equality issues faced by OSCE participating States. Based on the alternative report on "Women, Peace, Security – reloaded" published by the Swiss NGO-Working Group 1325 we focus on the gender relevance and the interlinked economic dimension of conflict (relevance of care economy under

the aspect of Human Security, social investment and standard of living) and explore the link between Women, Peace, Security and arms trade / disarmament. The emphasis is on interconnected issues of work, economy, productivity and conflict prevention/peace making. This approach is relevant from a Human rights and is cross dimensional. The way how various action plans 1325 of our countries and the OSCE itself consider these crossing points and the relevance of (unpaid) care work for gender sensitive peace building and women's security is a key interest in the discussion. Therefore this event would also address the interface between the three dimensions of the OSCE.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: Connecting Women's Local Experiences to Empower Change
Convenor: OSCE Mission to Moldova; OSCE Office in Tajikistan; OSCE Office in Yerevan
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Despite distances and differences among them, three OSCE field operations and their partner civil society organizations have found that grassroots approaches to empowering change can promote equal economic opportunities, increase women's engagement in political and public life and prevent and address domestic violence. In Armenia, Moldova and Tajikistan, OSCE-supported community-led initiatives, such as women's resource centres, are deepening women's impact at local and national levels. This discussion is the first time that representatives of grassroots women's organizations from the three countries will meet to share how they identify which challenges to take on, how they build advocacy and action partnerships and how they see the role of community-based organizations in helping shape local and national policy and practice.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Inclusive Security Forces
Convenor: European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: OSCE participating States have committed themselves to ban discrimination on any ground (Copenhagen 1990). The principle of non-discrimination as well as the right to privacy are enshrined in a number of international human rights instruments. However, while some OSCE participating states have adopted laws and policies to promote equality and non-discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in the security sector, others are still reluctant to recognize equal rights to LGBTI people and sometimes ban their access to security forces. This side event will explore the current situation with regard to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTI people in the security sector across Europe and will discuss experience and best practices as well as the role of professional associations in promoting LGBTI equality and acting towards an inclusive security sector. The panel discussion will have a particular focus on the police and armed forces.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**

Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: "Geopolitical situation in the "Intermarium" region and its impact on human rights in Belarus"
Convenor: Charter97.org
Working language: English

Summary: Description of the event Recently geopolitical idea of "Intermarium", or association of countries situated between the Baltic and Black Seas, has been actively discussed in Europe. The discussion was provoked by the ongoing crisis in Europe and failures in the EU policy towards its neighbors. The situation in the region of Central and Eastern Europe has changed dramatically after the war in Ukraine erupted. New geopolitical situation highlighted the problems both inside the European Union and in its neighborhood, as well as the necessity to review European policy towards Eastern neighbors: six Eastern partners and Russia. Belarus became directly affected by the developments in the region that led to the changed attitude to the dictatorial regime of Lukashenko. Geopolitical interests started to dominate the policies of neighboring countries, both members and non-members of the EU, and became one of the reasons for less attention to the gross violation of human rights in Belarus and softer position on the regime itself. Without going into geopolitical aspects of the "Intermarium" it looks useful to analyze the changes in politics of the countries that are included in this concept and are neighbors of Belarus, specifically Ukraine, countries of the Vysegrad group and Baltic states. The position of those countries both in the European Union and in their bilateral relations with Belarus strongly affects the situation with human rights in Belarus and can either aggravate or improve it.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: "Women reproductive rights: choice for motherhood should be neither imposed nor limited by any authorities"
Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In spite of the declared by most of OSCE-countries principle of gender equality, there are still big problems with realising the reproductive rights of women in a free and independent way. In some countries (Russia, Belarus) women are deprived from their professional choice by the "list of the professions forbidden to women", while no such list exists for men (the official explanation is the risk that some jobs might harm the ability of a woman to be a mother, however there is no proof of such harm and even it existed, the choice for profession or for motherhood should belong to women, not to the state). Meanwhile some other women (especially the Roma/gypsy women in Uzbekistan, but also other vulnerable groups of women) are forced to abortions and even unwanted sterilization. The sex-selective abortion is another aspect of gender discrimination and a big issue in the region. A lot of homophobic statements are justified by the dogma that everyone must have children and even the illegal practice of female circumcision was recently proclaimed by one of the religious leaders of the Northern Caucasus as the best way to prevent all women from debauchery as "woman was made only to give birth to children, and this does not obstacle the reproduction". Women are not made for birth only, they have the right to have children, if they want or to choose for other things in life. The right for motherhood should be protected, but not imposed. The participants of the side event will bring evidence of discrimination of women and violation of their reproductive rights in ex-Soviet countries. The decision of the UN Committee on Elimination of discrimination of women against the Russian list of professions banned for women will be discussed. The first-hand stories of the victims of forced abortion and sterilization, and of mothers losing children during police operations against migrants will be presented.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18.30 – 21.00**
Venue: **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews** (6 Mordechaja Anielewicza St.)
Title: Turning Words into Action: Addressing Anti-Semitism, Intolerance and Discrimination through Education: Exploring challenges, opportunities and best practices in the OSCE region.
Convenor: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human rights (ODIHR), POLIN Museum
Working languages: English

Summary: In 2014, OSCE participating States met in Berlin to take stock of how their commitments to address anti-Semitism had been implemented. Following this, the OSCE's 2014 Basel Ministerial Council Declaration No. 8 on Enhancing Efforts to Combat anti-Semitism specifically tasked ODIHR to continue to offer best practices on efforts to counter anti-Semitism to participating States, including by consulting civil society, to effectively identify and address contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism; to facilitate the exchange of best practices among participating States on educational initiatives and other measures to raise awareness of anti-Semitism and overcome challenges to Holocaust education, and to promote dialogue and strengthen the capacity of civil society to foster mutual respect and understanding in order to advance the cause of co-operation between different communities. As a result, starting in 2016, ODIHR is implementing the "Turning Words Into Action to Address Anti-Semitism" project, a multi-year initiative generously funded by the German government with a focus on three interconnected areas:

- Addressing the security needs of Jewish communities;
- Countering anti-Semitism through education; and
- Fostering coalition building among different communities.

This event will be the launch event for this exciting initiative at the POLIN Museum in Warsaw on 28 September. The event will feature a discussion on best practices in educational initiatives with a focus on the work of both ODIHR and the POLIN Museum. The event will be opened by ODIHR Director Michael Link and POLIN Museum Director, Dariusz Stola.

Transportation from Sofitel Hotel (at 18:00) to POLIN Museum and back (at 21:00) will be provided.

Registration: Please note that the number of participants is limited; pre-registration is highly recommended. The registration list will be available for all interested people at the welcome desk.

The event will be followed by reception

Thursday, 29 September

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: What the Yukos cases teach about the Rule of Law and International Enforcement of Human Rights
Convenor: A&G Law LLC, The Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice
Working language: English

Summary: The criminal and bankruptcy cases against the former Yukos Oil Company and its executives and employees have become a symbol of the failure of the rule of law. The cases have been the subject of multiple international court and tribunal decisions and have resulted in important legal precedents concerning political asylum for its targets, international law enforcement cooperation, the application of international treaties to expropriation of private assets through state action and more. More than a decade after these cases began, they teach important lessons about civil society and human rights enforcement in the modern era, including the role and authority of the European Court of Human Rights, the role and potential misuse of INTERPOL, and how arbitration tribunals, courts and governments can and should respond to politically motivated prosecutions. This event will include a round table discussion among key participants in the Yukos saga, as well as their lawyers and human rights specialists.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Youth inclusion and the OSCE: furthering security and cooperation
Convenor: Office of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security
Working language: English

Summary: Youth was identified as a priority on the agenda of a number of OSCE's Chairmanships-in-Office; two Ministerial Council declarations on Youth and Security in 2014 and 2015 have recognized the potential of youth to contribute to social, economic and political development and OSCE participating States had expressed their commitment "to further the development of contacts and exchanges among young people" already in the Helsinki Final Act. This side event will examine the variety of ways in which the role of youth is relevant to the OSCE through concrete examples of good practice, as well as how youth voices and initiatives are contributing to democratization, security and cooperation. Some of the questions side event will be looking into are: How are young people engaged in activities of OSCE structures? Why does cross border connectivity of youth matter? How does youth reflect on human dimension commitments' implementation? What is the youth perspective on the OSCE's need for new impetus? In which ways the German Chairmanship gave focus to youth?

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **08:15-09:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics in the EU
Convenor: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
Working language: English

Summary In many EU Member States, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people run the risk of discrimination and harassment on a daily basis. Prejudices and misconceptions about homosexuality and transgender people further fuel intolerant attitudes and behaviour towards them. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has carried out socio-legal research in this area since 2008. At this side event the Agency will present relevant data on the socio-legal position of LGBTI children from a fundamental rights perspective, including from its 2013 EU-wide survey, its 2015 legal update, which incorporates an analysis of the fundamental rights situation of intersex people, and its 2015 research among public officials and key professional groups.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: Political, social and cultural rights and freedoms in Europe and Ukraine. Convenor: NGO Public Advocacy
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Discussions of rights and liberties in Ukraine and the actions to be taken to improve the situation. Discusses the rights of religious organizations, ethnic minorities, social standards and other key issues. Whether the real situation in Ukraine to European standards? How the international community can influence the situation? The discussion encouraged the civil society representatives, MPs, the human rights organization.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1**
Title: “Who’s going to try to prevent it?” Report on the findings of the practice of FGM in the Republic of Dagestan
Convenor: Stichting Russian Justice Initiative
Working language: English

Summary: In August 2016, the Russian Justice Initiative released a report detailing its findings that FGM was being systematically performed on girls in certain isolated, mountainous communities in the Russia’s Republic of Dagestan. 25 women between the ages of 19 to 70 were interviewed for the report, who all had been subjected to FGM and some of whom had performed some version of the procedure on others. 17 experts—doctors, lawyers, imams, and local government officials—were also interviewed about various aspects of the practice. The local communities affected by FGM generally looks on this practice as a sensitive issue related to custom, religion and the family, and do not accept outside intervention. The official authorities have long taken no action to protect girls whose mothers and other relatives have inflicted the procedure on them. The report’s release caused a firestorm on the Russian internet due to now infamous comments made by Mufti Ismail Berdiyev, the chairman of the North Caucasus Muslim Coordinating Center, that FGM is “healthy custom” performed to “tamper women’s sexuality.” Christian and Jewish religious leaders in Russia also expressed qualified support, not for FGM in itself, but for the need to reduce “debauchery” and “depravity.” Following the controversy, a draft bill was introduced in the Duma criminalizing FGM and making the practice punishable by up to ten years in prison. While release of the report achieved the goal of exposing a largely hidden practice, there is a need to return to a discussion of comprehensive and concrete measures, advocated in the report, to tackle the issue at the local level. FGM is internationally recognized as a violation of women’s and children’s rights and as an extreme form of discrimination and violence. But in Dagestan as elsewhere, female circumcision continues to be practiced because its advocates consider it to be highly moral act, and because no adequate deterrent and outreach measures exist. During the side-event the report’s main findings will be presented as well as observations and analysis of the potential approaches and methodologies to eradicate the practice, taking into account the particular socio-political dynamics in the region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**

Title: Regional Side Event "Progressive abolition of Violence Against Children in closed institutions in Central Asia" (special focus on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)
Convenor: Penal Reform International; Regional Office in Central Asia
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Violence against children who are deprived of their liberty is often invisible in part because it is under-reported and under-researched. Yet the 2006 UN Study on Violence found that children in care and justice institutions may be at higher risk of violence than nearly all other children. The five-year follow-up Study produced in 2011 found that this situation continues today. There are approximately 30,000 children deprived of their liberty in closed institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In the three project countries, the practice of detaining children in solitary confinement and in mixed adult facilities increases the risk of violence. The Voice of the Child reports tracking the treatment of children in closed institutions in each of the three countries have revealed significant levels of violence against children whilst they were in police detention and temporary detention facilities and this is by far the most risky setting for children in conflict with the law. As well as reporting physical and psychological abuse, children also reported being denied access to lawyers, being held in cells and being transported alongside adult suspects. The side-event will focus on the issues of abolition of violence against children in detention and will specifically highlight: 1) the issues of solitary confinement and its use as the disciplinary measure; 2) separation of children from adults and girls from boys in all stages of the criminal justice system; 3) issues of violence in the police level.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Advancing Efforts to Combat Antisemitism in the OSCE Region including Endorsement of the Working Definition
Convenor: Global Jewish advocacy (AJC)
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Jewish security in recent years in the OSCE region has become an ever more troubling concern, with consistently high levels of Antisemitic incidents, ranging from verbal abuse to acts of violence. Antisemitism itself may be manifest in a variety of ways, ranging from conspiracy theories about Jews to Holocaust denial to the masking of old hatreds behind anti-Zionist rhetoric. In 2005, the EUMC issued a broadly comprehensive working definition of Antisemitism to assist government authorities and civil society organizations in their work of education, monitoring and data collection. In May of this year, the 31-member International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted use of the Working Definition of Antisemitism at its Plenary in Romania. Speakers at this side event will explore ways in which the definition and other tools can be further incorporated into OSCE work, including its adoption at the December Ministerial Meeting. This side event will be hosted by AJC, in cooperation with the German Chairmanship and other participating States.

Time: **13:15-14:30**
Venue: **Plenary Hall**
Title: Gender Mainstreaming: the UK's challenge in guarding their children
Convenor: Christian Legal Centre (London); Core Issues Trust
Working language: English

Summary: Evidence exists in the UK that the state advocates Gender Mainstreaming as

the preferred educative philosophy now shaping the social attitudes of the very young with respect to gender identity. The ideological basis of this philosophy remains alien to many parents of those being educated according to such values whose views are over-ridden and marginalized. The session highlights various instances in the UK where a high level of state-supported ideological intolerance is evident. What are the main tenets of Gender Mainstreaming, how does it differ from Judeo-Christian foundations formerly considered foundational and what is the likely outcome of this approach? The session clarifies the necessary distinction between indoctrination and education important to those concerned to counter this approach. It searches for viable models of dissent and considers the checks and balances necessary to protect children and parental rights. Observations are also made about the rise in transgender minors and considers comparatively the analysis of UK commentaries and researchers at John Hopkins University, USA

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Belvedere**
Title: Presentation of documental film "Silent World"
Convenor: Azerbaijan Institute for Democracy and Human Rights - AIDHR
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Documental film about Azerbaijani hostages Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Gouliyev

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 2**
Title: Management of ethnic conflict in East-European countries
Convenor: Institute of European Studies
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The reports and discussions will be presented. Presentation of the book on ethnic conflict also will be presented.

Refreshments will not be provided

Time: **18:00-19:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3**
Title: What's next for judicial reform in Ukraine?
Convenor: OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
Working language: English

Summary: The discussion will explore the progress and challenges of judicial reform in Ukraine in view of Constitutional amendments related to the judiciary and newly adopted law "On Judiciary and Status of Judges", due to come into force on 30th of September 2016. Apart from the changes in court system, the discussion will touch upon the new rules for selection and appointment of judges, narrowing the scope of judicial immunity, the process of evaluation of judges and first lessons learned in this regard. New instruments for engaging civil society in reform process such as trial monitoring and public integrity council will be highlighted. The participants will also learn about current developments of the legal education reform, highlighting the upcoming novelties such as state exam on access to legal profession, aimed to ensure high quality of legal education as a precondition of the quality of justice.

Refreshments will be provided