



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna Austria, 2 - 3 November 2017

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

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

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

Thursday, 2 November

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 532**
Title: Tajikistan: Crackdowns on Independent Media and Journalists on the Pretext of National Security
Convenor: Islamic Renaissance Party
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Tajikistan has eliminated political opposition in September 2015 and is dramatically stepping pressures on the remaining independent media on the pretext of combating terrorism. This led to closure of websites and newspapers, self-censorship, migration of a big number of journalists seeking refugees mostly in European countries. Tajikistan's government has quietly asserted the right of authorities to control the content of both state-run and privately owned broadcasters in a move that appears aimed at tightening officials' already firm grip on news and mass media. The Tajik government has been widely criticized for restricting media freedoms and stifling independent media outlets. Tajikistan has consistently been rated Not Free by Freedom House, including in that U.S.-based watchdog's 2016 annual report. The Freedom House report noted that Tajikistan's "authorities

continued to arbitrarily limit free speech, access to information, and the right to civic organization in 2015.” Tajikistan was recently ranked 150th out of 180 states in the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) annual index, slipping 34 places from the previous year. In November 2016, the authorities forced the closure of Nigoh, an independent weekly newspaper as well as the website “TojNews” was shut down.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Meeting Room 533**
Title: Ban of Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media for the Indigenous People in the Occupied Crimea
Convenor: Crimean Tatar Resource Centre
Working language: Russian

Summary: Issues of violations of the collective rights of the Crimean Tatar people and rights of its representatives on expression and own media by Russian occupation authorities in Crimea will be discussed. Aspects of hate speech as a permanent feature of Russian propaganda in Crimea, processes of the "prevention of extremism" as a form of censorship will be shown, threats and problems of Crimean Tatar journalists, TV and press media will be presented.

Friday, 3 November

Time: **11:00-13:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 533**
Title: Strengths and gaps of independent media in Eastern Partnership
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Embassy & Permanent Mission of Denmark
Working language: English

Summary: Independent media in countries of Europe's Eastern Partnership are cash-strapped, at times harassed by the authorities, and lack an enabling environment for the professional growth of their journalists and healthy business development for their organisations, a new six-country study found. A coordinated effort by the media development organisations can help them access knowledge to fill these gaps. The unique study Gap-Asset Analysis of the Russian Language Media Skill-Set in the Eastern Partnership, conducted by the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence, will be presented to the SHDM participants. Particular focus will be paid to a case study on the media landscape in Ukraine.

Time: **11:00-13:00**
Venue: **Meeting Room 532**
Convenor: Austrian OSCE Chairmanship in Co-operation with RFOM and OSCE Gender Section
Title: The Role of the Media in Implementing UNSCR 1325
Working language: English

Summary: Media can play an essential role in enhancing the implementation of UNSCR 1325. While women in conflicts are often portrayed as victims of rape, sexual violence and displacement, gender-responsive journalism can also be a positive force in transforming gender stereotypes, promoting women's empowerment, and raising awareness for women's critical role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. The side event will explore the positive role media can play in promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and provide practical examples from the OSCE area and beyond.