



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Protecting Civic Space:

the Role of Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

Vienna, 5-6 May 2025

AGENDA

Day 1

9.30 – 10.30

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks:

H.E. Amb. Vesa Häkkinen, Chairperson of the OSCE
Permanent Council

Ms. Maria Telalian, Director of the Office for Democratic
Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Introductory address:

Ms. Anu Juvonen, Special Representative of the OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office on Civil Society

Keynote address:

Ms. Mary Lawlor, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the
situation of human rights defenders

Technical information:

Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, OSCE Office for
Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

10.30 – 12.30

SESSION I: Respect: The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and its role in protecting civic space and democracy

Introducers:

Mr. Phil Lynch, Executive Director, International Service for
Human Rights

Dr. Michael Hamilton, Legal Adviser, Amnesty International,
and Acting Chair of the OSCE-ODIHR Panel of Experts on
Freedom of Assembly and Association

Ms. Tetiana Pechonchyk Head of the Board of the Human
Rights Centre ZMINA

Moderator: Mr. Andrew Gardner, Acting Head of Department, Human
Rights Department, ODIHR

[13.00 – 14.00 – side events]

14.30 – 16.30

SESSION II: Respond: Overcoming challenges facing human rights defenders at home, in exile and across borders

Introducers:

Ms. Kaari Mattila, Secretary-General and Member of International and Executive Board, International Federation for Human Rights

Mr. Mustafa Jakupov, Deputy Chairman of Antigypsyism Reporting and Information Centre (MIA Bund)

Mr. Javier Roura Blanco, Senior Coordinator, ProtectDefenders.EU

Moderator: Mr. Johannes Heiler, Acting Deputy Head of Department, Human Rights Department, ODIHR

[16.45 – 17.45 – side events]

Day 2

[9.00 – 10.00 – side events]

10.15 – 12.15

SESSION III: Prepare: Strengthening support and protection for human rights defenders

Introducers:

Ms. Veronika Lapina, Protection Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, Frontline Defenders

Mr. Andreas Accardo, Head of Institutional Cooperation, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Ms. Tytti Matsinen, European Union of Blind People

Moderator: Mr. Andrew Gardner, Acting Head of Department, Human Rights Department, ODIHR

12.15 – 13.15

CLOSING SESSION

Reports from the working sessions

Statements by participating States

Closing remarks:

Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

H.E. Amb. Katja Pehrman, Human Rights Ambassador, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

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