

## SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

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



	27.09	28.09
14.00 - 15.00	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Money and Politics – How do we regulate online political finance?</a> / European Exchange</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Gender Equality and the Security Sector: Challenges and Opportunities</a> / Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Russia’s aggression against Ukraine – Accountability and the Way Forward</a> / Delegation of the EU</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Networking in the CSOs Lounge</b></p>
15.30 - 16.30	<p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Women’s Solidarity and the Russian Invasion</a> / International Council for Diplomacy and Dialogue</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Technology in Service of Democracy and Human Rights: Elections in the Digital Era</a> / Community of Democracies</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Threat to Democracy or How Authoritarian Regimes Attack through Elections and Referenda</a> / Civil Network OPORA</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Fundamental Freedoms in the Russian Federation – Presentation of the main findings of the Moscow Mechanism report</a> / Delegation of Germany</p>	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Ensuring and Monitoring the Right of Peaceful Assembly during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Anti-Cult Ideology and FECRIS: Dangers for Religious Freedom</a> / Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Systematic Violations of Civil Rights in Russia: the impact on pre-war conditions and anti-war movement</a> / OVD-Info</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Belarus: without the right to defense</a> / Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Decolonizing Russia is Defending the Human Rights</a> / US Helsinki Commission</p>
17.00 - 18.00	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Ukraine: civilian hostages, protecting the rights of missing and disappeared civilians, and in finding ways to accountability and justice</a> / Center for Civil Liberties</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Shrinking space for civil society in Azerbaijan Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan</a> / Rights and Freedoms of Turkmenistan Citizens</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Artificial Intelligence and Electoral Falsifications</a> / Golos Movement</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">The Lukashenka Regime Should be Brought to Justice</a> / Prospect Foundation / iSANS</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">State of Democracy and Youth Political Participation</a> / Delegation of North Macedonia</p>	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Climate Justice, Human Rights and Energy Security in the OSCE region</a> / Crude Accountability</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Attack on religious freedom during the armed aggression of Russia</a> / Center for Civil Liberties</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Crimea in the shadow: renewing international attention on human rights violations</a> / Human Rights Centre ZMINA</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Freedom of assembly in Kazakhstan</a> / Human rights centre “Glotion”</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Internal Repression and Transnational Aggression. Belarus</a> / Delegation of Denmark</p>

	29.09	30.09
14.00 - 15.00	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Launch of the 7th edition of Holocaust Memorial Days: an overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Religious discrimination by some OSCE pS: Is there “soft” dehumanization?</a> / Church of Scientology</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Declining international security, growing authoritarianism in EECA: How to defend freedom of expression</a> / Article 19</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Pamiri Ethnic Minority Facing Increasing Repression in Tajikistan</a> / Tajik Center for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Religious and Ethnic Discrimination on Occupied Territories of Georgia</a> / Delegation of Georgia</p>	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Establishing truth and enabling accountability: the role of journalists in uncovering human rights abuses and international crimes in times of war</a> / Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Article 19</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Threats to life and safety of journalists, bloggers, and other voices in Azerbaijan</a> / Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Russia will classify the IRPT as a Terrorist Organisation? Causes, Facts and Consequences</a> / Eurasian Dialogue Institution</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Safety of Journalists: Dangers of reporting from the war zone in Ukraine</a> / Delegation of Lithuania and others</p>
15.30 - 16.30	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Extremism, Xenophobia and Hate Crime in the OSCE Area</a> / European Center for Democracy Development</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Strategy to confront anti-Semitism</a> / Jewish Association Czulent</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief</a> / Polish 2022 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">War crimes in Ukraine. How to prevent impunity. The vision of civil society</a> / Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights</p>	<p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Attacks on independent media in post-Soviet autocracies</a> / Justice for Journalists Foundation</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">The ongoing crackdown on journalists and bloggers in Tajikistan</a> / Foundation for Intercultural Integration</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Ensuring justice for the victims of Russia's genocidal war on Ukraine</a> / International Partnership for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Russia's cyber warfare and misinformation campaign against Ukraine: Threat to a democratic world</a> / Global Information Space</p>
17.00 - 18.00	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: ODIHR's Assistance to OSCE participating States and Support to Civil Society</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">CoE Recommendation on Comprehensive approach to prevent and combat hate speech</a> / Council of Europe</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Addressing Holocaust distortion and disinformation to foster tolerance, non-discrimination, and democracy</a> / International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">State led islamophobia: a French, Austrian and British case</a> / CAGE Advocacy</p>	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">How Encryption Protects Journalism</a> / Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Free access to uncensored and verifiable information in Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the context of armed conflict</a> / Civil Rights Defenders</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Corruption and Kleptocracy in Central Asia against the Background of Russian aggression in Ukraine</a> / Freedom for Eurasia</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Documenting and analyzing serious human rights violations to ensure effective and impartial justice for the atrocities</a> / Norwegian Helsinki Committee</p>

	03.10	04.10
8.15 - 9.30	<b>Belweder</b> (special event organized by ODIHR): <a href="#">Women's Power Breakfast: Transforming institutions to better deliver for all women and men</a> (see page 66 for description)	
14.00 - 15.00	<p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Children of Ukraine – facing war, migration, separation</a> / Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Taking a Discussion on the Failure of the International System to a Level Up: Should We Preserve the OSCE as a Platform for Dialogue? Is Addressing the Accountability Gap a Political Problem?</a> / Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Ensuring Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Resulting from Russia's War of Aggression against Ukraine</a> / Delegation of Finland</p>	<b>Networking in the CSOs Lounge</b>
15.30 - 16.30	<p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Law enforcement response to GBV: challenges and opportunities</a> / OSCE Secretariat</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Human rights violations in Crimea in the context of Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine</a> / International Partnership for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Genocide in Ukraine: a victim-centered approach and international responsibility</a> / Center for Civil Liberties; Regional Center of Human Rights</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Children and Security in the OSCE and beyond - the state of play and steps to be taken</a> / Polish OSCE Chairmanship 2022</p> <p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Monitoring the Human Rights Situation of Roma in Ukraine and neighbouring participating States</a> / ODIHR</p>	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Counter-terrorism and shrinking civic space</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Index on Torture: Current assessment of compliance with the prohibition of torture in OSCE countries</a> / Public Verdict Foundation and others</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">International Crimes committed in the Recently Occupied Territories of Ukraine</a> / World Organisation Against Torture</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Torture, police brutality and lack of accountability in Central Asia</a> / International Partnership for Human Rights</p>
17.00 - 18.00	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Improving access to inclusive education for Roma and Sinti children</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Siberia's resources excavation causes discrimination: Lives and traditional environment of Siberia's Indigenous peoples are destroyed</a> / Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Russia: Victimization of Ethnic Minorities by Putin's Wars</a> / SOLIDARUS e.V.; Free Russia Foundation</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Putin and Lukashenka's Prisoners: Political Prisoners in Russia, Belarus and the OSCE Region</a> / Delegation of USA</p>	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">How to ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities are heard in times of crisis</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Enforced Disappearances and Torture in the OSCE Region - An Updated Look at Turkmenistan 20 Years after the Start of Mass Repressions</a> / Crude Accountability</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Challenges in the Central Asia Region: Border conflicts, access to justice, and their impact on gender and on the protection of women's rights defenders</a> / Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan"</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Ethnic Minorities in Central Asia: from non-recognition to stigmatization, vague accusations in terrorism/separatism, discrimination</a> / Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"</p>

	05.10	06.10
14.00 - 15.00	<p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">How to ensure the right to a fair trial and access to justice in a post-pandemic reality?</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Establishment of a tribunal on Russian aggression against Ukraine</a> / OPORA</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Tajikistan Political Prisoners: Torture, Murder, Un-Rule of Law</a> / Forum of Tajik Democratic Freethinkers</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Russia: The Crisis with the Kremlin's Political Prisoners</a> / SOLIDARUS e.V.; Free Russia Foundation</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Political repressions: deterioration of the rule of law in Poland continues</a> / Open Dialog Foundation</p>	<p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy 2022</a> / Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see page 67 for description)</p> <p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Engaging Ukrainian Diaspora in Reconstruction and Development</a> / ODIHR</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Survivor of human trafficking: meaningful participation at organization level</a> / Footprint to Freedom</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Forced Displacement of Ukrainian Civilians to Russia</a> / International Federation for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Are OSCE Countries Safe for Ex-Muslim Refugees?</a> / Set My People Free</p>
15.30 - 16.30	<p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Russian governments' war against its critics and civil society. Evolution of the Putin regime from practicing domestic repression to becoming a threat to global security</a> / Moscow Helsinki Group</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">The captivity of POWs in the framework of Russian aggression against Ukraine: Geneva conventions and international humanitarian law compliance</a> / Media Initiative for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">The future of Belarusian youth in the conditions of repression, war and discrimination</a> / Belarusian Youth Hub</p>	<p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy 2022</a> / Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see page 67 for description)</p> <p><b>Belweder:</b> <a href="#">Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues after 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war</a> / Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Vanadzor</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">The hidden cost of human trafficking: the impact of the current and emerging global crises</a> / Trafficking in America Task Force</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">"Partnership in Action": International Network of NGOs against trafficking in human beings in Central Asia and Russia</a> / Istiqbolli Avlod</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation: Responding to prevention and protection challenges in the context of the Ukraine conflict</a></p>
17.00 - 18.00	<p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Judicial Independence and Rule of Law in Poland - current situation and recommendation on the ways forward</a> / Free Courts Foundation</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">Human Rights Protection and HRDs in the context of Armed Conflicts</a> / Helsinki Citizens' Assembly – Vanadzor</p> <p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Respect of the rights to peaceful assembly in Kazakhstan in the context of the January protests. Prevention and consequences of violations of the right to freedom from torture</a> / Equal rights</p>	<p><b>Plenary:</b> <a href="#">Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy 2022</a> / Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see page 67 for description)</p> <p><b>Opera:</b> <a href="#">NGO roundtable on the trafficking in persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities</a> / US Delegation and others</p> <p><b>Saski:</b> <a href="#">Survivor's perspective on code of practices</a> / Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program Inc.</p> <p><b>Królewski:</b> <a href="#">Human Trafficking, Conflict and Displacement: Ukraine Crisis Response</a> / International Organisation for Migration</p>

## Tuesday, 27 September

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**  
Title: Money and politics – how do we regulate online political finance?  
Convenor: European Exchange  
Working language: English

Summary: Regulatory approaches to political finance vary greatly across the OSCE region. Where public trust is high, there may be less regulation, whilst in countries where there is less public trust, authorities may opt for tighter regulation. However, emerging trends, including the apparently under-regulated methods of online political activities, appear to be challenging the equilibrium of trust and regulatory extent. Opaqueness of money flows in relation to online advertising or donations challenges the principles of equality and transparency. The ability to circumvent rules by engaging third parties or using innovative online fundraising tools helps political actors avoid accountability. In this event, experts shall present research by the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE), which provides constructive inputs to an ongoing discussion of how to address challenges faced by all OSCE participating states in regard to better regulating the relationship between money and politics. Best practices will be shared from EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries on regulating political finances online.

Speakers:

Sylwester Oracz, Campaign Finance Expert of the Political Accountability Foundation,  
Alexander Shlyk, Special Representative on Elections, Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya  
Wojciech Tworowski,

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Gender equality and the security sector: challenges and opportunities  
Convenor: Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In February 2020, DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment Women (UN Women) published the Gender and Security Toolkit. The underlying purpose of the project was to track a decade of global developments in the realm

of gender and security since the publication of the Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit in 2008. The second iteration of the Toolkit was also meant to analyze the impact of the progressive expansion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on national agendas and suggest ways in which governments could take action to make them a reality. The new toolkit is a series of 9 practical tools and 4 policy guides, and focuses both on advancing gender equality within security and justice institutions and how the security and justice sector can help to achieve gender equality and Women, Peace and Security goals within society. During this joint side event, DCAF and ODIHR's Human Rights Department will present the recent developments, lessons learned and ways forward for addressing women's advancement in the security sector and promoting gender equality.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>14:00-15:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Plenary room</b>
Title:	Russia's aggression against Ukraine – Accountability and the Way Forward
Convenor:	Delegation of the European Union and its Member States; Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: This panel event focuses on accountability for Russia's violations of international law and atrocities abuses in Ukraine and violations of international law – accountability through fact-finding and exposure of abuses, and legal accountability through investigations.

Objectives:

- Explore key findings from the two Ukraine Moscow Mechanism reports and new reporting to expose the Russian Federation's and Russian Forces violations and abuses of IHL and IHRL.
- Explore how to hold the Russian Federation, its political and military leadership and members of the Russian Armed Forces to account through different mechanisms.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>15:30-16:30</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)</b>
Title:	Technology in Service of Democracy and Human Rights: Elections in the Digital Era

Convenor: Community of Democracies

Working language: English

Summary: Rapid digital transformation affects all aspects of public life, with implications across all three dimensions of the OSCE, including functioning of public institutions, governance, elections, privacy, and the future of democracy itself. Technology and innovation can have a positive effect on strengthening democracy and improving the effectiveness of institutions. However, the use of digital technologies can also pose a risk to democracy and human rights, including elections. The 2022 OSCE Polish Chairmanship priorities include addressing a wide range of security and democracy related issues through a human centered perspective, where close attention is paid to non-military security challenges. The UN, together with regional organizations such as OSCE and its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which has extensive experience in election observation, provides a good platform to discuss benefits as well as challenges pertaining digital technologies. The Community of Democracies' Working Group on Democracy and Technology (WGD&T) is an informal, voluntary structure for joint discussion and action aimed at harnessing digital technology to support effective and accountable democratic governance worldwide, including through knowledge-sharing and exchanging best practices and ideas with respect to technological solutions, promoting initiatives aimed at safeguarding digital democracy and government transparency and facilitating the deployment of digital platforms and public goods that support. The WGD&T recently conducted a study on "Technology in Elections – Good Practice of using Digital Tools and Platforms in the Community of Democracies' Member States", which offers a comprehensive analysis of the use of technology in elections in many countries around the world.

Vladimir Misev, ODIHR Senior Advisor on New Voting Technologies

Ambassador Urszula Gacek, Former Head of the OSCE Election Observation Mission to the United States (2021)

Christopher Jackson, International Cybersecurity Specialist and former consultant to CISA

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**

Venue: **Plenary room**

Title: Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Russian Federation –  
Presentation by the rapporteur of the main findings of the Moscow  
Mechanism report

**Supported by the Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE and  
by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OSCE**



Convenor: Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Andorra to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE, UN and International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE; Italian Delegation to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the OSCE; Embassy of Malta in Austria; Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UN, OSCE and IOs in Vienna; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE; Permanent Mission to the OSCE, UN and other International Organizations based in Vienna; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the OSCE in Vienna; Permanent Representation of Portugal to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Romania to the International Organizations; Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Representation of Spain to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Thirty-eight OSCE participating States invoked the OSCE's Moscow Mechanism on 28 July 2022 in order "to establish a mission of experts to look into and report on the ongoing concerns [...] identified as particularly serious threats to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension by the Russian Federation, to assess Russia's legal and administrative practice in light of its OSCE commitments, to establish the facts, and to provide recommendations

and advice". With the help of various contributions from civil society, Professor Nußberger as rapporteur has established the facts, reported on them and has given advice for the way forward. The report will be available online on the OSCE ODIHR's website. At this side event, Professor Nußberger will present the main findings of the report, followed by feedback from civil society and exchange with participants about the findings and recommendations.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: The threat to democracy or how authoritarian regimes attack through elections and referenda  
Convenor: Civil Network OPORA  
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russia's military aggression on the territory of Ukraine goes far beyond just a military confrontation between two countries. It is about the confrontation of civilizational approaches. Ukraine consistently defends democracy against the pressure of autocracies and dictatorships. However, Russia attacks Ukraine not only with weapons, but also using propaganda under the guise of democratic institutions. Russia organizes so-called pseudo-referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine, which have nothing to do with democracy and expression of voters' will, but on the same time, it's another tool of Russian aggression. Civil Network OPORA invites the participants of the conference to discuss ways of countering such misuse of democratic tools.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Women's Solidarity and the Russian Invasion  
Convenor: International Council for Diplomacy and Dialogue  
Working language: English

Summary: Equal participation in political and public life has long been a goal of the international women's movement. Much progress has been made. When it comes to moments of crisis, however, such inclusion is lacking. Women's groups play a critical role in civil society whose interests are also never fully expressed in the process of settlement. That has clearly been the case during the Russian invasion. Women of Ukraine today are building effective horizontal

interaction to reduce the harm associated with military aggression. The gender role of women in the patriarchal world is reproduction and care for children, the weak, and the elderly, which allows building interaction on a horizontal level, through interaction with social infrastructure (Schools, hospitals, social services). The loss of humanity and the severing of human ties is killing our society no less than rockets and bombs. In this situation, the role of civil society, especially women's organizations, increases. Civil society, and women in particular, deserve to be represented in determining the fate of their country. These topics, as well as the role of civil society in ending the conflict in Ukraine, we will discuss during our event.

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**

Title: Ukraine: civilian hostages and the role of civil society in protecting human rights of the missing and disappeared civilians, and in finding the ways to accountability and justice

Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties

Working language: English

Summary: The American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights and the Center for Civil Liberties, member of the Tribunal for Putin Initiative co-organized a panel discussion to present a new report which puts light on the problem of civilian hostages and identifies specific cases of disappeared HRDs and activists. The report also offers legal analysis of the violations of international law and offers recommendations for the international community, human rights organizations, and local government. Please join us for this discussion to hear first-hand accounts from survivors and the experts who are documenting these disappearances, and recommendations from international experts on how we can better support these efforts and ensure accountability. Background: The Russian invasion of Ukraine caused chaos with devastating results of destruction, displacement, and massive loss of life. Ukrainian and international human rights advocates, civil society organizations, and national institutions are playing an instrumental role in protecting the human rights of Ukrainian people. They have been methodically documenting human rights violations of domestic and international law in order to support the victims and bring accountability for these crimes. There are reports of many cases where regular civilians as well as the human rights defenders (HRDs), journalists, and activists appear to have been targeted by Russian forces. The victims were kidnapped, disappeared, detained, tortured, and in some instances forcefully relocated outside of Ukraine. While many have died in captivity, those who managed to escape have given first-hand accounts of their

experiences. Others remain missing with their whereabouts unknown. The experts working on these efforts support urgent calls for additional coordinated responses from the global community to ensure proper investigation and prosecution of these cases in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Speakers:

Michael A. Newton, Professor of the Practice of Law,

Oleksandra Drik, Center for Civil Liberties,

Expert: Iryna Vasilyeva, Kharkiv Human Rights Group Survivors,

Moderator: Jasmine Cameron, Senior Legal Advisor, American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)</b>
Title:	Artificial Intelligence and Electoral Falsifications
Convenor:	Golos Movement
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: New technologies and leading edge of electoral observation. Case of 17 million of fabricated votes at the Duma elections in Russia 2021.

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Plenary room</b>
Title:	State of Democracy and Youth Political Participation
Convenor:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia
Working language:	English

Summary: The side event aims to explore challenges and good practices of young parliamentarians' work, in order to map existing institutional opportunities and leverage assistance for young people's contributions to political and public life. Further, Varieties of Democracy (V-DEM) representative will share key findings on State of Democracy in the OSCE region, by presenting [Democracy Report 2022](#).

Young people are the largest constituency in our society and the driving force necessary for the effective and inclusive functioning of democratic institutions. Their enthusiasm, engagement in

political and public life and their innovative vision shapes the state of democracy across the OSCE region both now, and in the future.

Welcoming & Closing remarks/Moderation:

- Amb. Igor Djundev, Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of North Macedonia to the OSCE
- Dr. Konstantine Vardzelashvili, Head of Democratization Department, ODIHR

Panellists:

- Yuko Sato, Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem Institute);
- Roger Padreny, Member of the Parliament of Andorra;
- Sanela Shkrijelj, Member of the Parliament of North Macedonia;
- David Stögmüller, Member of the Parliament, Austria

Event MC: Nina Chanturia, ODIHR Youth Focal Point

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 2 (Saski)</b>
Title:	Shrinking space for civil society in Azerbaijan Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan
Convenor:	Rights and Freedoms of Turkmenistan Citizens
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Shrinking space for civil society in Azerbaijan Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 5 (Opera)</b>
Title:	The Lukashenka Regime Should be Brought to Justice for Complicity in the Aggression and War Crimes in Ukraine, Incitement to War, Gross Human Rights Violations in Belarus
Convenor:	Prospect Foundation / iSANS – The International Strategic Action Network for Security
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: The problem of continued impunity of the Lukashenka regime remains a major barrier on the road to democratic transition in Belarus, restoring its sovereignty from the Russian occupation, and ensuring security in the region. There are four charges of crimes on the basis of which the illegitimate regime should be brought to international justice. Since the start of

Russia's massive invasion in Ukraine, the Lukashenka regime has been a direct accomplice in the aggression. Numerous evidence prove that it has provided Belarusian territory, airspace, and other support for the Russian attack on Ukraine, including for launch of missiles from Belarusian land and airspace. These actions of the regime fully conform to the definition of aggression in Article 3 of UN GA Resolution 3314. Lukashenka and his subordinates should be charged by an international tribunal for the crime of aggression, along with Putin and his people, without further delay. Moreover, many Russian missiles from among more than 650 missiles launched at Ukraine from Belarusian territory, have hit civilian objects, causing death of civilians and destruction of buildings. Members of the Lukashenka regime should be brought to justice for war crimes, along with Putin and his subordinates. Thirdly, Lukashenka's propagand machine, to a large extent controlled by Russia, has engaged in incitement to war and justification of the aggression. Propagandists should also stand trial. Last but not least, it is high time to end impunity of the Lukashenka regime for gross human rights violations against its critics since 2020, including torture, forced deportation, disappearances, and extra-judicial execution. Massive evidence, collected by Belarusian and international NGOs and by the UN Expert Group should be finally put to work. Lack of accountability for gross violations inside Belarus has emboldened the dictator in Minsk to join forces with the Putin regime in waging aggression against Ukraine and undermining international security. International experts of iSANS will present evidence of responsibility of the Lukashenka regime in the crime of aggression, war crimes, incitement to war, and domestic repression, and discuss prospects of ensuring international justice.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### Wednesday, 28 September

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: Decolonizing Russia is Defending the Human Rights  
Convenor: U.S. Helsinki Commission  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Russia's war of conquest in Ukraine has shocked the world for its brutality and aggression. But the Kremlin's violent designs in Ukraine, and other military adventures in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe, are part of a larger and longer legacy of Russian imperialism that directly threaten its neighbors and imprison a multitude of nations within its authoritarian empire. This side event explores the destructive effects of Russian imperialism and how the unfolding genocide in Ukraine is a natural outgrowth of these colonial policies. Drawing on regional perspectives of those victimized by Russia's brutal empire, the panel will highlight the

realities of Russian colonialism and what a process of decolonization — elevating marginalized voices and providing for their full political and civic self-expression — would mean for Russia and for its neighbors.

Participants:

- Oleksiy Goncharenko, MP in the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada
- Maria Vyushkova, Free Buryatia Foundation
- Leyla Latypova, Tatar Activist and Moscow Times Journalist

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**

Title: Systematic Violations of Civil Rights in Russia: the impact on pre-war conditions and anti-war movement

Convenor: OVD-Info

Working language: English

Summary: One of the prerequisites of the war with Ukraine is long-term systematic violations of human rights and restrictions on freedoms in Russia. In particular, Russia's long-term denial of human rights and the gradual development of repressive mechanisms have led to the inability of civil society to effectively counter Russian aggression in Ukraine. In this side-event, the Russian civil society organisations will cover how the state of human rights in Russia influenced the possibility of the war and the possibilities of Russian civil society to participate in the anti-war movement right now and for civil society organisations to continue their work. It also will cover the importance of international monitoring and follow-up the recent fact-findings from the Moscow Mechanism report.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**

Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**

Title: Belarus: without the right to defense

Convenor: Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The American Bar Association Center for Human Rights (ABA CHR), Helsinki Foundation for Human rights, Poland (HFHR), Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L), the International Bar

Association Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) are organizing this side-event to provide an update on the situation on the ground and highlight the importance of the international solidarity, cooperation, and assistance to the legal profession in Belarus. The speakers will offer recommendations on how to continue to support lawyers in Belarus after the invasion.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

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.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*



Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Anti-Cult Ideology and FECRIS: Dangers for Religious Freedom  
Convenor: Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience  
Working language: English

Summary: Scholars look at the European anti-cult federation, and conclude it is seriously dangerous for religious liberty: The anti-cult ideology has been denounced by scholars and organizations that work on behalf of religious liberty, including the bipartisan commission of the U.S. federal government USCIRF, as a major threat to freedom of religion or belief. One of the main agencies disseminating the anti-cult ideology throughout the world is FECRIS, the European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects, an umbrella organization created in 1994 in Paris.

Speakers:

Christine Mirre (CAP LC Paris, France)

Massimo Introvigne (Center for Studies on New Religions, Torino, Italy)

Willy Fautré (Human Rights Without Frontiers, Brussels, Belgium)

Alessandro Amicarelli (FOB London, UK).

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
Title: Crimea in the shadow: renewing international attention on severe human rights violations in the occupied peninsula  
Convenor: Human Rights Centre ZMINA  
Working language: English

Summary: Even prior to Russia's renewed invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Ukrainian and international human rights organisations, and the OSCE Monitoring Mission to Ukraine reported severe violations of human rights in occupied Crimea; including, enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial punishment, and politically motivated persecution and deprivation of liberty of Crimea activists and human rights defenders, especially Crimean Tatars. Occupied Crimea was consistently ranked as unfree on global freedom indices and annual United Nations General Assembly resolutions pointed to on-going human rights abuses on the peninsula. However, since Russia's renewed invasion of Ukraine, the situation in Crimea has not received

sufficient international attention. In the six months since the start of Russia's renewed invasion of Ukraine, occupied Crimea remains a location of severe human rights violations and increasing militarisation by Russian authorities. As of July 26, 2022, at least 140 citizens of Ukraine have been deprived of liberty due to politically and/or religiously motivated criminal prosecution. Increasingly draconian laws limiting the media freedom and freedoms of assembly, association, and expression and opinion in Russia continue to be applied in occupied Crimea. This side event allows an opportunity for civil society organisations to share new wide-ranging research and documentation on human rights violations in Crimea, including on-going political persecution, as well as the human rights implications for increasing militarisation of the peninsula. It will also focus on the next steps for OSCE participating States to support Ukrainian human rights defenders, civil society, and citizen journalism in Crimea, as well as reflect on de-occupation strategy.

Speakers:

Maria Kurinna, Human Rights Center ZMINA

Iryna Siedova, Crimean Human Rights Group

Maria Sulialina, CCE "Almenda"

Kateryna Yesypenko, wife of Vladyslav Yesypenko (Crimean journalist)

Leviza Djelyalova, the wife of Nariman Djelyal, First Deputy Head of Medzlis, political prisoner, sentenced to 17 years of imprisonment by Russian occupying power in Crimea (online)

Moderator: Dave Elseroad, HRHF

The event is organised by ZMINA, OMCT, NHC, HRHF.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**

Title: Climate justice, human rights, and energy security in the OSCE region

Convenor: Crude Accountability

Working language: English

Summary: Crude Accountability and the Working Group on Climate Justice of the Civic Solidarity Platform present an expert panel and discussion on energy, security, and human rights concerns related to the current energy and climate crisis in Europe and beyond. The intersectionality of climate justice and energy security has been understudied for decades. As the war in Ukraine demonstrates clearly, security, energy, protection of democratic ideals, and the future of the climate are inextricably linked. Connecting the climate crisis with the rise of authoritarianism, human rights abuses, violence, and war, the panel will focus on the current energy crisis in the

OSCE region and explore ways to address the future of energy in the OSCE region. The panel will feature experts on climate justice and the environment from the OSCE region. The speakers will examine environmental degradation caused by the war in Ukraine, shrinking civic space in the OSCE region, especially as relates to environmental justice, and increasing threats to environmental defenders in the region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: **Attack on religious freedom during the armed aggression of Russia against Ukraine**  
Convenor: **Center for Civil Liberties, Institute for Religious Freedom**  
Working language: **English, Ukrainian**

Summary: Since 2014 the Russian aggression against Ukraine was accompanied by abductions, tortures, and extrajudicial executions of clergymen and believers. Since the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, the Russian attacks on religious freedom in Ukraine have become even cruller. If previously, the Russian invaders only threatened to kill priests, now religious leaders are being killed and tortured – again, but on a scale far worse than in 2014. If previously, Russian occupational authorities expelled Ukrainian believers from their churches and prayer houses, now Russia is destroying the spiritual heritage of Ukraine with bombs and missile strikes without justification by military necessity. At least 240 religious buildings and sacred places have already been damaged due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russian media and religious leaders, like Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, are justifying the war against Ukraine with propaganda about the supposed protection of Orthodox believers of the Moscow Patriarchate and Russian speakers. Instead, Russian military aircraft and artillery are destroying both houses of worship and believers, regardless of language, denomination, and ethnicity. This panel will focus on the Russian crimes against religious actors and places of worship during the war against Ukraine, and the Russian religious persecution on the occupied territories of Ukraine, including Crimea.

Moderator: Oleksandra Drik, Center for Civil Liberties

Speakers: Archbishop Yevstratyi (Zoria), the Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Bishop Vitalii Kryvytskyi, the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine, Ordinary of Kyiv-Zhytomyr

Pastor Anatolii Kozachok, the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church, Deputy Senior Bishop

Rt. Rev. Oleksa Petriv, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Mitered Archpriest

Oleksandr Zaiets, the Institute for Religious Freedom, Board Chairman

Maksym Vasin, the Institute for Religious Freedom, Executive Director

Organized by: Center for Civil Liberties.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Freedom of assembly in Kazakhstan  
Convenor: Human rights centre "Glotion"  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The situation with the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is still the most urgent. In 2019, Kazakhstan adopted a new law on peaceful assemblies, which, according to the developer, complies with human rights. But this is not the case. The law has been criticized by human rights defenders and civil society. The January protests highlighted the inconsistency of the law. There will be presented a report on the situation on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in Kazakhstan, and impact of the January events on fundamental human rights, including freedom from torture.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: Internal Repression and Transnational Aggression: Ensuring Accountability in Belarus  
**Supported by the Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE**  
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The side event aims to highlight the deteriorating human rights situation in Belarus and foster a discussion between civil society and representatives from OSCE participating States on possible next steps to ensure accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims. In light of the part taken by Belarus in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the event will also explore the possible impacts of the war on the Belarusian people's fight for democracy and freedom.

## Thursday, 29 September

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: Religious and Ethnic Discrimination on Occupied Territories of Georgia  
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Georgia to the OSCE  
Working language: English

Summary: The Chairman of the State Agency for Religious Issues of Georgia, Mr. Zaza Vashakmadze will discuss the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially - freedom of religion or belief, on the occupied territories of Georgia by Russia. The evidences will be provided of how cultural heritage monuments are being destroyed on purpose to erase Georgian traces.

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Religious discrimination by some OSCE participating states: Is there “soft” dehumanization?  
Convenor: Church of Scientology Public Affairs and Human Rights Office  
Working language: English

Summary: Needless to say, non-discrimination on the basis of religion or belief is an always improving subject with more and more support from authorities, not in small part thanks to the push of Civil Society Organizations. However, horrendous situations of discrimination and violence against minorities by non-OSCE states are used by some participating states to justify systematic practices of discrimination while inciting hate through fake news and distorted visions of the practices and beliefs of certain minorities. This presentation will be open to contributions from the audience and will expose evidence of discriminatory policies, practices and behaviours, as well as inside experiences of some who have been working with governments and attempted to change these negative practices.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Pamiri Ethnic Minority Facing Increasing Repression in Tajikistan  
Convenor: Tajik Center for Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Since July, the courts have handed down more than 5,000 verdicts with heavy sentences against members of a Shiite Ismaili ethnic group. About 100 detainees, including seven journalists, are awaiting trial. Kholbash Kholbashov, former head of the Gorno-Badakhshan border guards, and his ex-wife, Ulfatkhonim Mamadshoeva, a journalist and activist, were sentenced to life and 25 years' imprisonment respectively by a court in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital, on Monday, August 15, for “terrorist organization” and “violently calling for a change in the constitutional order”. Both belong to the Pamiri minority, an Ismaili ethnic group present in

eastern Tajikistan – as well as near the borders of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan – which has long been targeted by the government. Mr. Kholbashov and Ms. Mamadshoeva are accused of inciting the protests that took place in May in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, where several thousand Pamiris protested for the respect of their rights and against the repression they have been subjected to since November 2021, after the Pamiri sportsman Gulbuddin Ziyobekov was killed by Tajik police. The protests peaked on May 14, particularly in the districts of Khorog and Rushan on the border with Afghanistan. Four days later, the Tajik government launched an “anti-terrorist” operation to contain the movement, which had become massive in the Gorno-Badakhshan region. Since then, the crackdown has continued to intensify, with mass trials handing out heavy sentences, including life imprisonment, to not only the leaders of the Pamiri movement, but also all activists from the ethnic community. According to the exiled Tajik journalist Anora Sarkorova, “the authorities want to imprison so many people that they have gone to build another women's prison, in the Sughd region in the north”.

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>14:00-15:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)</b>
Title:	Declining international security, growing authoritarianism in EECA: How to defend freedom of expression
Convenor:	ARTICLE 19
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: The two-year COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2022 contributed to a significant reduction in fundamental human rights in Eurasia. One of the victims of authoritarian governments became the right to freedom of expression and opinion. In Russia and Belarus, the regimes subjugated or destroyed the free media, persecuting journalists and activists. In Central Asia, governments censor offline and online media, illegally arrest or intimidate journalists and activists who track corruption or other abuses by public officials. Freedom of expression, independent journalism, and access to unbiased information have come under unprecedentedly high pressure. The prospects for the right to possess and disseminate information are unclear. On the one hand, they depend on the fate of the ongoing global crises, on the other hand, the international community's interest in human rights in Central Asia and Eastern Europe is not sufficient. The proposed side-event during the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference intends to fill the existing gap.

Invited experts from Article19, SOVA, Dignity, Bir Duino, Human Constanta and Viasna will offer a brief overview and consider the ways of challenging the negative impact growing authoritarianism in the region has on freedom of expression.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
Title: Discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief – current challenges in the OSCE area and the way forward  
Convenor: Polish 2022 OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office  
Working language: English

Summary: All the OSCE participating states should strive to promote a climate of tolerance, inclusion, and respect for diversity. But how to do in practice? The Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairmanship invite to discuss current manifestations of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief as well as best practices in the OSCE area.

Moderator: Tatjana Peric, ODIHR

Speakers:

- Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief (online)
- Rabbi Andrew Baker, OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Antisemitism
- Miriam Gavtadze, Head of Strategic Litigation & Member of the Board of Directors, Tolerance and Diversity Institute
- Prof. Regina Polak, OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions (TBD, online)
- Amb. Ismail Hakki Musa, OSCE Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**  
Title: Extremism, Xenophobia and Hate crime in the OSCE area 2018-2021 - Monitoring and Statistics  
Convenor: European Center for Democracy Development  
Working language: English, Russian



Summary: Extremism lacks precise definition because it has nothing to do with any particular belief system. Any religion or ideology can produce its own brand of fanaticism. Common to them all, however, is the substitution of violence for dialogue. Extremism has no room for criticism or deliberative discourse or compromise because these all require recognition of those who disagree not simply with the extremist's formal political goals, but with the extremist's personal interpretation or opinion of them. During our website event, we will discuss this topic and share the latest data on the state of hate and statistics on hate crimes in the OSCE area. We will also present the results of our analysis of the measures that the state is taking in order to counter extremism in the OSCE countries.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Strategy to confront anti-Semitism  
Convenor: Jewish Association Czulent  
Working language: English

Summary: Since 2020, we have seen the uncertainties and anxieties around the Covid-19 pandemic being weaponised by a broad range of extremists, conspiracy theorists and disinformation actors. Antisemitism is often at the heart of these challenges, with the virus only adding to a deeply concerning trend which has seen eight in ten European Jews experiencing antisemitic abuse online, according to 2018 EU polling, according to a study by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), commissioned by the European Commission. Antisemitism has also become a powerful tool for polarizing societies. During the war in Ukraine, we can observe how the Anti-Ukrainian content is interspersed with anti-Semitic content. Anti-Semitism has become acceptable in public discourse, seen as one of many forms of expression. An unpleasant opinion, perhaps, a misguided one, but acceptable and not compromising. An adequate response to hate speech and the associated threat to a democratic and inclusive society is to develop a comprehensive strategy to counter hate speech in public spaces. As a Jewish advocacy organization that develops and implements an innovative pattern of educational solutions through political, social and legislative action, we will propose discussions with our partners on what comprehensive and strategic actions we can take from the bottom up, from a Central and Eastern European perspective. The basis for the discussion will be good practices highlighted in the activities of the Association and its partners, based on the example of projects:

- Comprehensive system for monitoring anti-Semitic crimes and hate speech, as well as assistance and support for members of the Jewish community;

- Countering antisemitism and other forms of discrimination. Implementing the IHRA's operational definition of antisemitism in Poland;
- Strategies for cooperation and inclusion of people exposed to discrimination and exclusion;
- Index of Inclusive Policies, a tool to support self-advocacy of national and ethnic minority organizations.

\*\*\*

**Time:** 15:30-16:30  
**Venue:** Plenary room  
**Title:** War crimes in Ukraine. How to prevent impunity. The vision of civil society  
**Convenor:** Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
**Working language:** English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: Since February 2022, “Ukraine 5 AM Coalition” documents the war crimes committed as a result of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. At the moment, the volume of documented war crimes, and challenges to global security, based on respect for human rights and democracy, caused by Russia's full-scale aggression in the center of Europe, require the consolidation of actors' efforts at various levels. The very architecture of future justice will require not only properly documented evidence but also a unified vision of the justice model that will be able to ensure the restoration of these war victims' rights and the guarantee of non-repetition.

*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*

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)</b>
Title:	Addressing Holocaust distortion and disinformation to foster tolerance, non-discrimination, and democracy
Convenor:	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
Working language:	English

Summary: The panel will discuss how to identify forms of disinformation that reference the Holocaust, how to prevent it, and how to make use of practices that can protect the facts, counter intolerance and foster non-discrimination and democratic principles. Holocaust distortion is a growing critical threat to Holocaust memory and to fostering a world without genocide. References to the Holocaust that mischaracterize and distort its history are an insult to the memories of victims and survivors and nourish conspiracy theories, dangerous forms of nationalism, Holocaust denial and antisemitism. Worldwide, Holocaust distortion received a new push in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic when the misuse of Holocaust imagery, conspiracy theories and so-called fake news flourished. Today, there are few anti-democratic movements that do not also have a distortive view of the Holocaust, and attempts to create a useful past are growing world-wide. In January, a resolution by the UN General Assembly urged all Member States to reject any denial or distortion of the Holocaust. Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine and the gross Holocaust distortion being used to justify it highlight the scope and urgency of the topic. Holocaust remembrance and education are an important part of the OSCE commitment to fight antisemitism. Participating States play a crucial role in countering the deliberate spread of disinformation that may incite to discrimination, hostility, or violence as well as in promoting protecting human rights. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is unique in that it brings together civil society and policy and

decision makers from more than 35 countries and key international organizations to discuss Holocaust-related matters of contemporary relevance. With its partners, the IHRA has addressed distortion and denial for many years and offers a set of tools that help civil society and policy makers recognize and counter distortion and related issues. With its initiative, the Global Task Force Against Holocaust Distortion, the IHRA has initiated awareness raising campaign #ProtectTheFacts and an Action Plan, a Comprehensive Guide on Holocaust Distortion, and an Introductory Video. These guidelines seek to support policymakers and civil society in addressing Holocaust distortion in different areas, through identifying and tracking, capacity building, supporting Holocaust-related institutions, and developing online strategies.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 2 (Saski)</b>
Title:	CoE Recommendation on Comprehensive approach to prevent and combat hate speech
Convenor:	Council of Europe
Working language:	English

Summary: Hate speech is a rising phenomenon which poses a direct threat to democracy and human rights. Increasingly present online and offline, it not only undermines individuals' essential rights and fundamental freedoms, but it also humiliates and marginalize targeted individuals and groups. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities have noted hate speech has a detrimental effect on individuals or groups who are particularly vulnerable (Migrants, national minorities including Roma and travellers, women and LGBTI etc, and persons in certain professions eg. female journalists and politicians), either because they are subjected to more and more severe abuse, or because they face greater obstacles in obtaining justice, have insufficient understanding of their rights, and are reluctant to report hate speech incidents, as they lack trust in justice and law enforcement institutions. On 20 May 2022, the Council of Europe adopted a new Recommendation on Combating Hate Speech containing a set of guidelines for the member States and other key stakeholders (internet businesses, political bodies, media, CSO's) to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent and fight hate speech within a human rights framework, including in the online environment. The recommendation provides a working definition of hate speech which distinguishes different levels in accordance with their gravity and propose Member States to adopt an effective legal and policy framework covering criminal, civil and administrative law, and to set up and implement alternative

measures, including awareness-raising, education, the use of counter and alternative speech, to set up support mechanisms for those targeted by hate speech, conduct monitoring and engage in international co-operation and national co-ordination. The Recommendation builds on case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, international standards including of the OSCE and UN bodies, and promising practices identified in recent years. The questions now arise, how do we put these comprehensive standards them into practice? Who should act, What should they do, Where should they start?

Moderator:

- Menno Ettema, Co-secretary to the former Expert Committee on Combating Hate Speech

Speakers:

- Marietta Hertfort, Phiren Amenca – on the role of NGO's in counter narrative initiatives
- Tryggvi Hallgrímsson, CoE Gender Equality Division – on standards and practices to address sexists hate speech
- Thorsten Afflerbach, Anti-Discrimination Department– on Anti-discrimination standards, policies and practices to support national authorities, equality bodies and NGO's prevent and combat hate speech.
- Anna Wegscheider, HateAid- on measures to support those targeted by hate speech

POLAND 2022

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: State led islamophobia: a French, Austrian and British case  
Convenor: CAGE Advocacy UK Ltd  
Working language: English

Summary: Recent years have been marked by an unabashed state Islamophobia and a hardening of the legislative framework governing anti-terrorist policies, which are in fact aimed at targeting a specific minority of the population: Muslims. Whether in France, Austria or the UK, the state's covert or overt persecution of Muslims has resulted in a range of human rights violations such as the right to association, assembly and religion or belief, symbolised by landmark moments in the history of state racism, including 'Operation Luxor' in Austria - the single largest police operation in Austrian peacetime history that showcased a growing Islamophobia network within the Austrian state enabling abuses of the law, and how the government of Sebastian Kurz sought to

exploit ISIS attacks in Vienna to target Austria's Muslim population; the policy of Systematic Obstruction in France - which is a form of maximum pressure policing whereby almost exclusively Muslim institutions are being systematically monitored, surveilled, investigated and sanctioned, resulting in the forced dissolution of organisations, heavy handed policing and criminalisation of Islam in social, religious and political spheres; and Prevent in the UK - a de-radicalisation programme visible in many areas of social and political life that contributed to a commonsense Islamophobia fostered by the War on Terror, whereby the notion of extremism/terrorism, and the behaviours that constitute it, are coded as Muslim and which only resulted in a securitisation of Muslims and of the Islamic theology and orthodox Islamic behaviour framed as signs of 'extremism'.

### **Friday, 30 September**

Time:	<b>14:00-15:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)</b>
Title:	Establishing truth and enabling accountability: the role of journalists in uncovering human rights abuses and international crimes in times of war
Convenor:	Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Article 19
Working language:	English

Summary: Against all odds, often facing violence and the risk of death, Ukrainian and international journalists are bringing the truth about the Russian invasion of Ukraine to their audiences across the world. From live frontline reporting and painstaking gathering of evidence of war crimes to open-source intelligence analysis, war reporting is the most actual and prominent case study of media's central role in fighting propaganda and disinformation. Journalists have been continuously targeted and even killed for doing their job. Intentional killing of a journalist in the course of a conflict is a war crime; as such, it has no statute of limitation and is covered by the universal jurisdiction. Any state, that has the respective provisions in their domestic law, can prosecute those responsible for these international crimes. Fighting impunity for war crimes documented by journalists and/or committed against them is critically important for the protection of freedom of the media in the OSCE region. This event is intended to launch a collection of testimonies of the war correspondents about their reflections and experiences of covering the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The courageous work of those reporters is important not only in the Ukrainian context but also vital to our understanding of the nature, dynamics and motivation of journalistic work in times of conflicts and war.

*Reporting from the frontlines:*

- How did the war change the practice of journalism?
- How do you deal with the physical and psychological dangers to you and your fellow colleagues? What motivates you to continue doing this work?
- What are your lessons learned since February 2022?

*The role of media:*

- How do you see the role of media in holding perpetrators of international crimes accountable and defending human rights?
- Do you think that with your reporting you were able to influence public opinion and/or position of the decision-makers in your country where it concerns their attitude and stances with regard to the Russian invasion of Ukraine? In your personal view, was it more important to influence public opinion or the position of the decision-makers?
- How does your reporting contribute to collecting evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity? In your opinion, is this an important aspect of journalistic work?

*The remit of professional standards:*

- How do you interpret journalistic standards when covering the war and collecting evidence of war crimes? What's the most important ethical principle for you in this work?
- How does covering the war in your own country differ from reporting from a conflict in the third country?
- How do you find a balance between defending human rights values which are being violated during this war and the journalistic principle of distance?

Speakers:

- Sarah Clarke, Head of Europe and Central Asia team, Article 19 (moderator)
- Oleksii Matsuka, Editor-in-chief of the international version, Ukrainian international broadcaster UA:TV
- Angelina Koryakina, Head of the news department, Ukrainian public broadcaster UA:PBC
- Philippe Dam, Advocacy director for Europe and Central Asia, Human Rights Watch
- Maria Kurinna, International advocacy manager, Ukrainian human rights organization ZMINA

The event will be opened by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Teresa Ribeiro.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**

Venue: **Plenary room**

Title: Safety of Journalists: Dangers of reporting from the war zone in Ukraine  
**Supported by the Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE**

Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Austria to the

OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UN, OSCE and IOs in Vienna; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: This side event will cover the safety concerns of journalists and media actors in Ukraine, with a focus on the risks faced by those working and living in the areas under Russian military control. Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine provides yet another tragic illustration of the vulnerability of journalists in conflict situations. Journalists risk their lives while operating close to the areas of armed hostilities. Their work providing objective information in war zones to puts them at greater risk of exposure to violence, mistreatment, intimidation, harassment, abductions, unlawful detention or even death. The Ministerial Decision adopted in Milan in 2018 on the Safety of Journalists highlights that "journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians." Yet, as the recent reports under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism prove, since Russia's attack against Ukraine, journalists and media actors are reportedly being directly targeted by the invading army. Numerous reporters have been killed since 24 February 2022 while carrying out their journalistic work, as well as detained, abducted, kidnapped and mistreated by the Russian armed forces. This side event, organized by the informal OSCE Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists, which gathers 16 delegations: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, will provide an opportunity to discuss the dangers faced by the journalists and media actors covering the war in Ukraine, as well as working and living in the areas held by Russian military.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**



Title: Threats to life and safety of journalists, bloggers, and other critical voices in Azerbaijan

Convenor: Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Since the beginning of the year, many journalists, mainly investigating corruption and egregious crimes committed by officials, have received direct threats from representatives of law enforcement agencies and special services. In several instances, state officials and security forces threatened journalists and demanded for them to stop their activities citing an unspoken requirement coming from the highest political leadership of the country, including the President of Azerbaijan. On February 22, 2022, a journalist and human rights defender, well-known LGBT activist, Avaz Shikhmammadov (a.k.a Avaz Hafizli), was killed at home. Numerous requests to protect his life were ignored by Azerbaijan's law enforcement agencies. On April 23, 2022, a well-known blogger and human rights activist, former prisoner of conscience, outspoken critic of the authorities, Bakhtiyar Hajiyev was abducted by masked individuals, who tortured and subjected him to inhuman treatment, including urinating on him, while filming it. They ordered the blogger to remove his critical publications. After Hajiyev deleted them, he was released and warned that his non-compliance may lead to him being raped and killed. Freelance journalist Ayten Mammadova was attacked by an assailant using a knife on May 8, 2022. An unknown middle-aged man entered the elevator with her in the building where the journalist lived, put a knife to her throat, and demanded from her to stop writing about the trial she was covering. On June 14, 2022, in France, an attempt was made on the life of a prominent Azerbaijani blogger Mohammed Mirzali who lives in exile since 2016. There have been already two assassination attempts against blogger Mirzali. One in 2020, when four shots were fired at the blogger. The assassin missed, so the blogger was only slightly wounded in the shoulder. Another attempt was made in 2021 using knives. The attackers inflicted 16 stab wounds on the blogger and tried to cut out his tongue. During our side event, the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety will brief OSCE/ODIHR Warsaw Human Dimension Conference participants on the current situation with freedom of expression in Azerbaijan and calls them to condemn repression against critics and urge the government of Azerbaijan to effectively investigate all the attacks against outspoken voices and release all prisoners of conscience. Keynote speaker Emin Huseynov - IRFS executive director

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**

Title: Russia will classify the IRPT as a Terrorist Organisation? Causes, Facts and Consequences  
 Convenor: Eurasian Dialogue Institution  
 Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation has scheduled a trial on the claim of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation on recognizing the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), the largest party of the Tajik opposition, as a terrorist organization for September 14, 2022, the press service of the court told RAPSİ. It is reported that the meeting will be held behind closed doors. Russian Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov, on July 25-26, during his visit to Tajikistan at a meeting with President Emomali Rahmon and his Tajik counterpart Yusuf Rahmon, said that at the request of the Tajik authorities, the Russian Prosecutor General's Office filed a lawsuit with a request to recognize the IRPT as a territorial organization. "We have already filed a relevant lawsuit against the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan in court," Krasnov said on July 25 at a meeting with President Rahmon. What are the causes, facts, and consequences of this Russian move?

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
 Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
 Title: The ongoing crackdown on journalists and blogger's in Tajikistan  
 Convenor: Foundation for Intercultural Integration; Norwegian Helsinki Committee;  
 Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Tajikistan is in the midst of a human rights crisis that has been spiraling out of control for the last years. Hundreds of political prisoners languish behind bars while the political opposition has been outlawed. Torture is rampant while impunity remains the norm for perpetrators of gross human rights violations. The regime hunts down critics not just at home, but kidnap, extradite and disappear opponents abroad.

Tajik authorities crack down on any and all independent media, and routinely close down independent media outlets, while persecuting and imprisoning independent journalists and bloggers. Currently seven journalists are imprisoned or are awaiting trial. As of last year independent media must submit their content for state approval prior to publication, and are obligated to broadcast materials provided by the regime. As a result of the ongoing crackdown, freedom of expression is all but eradicated in Tajikistan and there is little to none free and independent journalism left in the country. In 2022 Tajikistan ranks 152 in the World Press Freedom Index.

During this event we will discuss the following topics:

- What is the state of press freedom in Tajikistan?
- How should the international community respond to Tajikistan’s ongoing human rights crisis and intensified crackdown on free media?
- Ways and means to support media and journalists in exile;
- How can we support persecuted Tajik journalists and bloggers?

Our speakers will include Marius Fossum from the Norwegian Helsinki Committee; Bruce Pannier, veteran journalist and Central Asia expert; Khairullo Mirzaidov, Tajik journalist in exile and former political prisoner; Rustami Joni, Tajik journalist and producer. Muhammadjon Kabirov from the Foundation for Intercultural Integration will moderate the event.

“The Norwegian Helsinki Committee and the Foundation for Intercultural Integration are organizing this event in cooperation with the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs”

*Refreshments will be provided*



Time: **15:30-16:30**

Venue: **Plenary room**

Title: Russia’s cyber warfare and misinformation campaign against Ukraine: Threat to a democratic world

Convenor: Global Information Space

Working language: English, German, Russian

Summary: Russia launched its war against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, but Russian hybrid warfare against Ukraine have persisted ever since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, intensifying just before the 2022 invasion. Cyberwarfare by Russia includes denial of service attacks, hacker attacks, dissemination of disinformation and propaganda, participation of state-sponsored teams in political blogs, internet surveillance using SORM technology, persecution of cyber-dissidents and other active measures. Nowadays Russia is a big threat and putting into question Europe’s security. The Democratic World must stay firm, united and act. The Ukrainian facilitator Global Information Space organisation invites you to go deeper into understanding Russian strategy. The origin of Z, how Russia started a huge campaign just before the war, cyber attacks on European democratic institutions etc.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Ensuring justice for the victims of Russia's genocidal war on Ukraine  
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights  
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russia's genocidal war on Ukraine threatens not only international peace and security, but also represents a vital test for the international justice system. This brutal war in the heart of Europe has seen the commission of atrocities warranting an immediate and significant international response. The response so far has been unprecedented, if belated. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) formally opened an investigation into the situation in Ukraine on 2 March 2022, with a plethora of European states and international institutions committing substantial funding to enable a prompt and effective investigation. As of August 2022, at least 14 countries have opened their own investigations into allegations of international crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine on the basis of domestic universal jurisdiction laws. Meanwhile, the Government of Ukraine is promoting the idea of creating an ad hoc tribunal with the competence to try Russia's political leadership for the crime of aggression. While all the accountability options mentioned are viable and should be seen as complementary to one another, it is vital that processes of criminal justice move forward in a timely manner, proportionate to the urgency of the situation. The side event brings together Ukrainian and international civil society leaders to discuss the relative effectiveness of the available justice mechanisms, the role of victims, the question of reparations, and - most importantly - what can be done to accelerate the justice process given the ongoing and brutal nature of Russia's war.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Attacks on independent media in post-Soviet autocracies  
Convenor: Justice for Journalists Foundation  
Working language: English

Summary: Join a London-based charity Justice for Journalists Foundation and three panelists from the post-Soviet autocracies to discuss the experiences of independent media workers in the post-Soviet space. What are the main methods of attacks against independent media? Are they similar or different between the post-Soviet countries, and what are the trends? How are the

attacks on the media shaping modern dictatorships? And, of course, what can be done to enhance the security of the independent media?

\*\*\*

**Time:** 17:00-18:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2 (Opera)  
**Title:** Free access to uncensored and verifiable information in Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the context of armed conflict  
**Convenor:** Civil Rights Defenders  
**Working language:** English, Russian, Ukrainian

**Summary:** Russian state propaganda is used as a tool to threaten, suppress, and undermine democracy in the country as well as in the occupied territories of Ukraine: Crimea, the East, and now parts of the South. The ability to circumvent state-controlled information will become crucial to ensuring that the public can make informed decisions and hold authorities accountable. How then can the public in both countries access verified, reliable, independent reporting as censorship is on the rise? Can journalists report accurately from occupied territories under siege, where reporting comes at great risk? How can independent journalists' reporting reach the people of Russia post-February 24, given that the state has increased censorship on independent reporting and persecutes media professionals and media lawyers? We will discuss these questions, addressing both practical and conceptual aspects of the problem, with independent journalists, and legal and technical experts who work both in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine and Russia.

\*\*\*

**Time:** 17:00-18:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)  
**Title:** How Encryption Protects Journalism  
**Convenor:** Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media  
**Working language:** English

**Summary:** Encryption is key to preserving confidentiality, integrity, and anonymity online, and a pillar for freedom of expression, the free flow of information and investigative journalism. It is crucial for the protection of journalistic sources, which is particularly relevant for investigative journalism. In environments of prevalent censorship, individuals and journalists are increasingly

forced to rely on encryption and anonymity in order to circumvent restrictions to legitimately exercise their right to seek, receive and impart information, particularly across borders. Encryption and online anonymity are particularly essential for marginalized, suppressed or targeted voices and communities; with women and disadvantaged groups at particular risk of violations of privacy, taking into account existing structural inequalities and discrimination. Consequently, encryption is particularly important for empowering marginalized voices and communities, and those expressing historically repressed opinions, as well as to ensure diversity and media pluralism; as recognized in the most recent OSCE RFoM's Joint Declaration on Gender Justice. Moreover, encryption is crucial for journalism, media freedom, and the safety of journalists. This has been acknowledged by the OSCE participating States in their MC Decision 3/18 on Safety of Journalists, in which they call on states to "refrain from arbitrary or unlawful interference with journalists' use of encryption and anonymity technologies and refrain from employing unlawful or arbitrary surveillance techniques, noting that such acts infringe on the journalists' enjoyment of human rights, and could put them at potential risk of violence and threats to their safety". This side event will explore how encryption technologies and advancements such as end-to-end encryption have proven pivotal for protecting freedom of expression and privacy in the digital age. A lack of, or even the perception of the lack of privacy can have a chilling effect on freedom of expression and lead to self-censorship. Therefore, this session also aims to address challenges arising from laws and practices which are leading to an erosion of encryption, risking weakening the role of the media and investigative journalism across the OSCE region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
 Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
 Title: Corruption and Kleptocracy in Central Asia against the background of Russian aggression in Ukraine  
 Convenor: Freedom for Eurasia  
 Working language: English

Summary: The countries of Central Asia are well established to be kleptocracies, where the ruling elite siphon money from state enterprises. What role does this often neglected region play in regard to Russian aggression in Ukraine? Have the countries become conduits for Russian financial flows given the sanctions imposed by the West? what role will the countries of this region play in future years - a help or hindrance to Russian expansionism? What role of do

professional 'enablers' play in helping kleptocrats siphon money and evade sanctions and what can be done to stop this? What has the Russian invasion taught us about illicit financial flows?

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: Documenting and analyzing serious human rights violations to ensure effective and impartial justice for the atrocities  
Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee; People in Need  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: On the 24th of February 2022, Europe faced a new devastating reality. Russian Federation initiated full-scale military aggression against Ukraine inducing one of the largest wars on European soil. This violent invasion that seeks to undermine the established legal order, tragically overturned and claimed the lives of tens of thousands of peaceful people. In the wake of the ongoing war in Ukraine, accountability for gross violations of international human rights law, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide has become even more important as a human rights priority. In the vicious cycle of such ongoing crimes, impunity fuels further violence. Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC), People In Need (PIN), and other human rights organizations have been instrumental in documenting and analyzing serious human rights violations to ensure effective and impartial justice for the atrocities and play an essential role in supporting victims and affected communities. For many years, we, together with our local and international partner organizations, have worked to gather, process, and analyze documentation on crimes committed in the post-soviet region since the early 1990s. The objective of this side event is to discuss current possibilities that can be employed to seek international justice and accountability for the crimes committed in Ukraine.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Monday, 3 October**

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Children of Ukraine – facing war, migration, separation  
Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"

Working language: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Summary: The coalition “Child Rights in Ukraine” and the coalition “Ukrainian Child Rights Network” with the support of ADC Memorial organise a discussion about the best way to protect Ukrainian Children Rights in the difficult time of war, migration and relocation in Ukraine. In 2022, most of children in Ukraine faced new reality. Aggression of Russia followed by the brutal war has been destroying their childhood: some lost their lives or got wounded in violent attacks against Ukrainian cities and villages, others were forced to migration, lost homes, got separated with their family members. Children require special protection in the conditions of mass migration. ADC Memorial runs the campaign #CrossborderChildhoodUA, aiming to ensure that all places that accept child refugees from Ukraine develop and implement comprehensive measures to protect minors from the risks of sexual exploitation, child trafficking, forced labor, and family separation. Children need a safe environment, they must receive education, medical care and psychological support. Experts from different Human Rights initiatives and organizations will share their vision of the problem and present the best practices in protecting the rights of children of Ukraine.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
 Venue: **Plenary room**  
 Title: Ensuring Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Resulting from Russia's War of Aggression against Ukraine  
**Supported by the Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE**  
 Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE  
 Working language: English

Summary: The event will explore how the international community can cooperate with civil society in contributing to international or Ukrainian accountability mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence as a result of Russia's war of aggression. The objectives of the event are to:

- Present what is being done to ensure accountability for sexual and gender based violence committed by Russia’s forces during its attack on Ukraine,
- Support Civil Society initiatives to ensure accountability for sexual and gender based violence crimes,
- Create links between local and grassroots initiatives and experts on prosecution under international criminal law,



- Learn what can the OSCE and its participating States do to more effectively support local initiatives to counter Sexual and Gender Based Violence in armed conflict.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Taking a Discussion on the Failure of the International System to a Level Up: Should We Preserve the OSCE as a Platform for Dialogue? Is Addressing the Accountability Gap a Political Problem?  
Convenor: Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: We invite you to a discussion on the failure and the future of the system of international organisations. Amidst the worst international crisis caused by the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, we in civil society feel that we cannot continue speaking at OSCE events only about non-implementation of particular commitments. We have addressed this for ages and see now in what a mess the world has ended up, without a proper reaction to systemic problems of comprehensive security, including the human dimension. We clearly see a key principle at work: when a state practices systematic repression and is not held to account, it becomes an aggressor and a threat to world peace. Acknowledging that the international system failed to prevent the biggest war since WWII, we need to take our discussion about the future to a level up. Some believe that we are lucky the OSCE still exists and see its continued value as a platform for dialogue. However, the Helsinki concept worked only in a short period when States shared the founding values. When divisions grew, OSCE instruments of monitoring, educating, and assisting States became ineffective. Perhaps, even in a situation of expanding non-compliance, maintaining a platform for dialogue was important to prevent security breaches. But what is its value now, when a major war rages and when States' approaches to international relations are so divergent? We don't have an answer but want to put this question on the table. The focus should be on key overarching issues. The accountability gap in the international justice system is one such overarching problem. We need to end impunity for large-scale systematic violations, such as political persecution, suppression of freedoms of assembly and expression, torture, enforced disappearances. We urgently need to ensure accountability for the crime of aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, committed in Ukraine by Russia and its accomplice, the Lukashenka regime. National justice systems are not willing or capable to prosecute perpetrators of international crimes. There are also gaps in the architecture of international law. The ICC will select only a few cases of war crimes in Ukraine. Proposals were

made to establish a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine but no progress has been made. Accountability gap is not a merely a legal issue; it needs to be addressed at the political level by States. We need courage and leadership by States who care.

\*\*\*

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 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: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Plenary room**

Title: Children and Security in the OSCE and beyond - the state of play and steps to be taken  
Convenor: Polish OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office 2022  
Working language: English

Summary: This side event, chaired and moderated by the Personal Representative on Children and Security, will include speakers from OSCE, other international organizations as well as civil society organizations. Speakers and participants will be invited to present what they do in the area of children and security and child protection, what standards exist and what practical measures can be implemented to make child voices heard, to include children into relevant decision-making processes, to better protect children and their rights, and to ensure that national programming priorities pay attention to their situation and protection. The meeting will also seek recommendations on how OSCE can improve its efforts in this regard.

Moderator: Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, OSCE Personal Representative on Children and Security

Speakers:

- Elda Moreno, Head of the Children's Rights, Council of Europe
- Andrea Huber, Head of Human Rights Department at OSCE ODIHR
- Dr. hab. Elżbieta Kuzborska-Pacha, Senior Legal Adviser, OSCE HCNM
- Sonia Kush, Ukraine Country Director, Save the Children International

POLAND \*\*\* 2022

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Genocide in Ukraine: a victim-centered approach and international responsibility  
Convenor: Center for Civil Liberties; Regional Center of Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: The Regional Center for Human Rights with the participation of Center for Civil Liberties, Centre for Civil Education "Almenda" and Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, invites you to discuss the preliminary upshot of the study "enocide and Accountability: Response of the NGO Community". Since the large-scale invasion, more than 20% of Ukrainian territories came under Russian occupation. According to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk 1 million 200 thousand civilians of various ages from these territories were forcibly deported to the Russian Federation. It is estimated that thousands of adults did not pass the

Russian filtration camps due to their connection with the armed forces of Ukraine and disloyalty to the Russian Federation. Thousands of children are being deported to Russia with hundreds being allegedly transferred to Russian families for foster care already. Thousands of Ukrainians remain in besieged and occupied cities at risk of hunger and thirst, deprived of housing, food, and medical care. Thousands of Ukrainians are murdered, tortured, raped, castrated – because of their allegiance to the Ukrainian state. During the side event, qualified international lawyers and public experts will demonstrate why the mass atrocities of the Russian Federation should be qualified as genocide against the Ukrainian nation, outline the role of the international community in punishing the crime of genocide against the Ukrainian nation and provide a clear “action plan” for the OSCE member states to facilitate the adaptation of a victim-centered approach in bringing Russia and its top officials to justice. Speakers:

- Ms. Kateryna Rashevskya, legal expert at the Regional Center for Human Rights
- Ms. Mariia Sulialina, program coordinator at the Centre for Civil Education “Almenda”
- Ms. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Co-President at the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention
- Ms. Irene Victoria Massimino, Co-President at the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, online
- Mr. Yevhen Zakharov, Head of Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group
- Ms. Oleksandra Romantsova, Executive Director, Center for Civil Liberties

Moderator: Iryna Usmanova

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
 Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
 Title: Human rights violations in Crimea in the context of Russia’s full-scale war on Ukraine  
 Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights  
 Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russian aggression against Ukraine started in 2014, with the occupation of Crimea, followed by the proxy wars in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Over the past eight years, Crimea has been turned by the Russian Federation into a military base. War crimes and crimes against humanity on the territory of Crimea include conscription and mobilization of residents of Crimea to the ranks of the Russian armed forces and other military formations, in particular for the purpose of participating in hostilities in mainland Ukraine; propaganda of war and violence against Ukraine, including with the use of the educational system in Crimea; and persecution of Ukrainian citizens, including activists, Crimean Tatars, and Ukrainians, journalists in Crimea in the

context of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The following side event brings together Crimean, Ukrainian, and international civil society leaders to present the latest developments in Crimea amidst the turmoil of Russia's war in mainland Ukraine, including militarization of the Peninsula, political persecutions, and other human rights violations. Importantly, the discussion will include war crimes and crimes against humanity, which are taking place in occupied Crimea, and ways to achieve accountability for perpetrators given ongoing Russia's war on Ukraine.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
Title: Law enforcement response to GBV: challenges and opportunities  
Convenor: OSCE Secretariat  
Working language: English

Summary: Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most serious and pervasive human rights violations that affect victims' safety and security and prevent their full individual and societal development. This form of violence, that disproportionately affects women and girls, brings long-term suffering to the survivors, such as psychological and physical trauma and other family members. GBV has severe consequences for all communities and across all levels of society. The OSCE is uniquely positioned to address GBV as a political platform for documenting and exchanging good practices and piloting innovative approaches that can accelerate progress in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, particularly with regard to the nexus of gender equality and security. With its comprehensive approach to security, grounded in regional co-operation, good neighbourly relations, political and socio-economic stability, democratic governance and the rule of law, as well as the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights, the OSCE is strategically placed to implement effective approaches to enhance a comprehensive approach in responding to GBV cases. The TNT/SPMU, Gender Issues Programme and ODIHR Human Rights Department within its Human Rights, Gender and Security Programme (HRGS) will present recent activities as well as the ways forward and best practices for law enforcement response to GBV in the OSCE region.

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Russia: Victimization of Ethnic Minorities by Putin's Wars

Convenor: SOLIDARUS e.V.; Free Russia Foundation

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In chronicling the conduct of this war and the Kremlin's narratives surrounding it, it has become apparent that Russia's ethnic minorities have been purposefully framed as the main perpetrators of the atrocities while also paying the disproportionate cost in lives and well-being. This has been the truth even with the first invasion of Ukraine where the Crimean Tatar community has been victimized en masse and painted as terrorists. The Kremlin has conducted numerous media campaigns supporting the war through content in minority languages— which, ironically, it had been trying to kill off over the past few decades. It has compelled ethnic community and religious leaders to issue pro-war statements. The first wave of the soldiers ordered to deploy in Ukraine was mostly from the ethnic national republics such as Buryatia, Dagestan, Bashkortostan, Chechnya and Tuva. Evidence is abundant that in many cases such deployment was forced and deceitful. Most of these soldiers were killed in action decimating the populations of the ethnic nationalities who had already been facing extinction. The Kremlin's propaganda machine has paraded soldiers from ethnic minorities as mascots of sorts— churning out memes and viral content about the aggressive rogue Putin's Buryat fighters or Chechen units; scapegoating them for the most heinous and violent crimes - thus allowing the ethnic Russians to not internalize their collective responsibility for atrocities as citizens, but rather attributing them to the anomalous, non-Russian elements of the military. The outrage over this profound injustice has given rise to several ethnic movements in Russia working to end the war, preclude deployment of minorities in this illegal military campaign, and counter the false narratives blaspheming the ethnic characters and values. Free Russia Foundation is organizing a panel to discuss the established track record of victimization of ethnic minorities as a prominent part of Russia's war campaigns, their ramifications for minorities on the brink of extension, their role in manipulation of domestic and global public opinion and their implication to structuring of the post-war justice process.

Speakers: Aleksandra Garmazhapova, Free Buryatia Foundation

Moderator: Natalia Arno, Free Russia Foundation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Plenary room**

Title: Putin and Lukashenka's Prisoners: Political Prisoners in Russia, Belarus and the OSCE

Convenor: U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Working language: English

Summary: This side event aims to highlight the growing crisis of political imprisonment in Russia and Belarus and look at the trend lines throughout the OSCE region. Congressman Steve Cohen, the newly named OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Political Prisoners and Co-chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, will moderate a discussion on trends, cases including those of Alexey Navalny, Vladimir Kara-Murza and Sergei Tikhanovsky, advocacy, accountability and cooperation among OSCE participating States.

Speaker: Evgenia Kara-Murza, Director of Advocacy, The Free Russia Foundation

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**

Title: Siberia's resources excavation causes discrimination: Lives and traditional environment of Siberia's Indigenous peoples are destroyed

Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The EU has stopped importing Russian coal and imposed sanctions on Russian gold, but many are asking if such harsh measures were warranted. Meanwhile, human rights defenders, environmentalists, and Indigenous activists have been sounding the alarm for years, arguing that mining for these resources violates the rights of Siberia's Indigenous peoples, destroys their environment, and harms the climate for the entire planet. These topics are the focus of the film "The Gold of Shoria". A screening of this documentary will be followed by a discussion with experts working to protect the rights of Siberia's Indigenous peoples.

\*\*\*

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:	<b>15:30-16:30</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)</b>
Title:	International Crimes committed in the Recently Occupied Territories of Ukraine
Convenor:	World Organisation Against Torture
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: Since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainian and international human rights organizations have documented numerous cases of serious violations of human rights and IHL in the territories of Ukraine fallen under the Russian control, including extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and incommunicado detentions. These crimes seem to become a widespread practice. Speakers and participants will discuss the main patterns and trends of violations, as well as current challenges in the context of documenting violations and effective helping victims. Enforced disappearances: the pattern has been documented in all regions of Ukraine that were or are under the Russian control. Some victims were taken to the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and Crime, occupied in 2014, and to Russia. These people are held in places of detention completely incommunicado. Extrajudicial executions and torture: torture of Ukrainian civilians in administrative buildings, police stations, penal colonies, and other places of detention under Russian control have been widely reported. The civilian victims of these crimes are real or perceived critical voices such as representatives of



the local governments, civil activists, and journalists, as well as ordinary civilians, who were not involved in any armed hostilities or resistance to the Russian army. Cases of enforced disappearances and torture of those who did not pass the filtration procedure have been documented. There are also cases of extrajudicial killings of civilians after they have been subjected to enforced disappearances. Crimes against prisoners of war: Along with civilian victims, human rights organizations have verified numerous cases of torture and ill-treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war. The Russian Federation prevents documentation of these cases and assistance to victims through denial of access to them by international organizations. Lack of access of international organizations to territories and persons under the Russian control leads to the complete defenselessness of victims of human rights violations and to serious moral suffering of their families, especially those who cannot find effective mechanisms to help their relatives in captivity. The judicial system in the so-called recently occupied territories is dysfunctional.

*Refreshments will be provided*

	***
Time:	<b>15:30-16:30</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 2 (Saski)</b>
Title:	Index on Torture: Current assessment of compliance with the prohibition of torture in OSCE countries
Convenor:	Public Verdict Foundation; Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Vanadzor; Human Rights Center "Viasna"; Promo-LEX; Public Association "Dignity"; Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan"
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Promo LEX, Public Association “Dignity” Human Rights Center Viasna, Human Rights Movement Bir Duino, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly-Vanadzor and other human rights NGOs united in the Civic Solidarity Platform's Working Group on Fight against Torture invite you to a discussion on the state of torture prevention in the OSCE region. In December 2020, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 7/20 “Prevention and eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”. The CSP Working group was one of the most active advocator for its adoption and for inclusion many provisions. Since 2020 the CSP Working Group on Fight against Torture has been conducting the periodic measurements of the Prohibition of Torture Index – a unique instrument calculated for each country based on a series of measurements reflecting the State's performance in areas such as torture response mechanism, judicial review, anti-torture provisions in domestic legislation, procedural guarantees designed to prevent the use of torture, torture prevention mechanisms and methods

available in the country and the State's adherence to international standards on the prohibition of torture. Three years of measurement allow the Working Group's experts identify a group of problems which must be addressed as a matter of priority through joint efforts of the government and civil society. These findings mainly concern Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. During the side-event the Working Group's experts will present their findings on current situation regarding the obligations under the OSCE Decision 7/20 and the recommendations on improvement of the situation

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

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.

Speakers:

- Dr. Anne Charbord, Senior Legal Advisor at the UN SR HRCT
- Mr. Simon Crowther, Legal Adviser at Civic Space and Criminal Justice Team, Amnesty
- Mr. Matthieu Birker, Adviser to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe – will be joining via Zoom

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Torture, police brutality and lack of accountability in Central Asia  
Convenor: International Partnership for Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The year 2022 has become the bloodiest in the Eurasia region – not only due to the armed aggression of Russia against Ukraine, but also due to violent crackdowns on mass protests in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries. With the total number of confirmed civilian deaths at around 300, and with hundreds of people having been detained, tortured and tried, the 2022 events have led to significant losses in the Central Asia region and called into question the genuine nature of the commitment of Central Asian states to implementing their international human rights commitments. IPHR, OMCT, HFHR and partners are holding this briefing in order to highlight our concerns about the worrying deterioration in the human rights situation in the region and to call for a suitable response from the OSCE and the international community. The objectives of this joint side event are 1. To inform the members states of OSCE and the bodies of the organisation about the ongoing situation in Central Asian countries, more specifically the serious human rights violations caused in the wake of the crackdowns, harassment of the civil society, excessive use of force, torture and lack of effective investigation of ongoing violations; 2. To advocate for an international investigation of the massive human rights violation in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries in 2022.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: Enforced Disappearances and Torture in the OSCE Region - An Updated Look at Turkmenistan 20 Years after the Start of Mass Repressions  
Convenor: Crude Accountability

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Crude Accountability and the Prove They Are Alive! Campaign invite you to a panel discussion on enforced disappearances and torture in Turkmenistan, which will provide new and updated information about the disappeared in Turkmenistan. Using satellite imagery and expert analysis, we will present new findings about construction at the infamous Ovadan Depe prison, which holds most of Turkmenistan's disappeared political prisoners. Panelists will present recommendations on concrete steps needed to stop enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan 20 years after they began. The year 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the start of mass repressions in Turkmenistan that are reminiscent of the worst examples of purges during the Stalin era. A spring 2003 Moscow Mechanism report on Turkmenistan documented total lawlessness and gross human rights violations. It was then that the criminal practice of enforced disappearances in Turkmen prisons started, which served as a means of intimidating the whole society. It is a well-documented crime: the Prove They Are Alive! campaign has documented 162 cases of disappearances in Turkmenistan since 2002. This is not a matter of history but an ongoing crime: 97 of the documented cases are continuing disappearances. Over the years, the problem has been repeatedly raised by the international community, including at the OSCE, the UN, the EU, and in bilateral relations. The government of Turkmenistan refuses to disclose information about the vast majority of the cases and ignores decisions by inter-governmental bodies, instead making perfunctory statements with no intention of creating change. As we mark the tragic 20th anniversary of the beginning of the heinous practice of enforced disappearances in Turkmenistan, concerned states and intergovernmental bodies must renew pressure on the Turkmen government. All OSCE participating States have a new responsibility to take stronger action in this respect following the 2020 OSCE commitment of MC Decision 7/20 on Prevention and Eradication of Torture, which includes a commitment to fight enforced disappearances and incorporates prolonged incommunicado detention in the definition of what can facilitate torture or by itself constitute torture. The continuation of this practice by OSCE participating states takes on increased weight and must be considered as the gross human rights violation it is.

*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-19 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*

\*\*\*

Time:	<b>17:00-18:00</b>
Venue:	<b>Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)</b>
Title:	Challenges in the Central Asia Region: Border conflicts, access to justice, and their impact on gender and on the protection of women's rights defenders
Convenor:	Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan"
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: 1. Impact of armed conflicts, including the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine, on security situation and respect for human rights and civic space in CA;  
 2. The protection of women's rights, including women's access to justice, education, social and economic rights;  
 3. Development assistance programs for protection and promotion of rights of women and vulnerable groups.  
 4. The need to provide security and assistance to activists and women human rights defenders, as per the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of HRD.

Border problems lead to new conflicts and human casualties. In the countries of CA there is a deterioration of girls' and women's rights due to the growth of religious fundamentalism. Taliban is a threat to the security of the region's citizens and could cause a large-scale humanitarian crisis in the OSCE area as well.

Organised with the support of: the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), DRA, ARTICLE 19, The Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHG), Sigrud Rausing Trust, Civic Solidarity Platform.

Participants: HRM "Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan", PA "Kadyr Kasiet", PF "Insan Diamond", PF "International Legal Initiative", Coalition for Equality.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Ethnic Minorities in Central Asia: from non-recognition to stigmatization, vague accusations in terrorism/separatism, discrimination  
Convenor: Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial"  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In recent years, Central Asian countries have experienced a number of conflicts involving ethnic minorities. These conflicts develop along similar lines: No legal solution is found for community or economic disagreements, leading to the spontaneous or planned eruption of ethnic discord. At the same time, the victims – members of ethnic minorities – are generally assigned responsibility for the causes and aftereffects of the conflict, while official rhetoric sounds forth on the principles of tolerance and multiculturalism.

Why do community conflicts assume an ethnic dimension so easily?

How should government ethnic policies be shaped?

What is civil society's role in developing good neighborliness?

These topics will be the focus of a discussion with regional experts and human rights defenders.

### Wednesday, 5 October

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Russia: The Crisis with the Kremlin's Political Prisoners  
Convenor: SOLIDARUS e.V.; Free Russia Foundation  
Working language: English

Summary: Putin's regime has used the war in Ukraine to complete Russia's transition to full-fledged authoritarianism and strip Russian citizens of the last few remaining means to express their civic positions. Since February, hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy Russians have fled into exile, terrified by repressions, and virtually all independent NGOs and media outlets have been forced to shut down. The list of the Kremlin's political prisoners— which had surpassed the records of the late decades of the Soviet Union even prior to the start of the war, is now growing at unprecedented rates. The number of people persecuted for political and religious reasons in Russia has increased drastically since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. According to the Memorial group, there are currently 471 political prisoners in Russia. This number includes 29 prisoners facing charges related to their anti-war stance and 360 individuals charged under articles related to their freedom of religion. These are the people imprisoned for merely exercising their constitutional rights. In a country which is no longer even pretending to abide by the rule of law, their outlook is grim. A coordinated international effort is urgently needed to push back against this growing injustice and demand the release of political prisoners in Russia. Side-Event: Free Russia Foundation (FRF) is hosting a panel to provide an in-depth expert (legal and sociological) update on the situation with political prisoners in Russia, including the case of Vladimir Kara-Murza, and coordinate joint consideration of practicable and effective initiatives to push for their release. Speakers: Sergei Davidis, Memorial; Evgenia Kara-Murza, Free Russia Foundation. Moderator: Alexei Kozlov, Freies Russlans and Solidarus.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
 Venue: **Plenary room**  
 Title: Political repressions: deterioration of the rule of law in Poland continues  
 Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation  
 Working language: English

Summary: Against the background of a constant, steady deterioration of the rule of law in Poland, the prosecutor's office plays a paramount role. As independent prosecutors are protesting in support of the freedom of judges and are facing harsh consequences, including the use of Pegasus spyware, the executive has been strengthening its hold of the office, rewarding obedience and punishing dissent. This has real-life repercussions for the people of Poland, from judges sticking to the rule of law to simple citizens, from businesspeople to civil society activists. The Open Dialogue Foundation is proud to present its report on malpractice and political abuse in the prosecutor's office, in which it has collected a number of documented cases where the politicization of the office has led to violations of the rule of law and the fairness of trials. In this

event, the Foundation will discuss the topic with judges, prosecutors, journalists and simple citizens who were targeted in politically motivated cases, giving an insight into how the system works and how it is failing Poland's OSCE obligations, as well as its duties towards the EU and the CoE.

\*\*\*

**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*

\*\*\*

**Time:** 14:00-15:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2 (Saski)  
**Title:** Establishment of a tribunal on Russian aggression against Ukraine: high level of responsibility as a safeguard against new conflicts in Europe.



Convenor: Civil Network OPORA  
Working language: English

Summary: The global security system that prevailed in Europe after the Second World War and was destroyed by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is facing new global challenges. And the international condemnation of war crimes and the inevitability of punishment for them is one of the critical elements on which the structure of world security will have to be rebuilt. Civil Network OPORA invites the conference participants to discuss the formats for implementing such tribunals.

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
Title: Tajikistan Political Prisoners: Torture, Murder, Un-Rule of Law  
Convenor: Forum der Tadschikischen Demokratischen Freidender- Forum of Tajik Democratic Freethinkers (FTDF)  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: In 2020, Tajik authorities continued to jail government critics, including opposition activists and journalists, for lengthy prison terms on politically motivated grounds. They also intensified harassment. Following the ban of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) in September 2015, more than 200 of its leading members were arrested and sentenced to long prison sentences in unfair, politically-motivated trials with no judicial or legal rights.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: The captivity of POWs in the framework of Russian aggression against Ukraine: Geneva conventions and international humanitarian law compliance  
Convenor: Media Initiative for Human Rights  
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: The POWs issue is not new in the framework of the Russian-Ukraine armed conflict, but the number of POWs has enormously increased since the large-scale Russian invasion of

Ukraine. The captured persons' families are usually not provided with any information about the place of their captivity, their conditions, etc. According to the MIHR's report, the facts of torturing and inhuman treatment are not rare. At the same time, no international organization has access to the captivity facilities. The event will be held together by Media Initiative for Human Rights and Ukrainian Mission to OSCE. The former POWs and captured person's relatives will take the floor.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: The future of Belarusian youth in the conditions of repression, war and discrimination  
Convenor: Belarusian Youth Hub  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Over the past two years representatives of pro-democracy Belarusian youth have shown their strong determination and will to revitalise democracy and to defend their rights. Belarusian civil society has suffered countless humiliations and repressions by its own autocratic regime: the killing of peaceful protesters, torture, arrests, liquidation of organizations and forced emigration. All these have become new challenges for youth from Belarus. Belarusian youth have experienced various types of discrimination. Hundreds and thousands of young people from Belarus were forced to leave their country for security reasons, as well as to Ukraine. Tens of thousands were arrested in Belarus, over a thousand are still in prisons and deprived of all their democratic rights and the right to live freely in their country. Thousands of Belarusians living in Ukraine together with Ukrainian youth are fighting for freedom and independence of Ukraine. Young people from all over Europe strongly condemn Russia's military aggression as well as the Belarusian regime that supports Russia in these actions. With all this, starting from February 2022, Belarusian youth in Europe have to face numerous cases of discrimination at various levels. Today we are asking ourselves: what path awaits the Belarusian youth and will they become an actor of democratic changes in Belarus?

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**

Title: Russian governments' war against its critics and civil society. Evolution of the Putin regime from practicing domestic repression to becoming a threat to global security

Convenor: Moscow Helsinki Group

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Briefing by Russian human rights defenders on the current situation in Russia. It develops from bad to worse in the context of the Putin regime's brutal aggression against Ukraine, military censorship, expanding politically-motivated persecution for anti-war expression and any opposition to the government, elimination of independent media, toxic spreading of hatred and incitement to violence by the propaganda machine, and the government's war against civil society. Despite the crackdown, human rights defenders, civic activists, volunteers, and democratically-minded people across Russia continue standing against the war and fighting for human rights and democratic values. In addition to security risks from government's repression and actions by war-mongering imperial "patriots", they face increasing isolation from international cooperation and disappearance of resources. In addition to bringing the audience up to date with the current developments, the panelists will discuss "the Russia case" from the global perspective. The Putin regime has evolved from systematically stifling fundamental freedoms, practicing domestic repression, abusing counter-terrorism measures in Chechnya, and escalating conflicts near and far – all merely observed with "growing concern" by the international community which continued lucrative trade relations and allowed export of corruption – to finally invading Ukraine at a massive scale, committing war crimes at the level unprecedented since WWII, and becoming a threat to global security. This is a tragic lesson of how the system of international organisations, including the OSCE, established to protect human rights and maintain international peace, has failed to act. If we all are to survive, how should the OSCE, the CoE, and the UN change to prevent such threats to the world peace from emerging? The audience is invited to discuss this question.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Plenary room**

Title: Respect of the rights to peaceful assembly in Kazakhstan in the context of the January protests. Prevention and consequences of violations of the right to freedom from torture.

Convenor: Equal rights

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Description: The ‘January events’ exposed the consequences of Kazakhstan's prolonged and systematic violation of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom from torture. More than half a year has passed, but the human rights defenders community of Kazakhstan still cannot accurately determine the number of victims. The situation with the prevention of torture and freedom of peaceful assembly remain the most relevant at the moment. Our report provides information on guarantees of freedom from torture and the rights to peaceful assembly in Kazakhstan in the context of the tragic “January events”.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**

Title: Judicial Independence and Rule of Law in Poland - current situation and recommendation on the ways forward

Convenor: Free Courts Foundation

Working language: English

Summary: The concerns over the Judicial Independence and Rule of law in Poland continue to be on-going and problematic including the main challenge is the political influence over the body responsible for judicial discipline. Since 2015, when the PiS came to power, a range of laws were adopted to change the judicial system including the judicial appointment and discipline procedures for local judges. The laws did not comply with international standards and the European Commission had started several infringement procedures. Most recently, the new amendments on the controversial Supreme Court’s Disciplinary Chamber took effect in July, however, the critics of the law argue that the amendments don’t go far enough to fully comply with European court decisions. The changes to the law were made by the government in order to unlock over 35 billion Euros in European Union (EU) pandemic recovery funds that were frozen by the European Commission due to Poland’s failure to uphold its commitments regarding the rule of law. Since Poland is a member of the European Union and a State party to both the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCPR, Poland has an obligation to adhere to rule of law norms and ensure the independence and impartiality of its judiciary. Additionally, the U.N. Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct require Poland to “respect and observe the independence of the judiciary” and emphasize that there should be no “inappropriate or unwarranted interference with the judicial process.” Failure of the government to comply with these standards also threaten fundamental fair trial rights of Polish citizens.

Additionally, Poland is playing an instrumental role in resisting an external security threat because of its military strength and geographic location. Poland has been welcoming millions of refugees from Ukraine since the Russian invasion started in February. Resolving the internal ROL and Judicial independence concerns will make the Poland as well as other members stronger and united to resist the external threats. Also, the lack of judicial independence undermines legal certainty and trust when it comes to positive environment for businesses and foreign investments in Poland.

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Human Rights Protection and HRDs in the context of Armed Conflicts  
Convenor: Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Vanadzor  
Working language: English

Summary: Members of Civil Solidarity Platform, HRDs from 6 OSCE Countries will present the situation law making, and justice in the context of recent and ongoing armed conflicts.

### 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*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
Title: Forced Displacement of Ukrainian Civilians to Russia: Legal Framework and Human Rights Consequences  
Convenor: International Federation for Human Rights  
Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: According to the most recent UNHCR figures, more than 1,900,000 Ukrainian civilians have been forcibly displaced to Russia since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Before entering Russia, a significant number of them pass through so-called “filtration camps” that have emerged in Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories. The “filtration” process includes interrogations, physical examinations, and checking of phones and personal belongings, in order to find links with the armed forces of Ukraine. Civilians are held in filtration camps for weeks and months in poor conditions, with insufficient food, and are often physically ill-treated. In Russia, those forcibly displaced often find themselves with no money, no documents to return to Ukraine and with no opportunity to seek refuge in a third country. The widespread practice of forced displacement is by no means voluntary, safe or informed. Cynically referred to as “evacuations” by the Russian authorities, the transfers violate international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes. This side event will thus bring together legal experts and human rights defenders from Ukrainian, Russian and international organizations to discuss the legal framework of forced displacement applicable to Ukrainian civilians sent to Russia. The event will then focus on the human rights consequences for the displaced individuals, including challenges they face in Russia and international mechanisms to ensure respect of their rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Are OSCE Countries Safe for Ex-Muslim Refugees?

Convenor: Set My People Free - working to abolish Islamic apostasy and blasphemy laws

Working language: English

Summary: News about the stabbing of ex-Muslim author Salman Rushdie by an Islamist, 30 years after the release of his book *The Satanic Verses* which prompted the Supreme Leader of Iran to issue a fatwa - religious edict - calling for the death of Salman, sent shockwaves across ex-Muslim communities and those advocating to see the repeal of apostasy and blasphemy laws where penalties for leaving or questioning Islam can include the death penalty.

The threats against ex-Muslim communities is a reality, though often excluded or miscategorised in hate crime reports due to their multi-faceted identities. While there are no laws against ex-Muslim rights in OSCE states [in contrast to the at least 12 countries which have the death penalty for apostasy and blasphemy and additional 14 states where it is impossible to legally change your religious identity from Islam] ex-Muslims still face threats from family members and the wider community.

During the session we will hear directly from ex-Muslim refugee survivors of apostasy and blasphemy laws in OSCE states on the cause of the violence and also hear presentations from stakeholders about the wider situation for ex-Muslim asylum seekers from evidence captured in recent reports covering specific OSCE countries. Survivors and experts will finally discuss and suggest recommendations for states to take to stem the threats and violence and ensure the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief for all refugees and migrants.

*Refreshments will be provided*

\*\*\*

Time: **14:00-15:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**

Title: Survivor of human trafficking meaningful participation at organization level

Convenor: Footprint to Freedom

Working language: English

Summary: The session will explore planning for tensions and paradoxes when working with survivors, valuing the expertise of survivors, engaging survivors in trauma-informed ways, and designing processes and mechanisms for meaningful survivor input. Furthermore, the session will provide best practices on how the civil society can center the expertise of survivors to help reframe structures of power and authority within anti-trafficking organizations. The session will also provide the outcome of the survey conducted by Footprint To Freedom in partnership with Nancy Hardcastle about the experiences of sex-trafficking survivor speakers telling their stories.

The survey results were examined by Barbara T.Jones, an educational psychologist with a quantitative background, who completed both a qualitative and quantitative analysis. We hope that this session will cause organizations to examine their current practices and ensure that these practices are truly empowering, equitable and respectful. We will describe the implications and findings for both survivor speakers and the anti-trafficking organizations that include survivors as speakers in their events and propose immediate and long-term solutions to address the re-exploitation that survivors are experiencing.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 (Belweder)**  
Title: Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues after 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war  
Convenor: Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Vanadzor  
Working language: English

Summary: The 44-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh left thousands dead, but it did not put an end to the longest-running conflict in the South Caucasus. Today, Armenia and the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh are still being subjected to aggression by Azerbaijan that pursues to rule out all prospects of peaceful resolution of the conflict under the OSCE Minsk Group mandate and is ready to use of force to take over Nagorno-Karabakh.

To date, no justice is served to the victims and their families who suffered heinous humanitarian law violations committed by the Azeri soldiers during the 44-day war, as civil society fact-finding report describes. Sufficient body of evidence proves numerous cases of extra-judicial killings of the Armenian soldiers and civilians after being captured by the Azeri forces. In some cases the perpetrators are reported to be Syrian mercenaries, who were recruited by Azerbaijan to fight against Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite many statements calling for the return of the Armenian prisoners of war, Azerbaijan still holds dozens of them, in violation of international humanitarian law. Baku also refuses to cooperate to identify the fate of around 300 persons who went missing as a result of the war.

State promoted racism and hatred in Azerbaijan, flagged by the International Criminal Court, give no chance to the displaced Armenians to return to their places of living, which came under the Azeri control as a result of the war. The “normalized” Armenophobia on all state levels creates impunity for all crimes committed against Armenians, and even amounts to the risk of ethnic cleansing of the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The event will bring together independent CSOs, OSCE/ODIHR representatives and other countries’ delegations to discuss possible ways to address the committed crimes, establishment of guarantees for non-recurrence.



\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 5 (Opera)**  
Title: Trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation: Responding to prevention and protection challenges in the context of the Ukraine conflict  
Convenor: United States Mission to the OSCE; OSCE Secretariat; Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings;  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The event aims to:

- Raise awareness around the current challenges in the areas of prevention and protection of women and girls at risk of sexual exploitation;
- Highlight the role of demand and technology facilitating sexual exploitation;
- Discuss the need for more effective prevention strategies with a specific focus on discouraging the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Speakers:

- Kateryna Cherepakha, President, "La Strada-Ukraine" (online)
- Anna Ekstedt, Swedish Ambassador-at-large for Combating Trafficking in Persons

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 2 (Saski)**  
Title: The hidden cost of human trafficking: The impact of the current and emerging global crises  
Convenor: Trafficking in America Task Force  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Recent events around the world from COVID-19 to the conflict in the Ukraine are among the many current and emerging global crises that have impacted the crime of human trafficking in negative and unforeseen ways. These events caused an unexpected escalation and evolution in the modalities used by human traffickers and created new levels of exploitation that pose challenges to the current system. Our panel will discuss the impact of global crises on the

current and future state of human trafficking and outline solutions that include the use of National Referral Mechanisms and trauma informed methods to provide member states suggestions on how to stem the rising tide of victims caused by global crises.

\*\*\*

Time: **15:30-16:30**  
 Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**  
 Title: Partnership in Action: International Network of NGOs against trafficking in human beings - a Platform to protect VoTs in Central Asia and Russia  
 Convenor: Republican, Social and Information Center "Istiqbolli Avlod"  
 Working language: Russian

Summary: Over a period of 15 years, NGOs from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have been partners in the combating human trafficking and have worked together to support and assist victims of human trafficking and other forms of violence. In 2018, the NGOs network of Central Asia "Partnership in Action"; has been created on the initiative of NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod" from Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Network). The Network mission is to build a sustainable system for insuring human rights by uniting organizations into a Network for combating human trafficking and other forms of violence through the provision of legal and socio-economic services and advocacy. The Network's activities are guided by the National Constitutions of the network members' countries, national legislation, and international agreement on combating human trafficking and other forms of violence. The main activities of the Network are specified:

- Countering human trafficking and forced labor
- Countering domestic violence
- Countering illegal migration
- Cooperating with the media as a social partner in combating human trafficking
- Increasing the capacity of government agencies involved in countering human trafficking
- Development of volunteerism
- Working with vulnerable groups
- Work with youth and educational institutions

In 2020, NGO from Kyrgyzstan has been joined in the Network. At the present time, the process of acceptance of NGOs from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to the Network is underway. Authorized representatives of the Central Asian countries are: o Republic of Uzbekistan – Nodira Karimova Chairperson of NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod" o Republic of Kazakhstan - Khadicha Abisheva Chairman of NGO "Sana Sezim" o Republic of Kyrgyzstan - Nurzhan Telegabylova, Head of NGO "El Agartuu"

\*\*\*

**Time:** 17:00-18:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 5 (Opera)  
**Title:** NGO roundtable on the trafficking in persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities  
**Convenor:** United States Mission to the OSCE; OSCE Secretariat; Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
**Working language:** English

**Summary:** The side-event will provide a unique opportunity to engage with civil society organizations and gather insights into the nexus between trafficking in human beings and discrimination based on race and ethnicity in the OSCE region. It will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Facilitate an exchange on the gaps in existing research, policies and practices to combat trafficking persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities;
- Highlight linkages between trafficking and discrimination based on race and ethnicity;
- Discuss ways to better respond to trafficking in persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities.

\*\*\*

**Time:** 17:00-18:00  
**Venue:** Meeting Room 2 (Saski)  
**Title:** Survivor's perspective on code of practices  
**Convenor:** Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program Inc.  
**Working language:** English

**Summary:** Survivors of trafficking will discuss the need for code practices in the anti-trafficking framework to strengthen the best practices. This initiative is to add and accompany the National Referral Mechanism that was published by OSCE - ODIHR to make sure victims and survivors will be protected and treated with respect and dignity.

**Moderator:** Iona Bauer, Policy Expert Human Trafficking & Child Safety

**Speakers:**

Suamhirs P. Guzman, ISTAC member - USA

Mariaam Bhatti ISTAC member- Ireland

Zita Cabais, ISTAC member - France

Jerome Elam, ISTAC member- USA; CEO Trafficking in America Task Force

Shandra Woworuntu, ISTAC member, the C.E.O of Mentari - USA

Rachel Witkin, Director of Counter-Trafficking and Publications at Helen Bamber Foundation

\*\*\*

Time: **17:00-18:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 3 (Królewski)**

Title: Human Trafficking, Conflict and Displacement: Ukraine Crisis Response

Convenor: International Organization for Migration

Working language: English

Summary: Presenting the anti-trafficking response to the Ukraine crisis including an overview of the pre-crisis capacities, the impact of conflict and displacement on heightened risks, protection interventions in neighbouring countries and at borders, TIP response inside Ukraine, visibility and media attention, best practices on data collection and reporting, experiences in strengthening and integrating regional approaches.

## **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*

## **WARSAW DIALOGUE FOR DEMOCRACY 2022**

Time: **Thursday, 6 October, 14:00-18:00**  
Venue: **Plenary room**  
Title: **Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy 2022**  
Convenor: **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland**  
Working language: **English**

Summary: The Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy has been organized since 2012. It brings together civil society activists, academics, experts and government representatives from around the world to discuss ways of promoting democracy. The conference is a platform for exchanging ideas and experiences in the area of consolidating democracy, strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing civil society and upholding human rights. This year's edition of the Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy will focus on the impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine, initiated by the authoritarian regime in the Kremlin and conducted with the support of the Belarusian regime

since February 24, 2022 and how important it is to defend democratic values against authoritarianisms. In view of the growing geopolitical consequences of Russian aggression, the debate will also provide an opportunity to analyse the condition of democracy in other regions of the world. At the same time, the main theme of the conference is to describe democracy as a remedy for authoritarian tendencies that lead to the erosion of societies, escalation of conflicts and unacceptable in the 21st century attempts to change borders by military force.

