



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna, 21 - 22 November 2019

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 seminars on CSCE-related issues.

In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers and the language in the description is the responsibility of the organizers, including editing for style and grammar. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Thursday, 21 November

Time: **13:00-14:45**

Venue: **Meeting Room 533**

Title: Peaceful Assemblies and the Role of Lawyers: defining challenges and opportunities in the OSCE region

Convenor: The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, ODIHR, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Freedom to Peaceful Assembly and of Association

Working language: English

Summary: The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) in partnership with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the Office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Freedom to Peaceful Assembly and of Association are holding a side event on the role of lawyers in ensuring the enjoyment of the right to freedom to peaceful assembly across the OSCE participating States.

While states have an obligation to facilitate the exercise of the right to freedom of assembly, growing restrictions are affecting a number of countries in the OSCE region. As lawyers from across OSCE

participating States face increasing challenges when monitoring the protests or defending the rights of protesters, it is yet again crucial to emphasize that peaceful protests are not a threat to public order, peace or national security, they are the expression of a fundamental right essential in any functioning democracy.

The side-event aims to discuss recent developments across the OSCE region in the enjoyment of the right to peaceful assembly, and discuss in particular the important role of lawyers in facilitating the exercise of this right.

Moderator: Ms Jurate Guzeviciute IBAHRI Programme Lawyer, London

Speakers:

- Mr Emin Abbasov, lawyer from Azerbaijan
- Ms Anete Erdmane, Human Rights Advisor/Monitoring and Response Co-ordinator, ODIHR
- Ms Muriel Reuf, lawyer from France
- Mr Stefan Wellauer, office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of freedom to peaceful assembly and of association

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:00-14:45
Venue: Bibliotheksaal
Title: Ban for Peaceful Assemblies as a Tool for Discrimination in Occupied Crimea
Convenor: Crimean Tatar Resource Center
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Since 2014 Russia not only covered illegally the Crimean peninsula by its own legislation and police standards limiting the assemblies, but modern brutal governance de-facto bans totally the rights for peaceful assemblies as for all dissidents to regime so for the indigenous Crimean Tatar People representatives. The side event will provide data proving that the brutal ban of Russian de-facto authorities for assemblies violates not only the political rights of Crimean residents, but also the religious freedoms and right to remember the genocide against Crimean Tatars committed by Soviet state in 1944-1989. Modern Practice of mass punitive actions, contrary one man protests, protesting against discrimination of the Crimean Tatar People in the peninsula will be discussed.

Refreshments will be not provided

Friday, 22 November

Time: 13:00-14:30
Venue: Meeting Room 525
Title: Top 10 of most frequent violations of the right to freedom of assembly, and how to counter them
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working language: English

Summary: The event will provide an overview of the ten most frequent type of human rights violations in the OSCE region affecting people's freedom to peacefully protest to put forward civic or political demands. All of these have been raised in reporting by ODIHR and/or by reputed international NGOs but continue to be engaged in by authorities. Examples will be provided from reporting by members or associates of the Civic Solidarity Platform, an OSCE-wide human rights NGO network.

Refreshments will be provided