

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

**ADDRESSING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND INTOLERANCE AND
DISCRIMINATION IN THE OSCE REGION, WITH A FOCUS ON YOUTH**

Online event, 30 September 2020, 2.30-4 p.m. CET

Racism, xenophobia and various forms of intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region, with their differing impacts on men and women, have a long and tragic history. The current COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation, adding a layer of complexity to the ongoing challenge of comprehensively addressing these problems. The discrimination and inequalities aggravated by the pandemic have also had notable effects on young men and women, especially those from minority and marginalized communities.

This webinar will provide an opportunity for youth activists, together with the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination, to discuss key aspects of the current situation and particularly the role that young people can play to counter all forms of intolerance and discrimination. Among the questions that the panellist will consider are:

- What are the main drivers of intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation?
- What are the different ways in which men and women are affected?
- How do intolerance and discrimination affect young people, and how do they differently affect young men and women?
- How are participating States and civil society organizations addressing the root causes of racism, xenophobia and the various forms of intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region, particularly the complex discrimination and exclusion stemming from the positioning of different communities and groups in their societies?
- What role can and do youth play to address the situation? What challenges do they face in this regard? How can participating States amplify the voices of youth and leverage the critical role they play in combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination? What good practices in this regard in the OSCE region can we learn from?

Moderator: Dr. Kishan Manocha, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR

Registration is by sending an e-mail to webinar.series@odihr.pl, stating your name, title, affiliation and clearly indicating which webinar(s) specifically you intend to attend.

Interpretation will be available from English into Romani, Russian and sign languages.

This webinar is part of a series “Copenhagen and Paris 30 years on: Progress made and challenges ahead” organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in cooperation with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), and with the support of the 2020 Albanian OSCE Chairmanship.



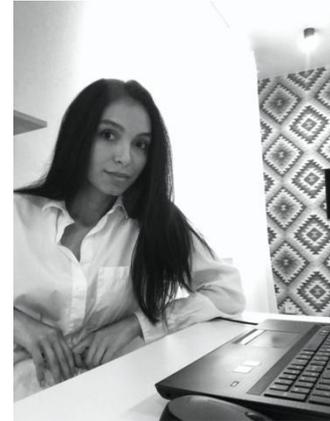
Rabbi Andrew Baker

Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism since 2009. Director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee (AJC), which he joined in 1979. A leading expert on anti-Semitism in Europe, he travels extensively to strengthen relations between the AJC and Jewish communities worldwide. He is active in Holocaust restitution issues and in 2003 was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit by Germany for his work

on German-Jewish relations.

Oleksandra Koriak, Ukraine

A young Roma activist from Ukraine, lawyer, human rights activist and expert on Roma issues. Currently, Koriak is Expert on the Expert Council in the Roma Program of the International Renaissance Foundation. She is also National Consultant on the Council of Europe project “Protecting national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages in Ukraine.” At the moment, Koriak is involved in writing the new national Roma strategy, covering the period until 2030, where she advocates that the state should take intersectionality into account, in particular, the special needs of women, adolescents and children.



Paya Ndiaye, France

A French Senegalese social worker and activist, Ndiaye is President of LALLAB, a major French feminist and antiracist association. After she received a Master's degree in the Management of Commercial Units and a Master's degree in Corporate Law, she worked for Article 1, an association that promotes equality of opportunity for students from disadvantaged socioeconomic background. In the meantime, she volunteered as a drama teacher at DEEP France, an association that works towards the integration of refugee people through collective artistic creation. She now works full time as a trainer and facilitator in Social Justice Education.

Ambassador Mehmet Paçacı

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. A Turkish diplomat and university professor. He served as Ambassador of Turkey to the Holy See from 2014 to 2019. Previously he acted as Director General of Foreign Relations in the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Ankara and Attaché of the Presidency of Religious Affairs at the Turkish Embassy in Washington DC. He has a PhD degree from the Faculty of Theology of Ankara University where he was a member of the academic staff between 1983 and 2008.



Associate Professor Dr. Regina Polak

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions. Head of the Department for Practical Theology at the Catholic-Theological Faculty at the University of Vienna. She is an expert and internationally recognized scholar and lecturer in socio-religious transformation processes in Europe.