



SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW OF ODIHR SIDE EVENTS

at Warsaw Human Dimension Conference

26 September - 7 October 2022

Wednesday, 28 September

Time: **15:30-16:30**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Ensuring and monitoring the right to freedom of peaceful assembly during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The COVID-19 pandemic has had an indisputable effect on the implementation of human rights in all OSCE participating States, including on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. Since then, the region has faced several surges of the virus and related restrictions but also ease of limitations at times when infection rates had fallen. The unpredictability of the pandemic has required States to be increasingly flexible in their response and measures have to strike a balance between competing human rights, such as the right to life and health by preventing infections, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, for example. In September 2022, ODIHR published a report "Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the right to peaceful assembly" which reflects on the developments, challenges and good practices in ensuring the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in the OSCE region during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, the side-event will: - Present ODIHR new publication Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. - Reflect on FoPA-related developments over the last two years, noting the restrictions on assembly rights, as well as proportionality of the state response in light of the fluctuating situation. - Identify positive practices where states have found innovative ways of facilitating the right to assemble peacefully, despite the challenging circumstances. The event will be conducted with simultaneous interpretation between English and Russian. Light refreshments will be provided.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 29 September

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Launch of the seventh edition of Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: This publication provides information on when, where and how OSCE participating States promote the commemoration and study of the Holocaust, including the genocide of Roma and Sinti, in line with their OSCE commitments. The information was gathered through an online questionnaire that ODIHR disseminated to all participating States. A total of 45 participating States submitted questionnaires to ODIHR for the current edition – the highest response rate to date. The overview encourages governments to draw on each other's good practices and further develop their own activities in the future. The purpose of this launch event is to: • Present the key findings from the collected data and discuss patterns cutting across the various approaches participating States adopt in relation to commemoration, education and research and memorial sites. • Discuss the main challenges and opportunities pertaining to the commemoration and study of the Holocaust across the OSCE region. • Highlight good practice examples of innovative approaches to Holocaust remembrance and education, as well as commemoration, education and research and memorial sites from various OSCE participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **17:00-18:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: ODIHR's Assistance to OSCE participating States and Support to Civil Society
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The side event aims to address the broadest possible range of stakeholders from participating States and civil society. It will present the current status of ODIHR's Hate Crime Report for 2021, present the work of ODIHR's main tolerance and non-discrimination programmes in the past year, and introduce plans for the next period. Following an introduction by the Head of ODIHR's tolerance and non-discrimination department (TND), individual Advisers and Officers will provide short updates on their areas of work, available resources, and plans for the future. This will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with the audience. ODIHR has numerous tools, activities, and programmes to support participating States and civil society organizations (CSOs), created under the mandate of OSCE commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination. Combined with additional projects, which support the core activities, ODIHR offers a comprehensive approach to addressing all forms of intolerance, discrimination, and hate crimes. The 2022 Warsaw Human Dimension Conference provides an opportunity to present the myriad resources ODIHR can offer participating States and CSOs in the area of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Refreshments will be provided

Monday, 3 October

Time: **15:30-16:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Monitoring the Human Rights Situation of Roma in Ukraine and neighbouring participating States
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
Working language: English

Summary: The military attack in Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022, has led to widespread civilian suffering with evidence of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The ongoing situation has led large numbers of the population, including Roma, to flee Ukraine and seek primary refuge in neighbouring participating States. Exceptional efforts have been made by the authorities of these participating States at managing the refugee influx, providing immediate humanitarian support to those in need. However, ODIHR has received worrying reports by civil society that Roma have faced prejudice and stereotyping at border crossing points. In some instances, they have been provided shelter in ethnically segregated reception centres, and they have faced racism and discrimination from authorities, municipalities and in some cases by volunteers. Such manifestations of racism, discrimination and hatred against Roma have the potential to contribute to further increased risks of ethnic tensions and victimization of Roma communities. Therefore, in line with its mandate, ODIHR has supported human rights monitoring activities by Roma Human Rights Defenders (RHRDs) in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The side event will focus on: - The importance of conducting human rights monitoring activities, with a particular view during crisis and post-crisis situations; - Reviewing and examining the identified human rights challenges faced by Roma who fled Ukraine; - Identification of good policy and practice in assisting Roma who fled Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **17:00-18:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Improving access to inclusive education for Roma and Sinti children
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
Working language: English

Summary: Education is a prerequisite for inclusion in the political, social, and economic life of Roma and Sinti communities on an equal basis. Decision-makers as well as Roma and Sinti communities should prioritize measures in this area, particularly those that promote school attendance. Various studies conducted, among others, by the Agency for Fundamental Rights of the European Union show that Roma children continue to experience substantial gaps in education at all levels compared to non-Roma children. The side event will provide an opportunity for education experts and other stakeholders to provide an assessment of the current status regarding desegregation policies in education, access to desegregated schools for Roma and Sinti children, as well as key educational reforms and their impact on Roma and Sinti children. It will also provide an opportunity to present findings of a report commissioned by ODIHR on the impact of COVID-19 on Roma and Sinti educational outcomes. The side event will focus on: - Identification of good practices and policies in the area of school desegregation; - Examine existing barriers to inclusive education and desegregation; - Discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic affected educational outcomes of Roma and Sinti children.

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 4 October

Time: **15:30-16:30**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Counter-terrorism and shrinking civic space: the misuse of counter-terrorism measures against dissenting voices
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: States have an obligation to protect everyone within their jurisdiction from terrorism and bring those responsible for it to justice, while abiding by human rights and the rule of law. The misuse of counter-terrorism measures to clamp down on dissenting voices has become of growing concern around the world and in the OSCE area and is incompatible with OSCE human dimension commitments. While the room for counter-terrorism has rapidly expanded over the past two decades, civic space has shrunk significantly; and continues to shrink. Over-broad and vague counter-terrorism laws and policies are prone to arbitrary application and abuse; peaceful protestors, political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists and members of civil society become an easy target. Where anti-terrorism action is taken in response to social unrest, demonstrations, or simply criticism of the government, it leads to multiple human rights violations and damages the credibility and legitimacy of states' counter-terrorism efforts at the national and international levels.

Against this background, the side event will provide room for discussion between international experts and conference participants on recent trends and concerns about the misuse of expanding counter-terrorism measures. Thereby, it will seek to promote stronger support for civil society, human rights defenders and other critical voices targeted by such measures. Furthermore, it will highlight human rights risks of overbroad counter-terrorism actions, which should be taken into account across the OSCE area when designing and implementing counter-terrorism efforts, in order not to undermine established human rights protections.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **17:00-18:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: How to ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities are heard in times of crisis
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: Largely excluded from mainstream response efforts, people with disabilities represent one of the most vulnerable and invisible groups during a crisis. The armed conflict in Ukraine and the worldwide response to the Covid pandemic are two glaring examples of this. In this session, panelists will focus on the importance of including people with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives and their communities, highlighting challenges and good practices from the OSCE region. The event will be attended by members of ODIHR's Advisory Panel on the Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities and representatives from the disability community in Ukraine who will share their experiences and participate in a Q and A session on the topic.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 5 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: How to ensure the right to a fair trial and access to justice in a post-pandemic reality?
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In its 2020 Report entitled “OSCE Human Dimension Commitments and State Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic” ODIHR highlighted significant limitations to access to courts and observance fair trial rights during the COVID-19 pandemic in many OSCE participating States . During the Covid-19 Pandemic and immediately after, the justice systems in the OSCE region faced many challenges such as over-reliance on remote (online) hearings by courts which may not allow full exercise of access to justice by victims of crimes and may also restrict the fair trial rights of defendants such as access to confidential communication with the lawyers and effective examination of evidence. Some trial participants such as witnesses and victims may not be familiar with the use of IT technologies during court hearings and the legislation may not provide sufficient solutions on how to comply with international and regional human rights standards and OSCE commitments in courts while using remote ICT technologies. The side-event aims to expand the topics discussed during the Plenary Session VII, Rule of Law II. The side event will allow the experts and participants to assess the main challenges and good practices in relation to the functioning of courts during and after the Covid-19 Pandemic in different OSCE sub-regions. The side event will showcase the main recommendations of the ODIHR Policy brief “Right to a fair trial during public health emergencies” (2021)

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 6 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Engaging Ukrainian Diaspora in Reconstruction and Development
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Summary: The role of Ukrainian diaspora has proven crucial in response to the Russian Federation’s military attack in Ukraine, including by mobilizing humanitarian assistance or in organizing support for refugees. It can be expected that the role of the diaspora will also be important in the post-conflict phase of reconstruction and development as refugees and IDPs return to their homes and are reintegrated in local communities. OSCE participating States recognize the role of civil society in the promotion of human rights and of the human rights of migrants and their families and recommend that host countries and countries of origin cooperate to facilitate the reintegration of migrants (Vienna 1989, Istanbul 1999, Athens 2009, Astana 2010). This session will invite an expert on diasporas’ involvement in post-conflict situation and a representative of a Ukrainian-led civil society organization to discuss experiences and lessons learned from other contexts and diasporas’ role in a post-conflict situation and how these lessons might be relevant for the situation in Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

WOMEN'S POWER BREAKFAST

Time: **Monday, 3 October, 8:15-9:30**
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**
Title: Women's Power Breakfast: Transforming institutions to better deliver for all women and men
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Even though men are still significantly overrepresented in democratic institutions – including in parliaments, political parties and executive institutions – countries in the OSCE region have made an incredible journey in the last three decades, becoming more diverse and ensuring representation of different social groups, including women. Women today hold posts of head of states and governments, and are leaders of i.e. municipalities, courts, ministries and government agencies. Nevertheless, by increasing women's participation rates, institutions do not automatically become gender-sensitive organisations. Institutions are often dominated by masculine organisational cultures, attitudes and rules, and, when questioning those, women often experience sex- and gender-based discrimination and violence.

Participants will discuss achievements, good practices and lessons learned on how democratic institutions can champion progress towards, and full achievement of, gender equality. How can institutions further advance gender balance on all levels of governance? How to promote an inclusive organisational culture and work against discriminatory behaviour and unconscious biases? What role do men leaders play? How can policy and decision-making practises, rules and mechanisms be improved in order for institutions to, ultimately, produce gender-sensitive outcomes?

At the Women's Power Breakfast, ODIHR will also briefly introduce its programmes on women's political participation and gender-responsive democratic institutions, including its work around gender-sensitive parliaments and political parties and governmental institutional mechanisms on the advancement of women, and provide concrete examples from work with OSCE participating States.

Refreshments will be provided