

**OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS**  
**As submitted by the organizers**  
**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM)**  
**26 September – 07 October 2011**  
**Warsaw, Poland**

*The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE (now 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, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the HDIM on relevant issues of their choice.*

*The side events described below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants in the 2011 HDIM. The 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.*

**Monday, 26 September**

Time: 13.15 – 14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Is censorship coming back? New attacks on media freedom in Ukraine  
Convenor: Article 19, International Media Support, Media Law Institute  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Will Ukraine continue to support freedom of expression or will recent negative trends continue? Since 2004 the climate for freedom of expression in Ukraine has generally improved, but in recent years there have been disturbing changes for the worse. Media freedom in Ukraine is under threat with renewed legal and physical attacks on the media. Ownership of media outlets lacks transparency and activists fear a further decline in media freedom.

This event will examine recent developments in Ukraine and consider the ways in which censorship is returning to Ukraine. The discussion will also seek to highlight perspectives and necessary actions for the future improvement of freedom of expression in Ukraine.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Challenges to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Transnistrian region of Moldova  
Convenor: Promo-Lex Association  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: For two decades the Transnistrian conflict still challenges the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The human rights record in the Transnistrian region has been criticized by domestic and international actors. Despite the attitudes of the international community and the efforts undertaken by governmental actors, there have been no improvements so far.

This side event is intended to highlight the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Transnistrian region of Moldova. The issue will be raised by representatives of civil society organizations from the Transnistrian region. Local civil society activists will put into debate topics related to the freedom of expression, right to a fair trial, freedom of movement, human rights education and protection of human rights, as well as the opportunities for the creation of a mechanism for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Fundamental Freedoms in the Digital Age  
Convenor: United States Delegation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: How can OSCE participating States apply ageless fundamental freedoms to their governance of new communications media? Participating and partner states are now setting precedents in how they will deal with these internet-based technologies. In doing so, they inevitably constrain or encourage their citizens' right to express and assemble themselves. Social media flattens the globe, bringing Vancouver to Vladivostok and connecting our peoples to themselves and each other. To some, this ease of association, communication and organization represents a threat; to others, an opportunity for democracy to flourish. Join the U.S. Delegation to discuss this issue with Google Policy Counsel Agata Waclawik-Wejman, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic, and Belarusian journalist Natalya Radzina.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Tuesday, 27 September**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Launch of ODHR Handbook on monitoring freedom of assembly and AssociatiOnline: an interactive tool for government authorities and civil society on freedom of association  
Convenor: ODIHR Human Rights Department  
Working languages: English

Summary: Launch ODIHR's website AssociatiOnline and to present it to participating states and civil society actors. AssociatiOnline is an interactive guide to Freedom of Association for government authorities and civil society. It provides direct access to key principles and international standards relating to Freedom of Association, with a special focus on NGOs. It also gathers relevant jurisprudence and offers examples of good practices of NGO legislation. Overall, AssociatiOnline offers policy-makers, legislators as

well as civil society representatives all necessary resources and references to advocate and initiate and/or review legislation and practices that comply with OSCE commitments and international standards on Freedom of Association. Associationline is a living instrument, constantly developing through contributions of its users.

This side event will also launch and introduce ODIHR's Handbook on Monitoring Freedom of Peaceful Assembly. The handbook is produced by ODIHR as a guide for civil society organizations that may initiate independent monitoring of assemblies in their country. It draws on established good practices in monitoring assemblies and on training programmes for NGOs supported by ODIHR in various countries. The handbook outlines the key human rights principles related to freedom of assembly and provides guidance on organizing monitoring projects, monitoring at assemblies, producing reports and carrying out follow-up activities.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.15  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Protecting the Freedom for Gender Self-Identification for All People  
Convenor: Redeemed Lives USA  
Working languages: English

Summary: Gender self-identification may be guided by religious conviction as well by convictions unrelated to a religious worldview. For many Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, freedom is the capacity to choose one's gender identity in concert with their religious convictions. Therefore, prevalent categories of gender identification as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender (LGBT) do not universally apply to all people experiencing those sexual attractions. For some people, both religious and non-religious, a LGBT identification imposed by others is experienced as oppression, rather than freedom.

In this side event we will review how the fundamental freedoms of thought, conscience, religion and belief must protect the rights of people who view the above identifications as wanted gender identities as well as unwanted sexual attractions. Additionally, we shall explore the fundamental rights of persons to retain the freedom to change and redefine their gender self-identifications over their lifespan.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Developing a Strategy for securing Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE region  
Convenor: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The purpose of this side event is to discuss how Member States can promote and defend freedom of religion or belief and the OSCE's role in helping them do so.

Event chaired by Louise de Sousa, Head of the Human Rights Department in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Guest Speaker, Malcolm Evans OBE, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Law and Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol. Member, Advisory Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Panel of Advisors on Freedom of Religion and Belief (2004- ).

Second Guest Speaker, John Kinahan, Chief Editor Forum 18.

The event will involve an open discussion on possible ways of promoting freedom of religion or belief. Suggestions to help stimulate thinking are listed below.

- The role of religious leaders in the realization of freedom of religion or belief. At what level should the OSCE, participating states and civil society engage with religious leaders?
- The role of education in promoting the freedom of religion or belief. Four years on from the publication of the OSCE's guiding principles on teaching about religions and beliefs in public schools, to what extent is education contributing towards this freedom and how can its role be enhanced in a wider strategy?

Legal recognition of freedom of religion and belief. What more can be done to entrench freedom of religion and belief? What are the perspectives from an international law point of view? Or the viewpoint of a NGO or international institution such as the EU or the OSCE?

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Acts of violence by far-right political parties against Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses in Bulgaria  
Convenor: Human Rights Without Frontiers – Office of Muslim Denomination of Bulgaria - Association of Jehovah's Witnesses of Bulgaria  
Working languages: English

Summary: Around one million Muslims currently live in the country. In May 2011, the supporters of Volen Siderov, the leader of the Bulgarian ultra-nationalist party Ataka, burned carpets used during Friday prayers at Sofia Grand Mosque and attacked the Muslims with stones and eggs. Several people were injured as nationalists clashed with Muslims during Friday prayers. The Ataka party's followers had gathered in downtown Sofia to protest against the Muslim community in the country. The violence erupted after one of the rightist members grabbed a prayer rug and set it on fire, leading to a fight between the two groups. The tension also escalated after an Ataka activist tried to play patriotic music on the loudspeakers of the mosque. Siderov, who is running in the October 11 presidential election, said during the Friday protest that he wants demonstrations against Muslims to continue in Bulgaria.

Concerning Jehovah's Witnesses, representatives of the political party VMRO have disrupted their peaceful meetings on several occasions in the past and have repeatedly used the media to circulate defamatory lies about the Witnesses. Criminal complaints against this political party have been filed on numerous occasions, but the attacks have continued. Now, the international community is watching to see how the authorities of the Bulgarian government will react to these lawless and criminal acts.

On Sunday, April 17, 2011, at 7:30 pm, Jehovah's Witnesses in the city of Burgas were

peacefully gathered at their Kingdom Hall for the annual commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ. About 20 minutes before the program was to begin, an angry mob of about 60 men, some waving flags of the political party VMRO, gathered in front of the Kingdom Hall. The mob threw large stones at the Witnesses who were at the entrance of the building. After that, the mob stormed the door. The Witnesses called the police immediately, but they were slow to respond. At the time of the attack, more than 100 people were inside the hall, including women, children and elderly ones. Injuries resulted from the attack, and five victims were taken to the hospital by ambulance with severe injuries, including concussions.

Human Rights Without Frontiers is concerned about the increasing number of violent acts committed by Ataka and VMRO, two far-right political parties,

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Freedom of speech in the OSCE space  
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will be dedicated to effectiveness of mechanisms in OSCE in the field of development of the freedom of speech:

- The necessity of creation of a fund of support for independent Internet journalism,
- Problems of blocking of information Internet portals and social networks, detentions, persecution of journalists and their relatives, using tax services and law enforcement bodies for the purposes of closing independent mass media.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Registration of religious communities-challenges and good practices in the OSCE region  
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In many parts of the OSCE region, religious communities face challenges in obtaining registration to operate. This can lead to significant practical difficulties and, in combination with other restrictions and penalties for operating unregistered associations, can significantly restrict the exercise of the freedom of religion or belief.

This side event will provide an opportunity to examine this issue in greater detail and examine how registration issues can be resolved in line with OSCE commitments and good practices from across the OSCE region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Monitoring the National Human Rights Action Plan by Kazakhstan for 2009-2012 implementation progress  
Convenor: Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, International Journalism Center MediaNet, Legal Policy Research Center  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Since March 1, 2011 Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law has started implementation of the Project “Monitoring the National Human Rights Action Plan by Kazakhstan for 2009-2012 implementation progress” in partnership with the International Journalism Center MediaNet and Legal Policy Research Center, at the financial support of the European Commission.

The main objectives of the project are the following:

- To give impartial and independent assessment of the HR Action Plan implementation progress with regard to political rights and civil freedoms covered by 13 sections of the HR Action Plan by setting up civil society control under HR Action Plan implementation progress;
- To organize public discussion on the HR Action Plan implementation progress;
- To set up a dialogue between state structures responsible for the HR Action Plan implementation and civil society institutions regarding possible ways for increasing the HR Action Plan implementation progress

Within the framework of the present project HR Bureau jointly with its partners intends to organize side-event on presentation of the Expert Reviews on implementation of the National Action Plan for Human Rights for 2009-2012, prepared by leading national experts.

Within the present event, civil society representatives will share and discuss existing problems in realization of fundamental rights and freedoms in Kazakhstan at the practical level (i.e. freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of speech, elections, freedom of conscience and religion, right not to be subject to torture and cruel treatment).

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: How can Freedom of Religion and Belief be reconciled with Equality and Non-Discrimination in Democratic Societies?  
Convenor: European Humanist Federation  
Working language: English

Summary: From the time of Constantine the dominant church in any country in Europe was commonly identified with the state. Even after state and church ceased imposing a single religion on all, with scant regard for any conflicting conscientious beliefs, the implicit assumption was that the state should accommodate the dominant church and that civil law should bow before religious law.

Today with the widespread sense that nobody is above the law and with much less homogeneous communities an alternative governing principle is in the ascendant: that the law should above all safeguard individual human rights. This brings recognition that freedom to hold a religion or belief is absolute, but also that the right to manifest it is conditional on (among other things) the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. The dominant

churches are having to come to terms with being players among many others in democratic societies. Devout believers are finding that their conscientious manifestation of a religion or belief may infringe others' rights to equality and non-discrimination. When religious organisations exercise the collective right of their members to manifest their beliefs the effect on others can be substantial.

Potential conflicts can arise in many contexts: at work, in schools, in the public space, in the exercise of public office, in the delivery of public services, in the application of family law and so on. How can these clashing rights and freedoms be reconciled in a state governed by the rule of law? Can either claim priority? If not, how can freedom to manifest a religion or belief be maximised without undue impact on the rights and freedoms of others? What should be the position in law of religious organisations? The meeting will use examples from real life to explore these questions and seek some general principles to guide us in finding answers.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Freedom of assembly and Freedom of association under threat in West-Kazakhstan  
Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Freedom of assembly and freedom of association are fundamental human rights at the heart of OSCE commitments. However, in many OSCE Participating States these rights are still under threat. The way authorities in Kazakhstan have dealt with a conflict between striking oil workers and oil companies in Western Kazakhstan may serve as a telling example. Local oil workers demanded similar working conditions as their international colleagues, and after their demands had been rejected, they initiated a strike. In order to assist in organizing events and putting forward their demands, they hired a lawyer, Natalya Sokolova. She was recently sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment for incitement to public disorder. Other activists claim to be assaulted and beaten, and an 18 years old daughter of one of the activists has been found dead in suspicious circumstances.

Kazakhstan has enjoyed rapid economic development since independence in 1991. However, reforms aimed at strengthening civil and political rights have largely been postponed for later. The side event will draw attention to the situation of the striking oil workers, and compare the way their demands have been met with the overall respect for freedom of assembly and freedom of association in the country. Alternative ways of dealing with the conflict and possible ways ahead will also be discussed

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Wednesday, 28 September**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: The Art of Manipulation: Does the EU Have Effective Safeguards Against Authoritarian Provocations?  
Informal expert debate on recent developments in Belarus  
Convenor: Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Lithuania  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Eastern Europe Studies Centre (Lithuania) continues a series of the brainstorming sessions on Belarus and is presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> informal expert debate this year entitled “*The Art of Manipulation: Does the EU Have Effective Safeguards Against Authoritarian Provocations?*”.

The aims of this special debate are to share reflections on the recent developments regarding the human rights in Belarus; in the light of the recent arrest of the prominent Belarusian human rights defender Ales Bialatski and the attempts of blacklisted representatives of Belarus authorities to enter the Schengen zone to discuss why the EU mechanisms are vulnerable to the regime manipulations.

The format of the event is an informal debate with a group of selected speakers guided by a moderator engaging into a dialogue with each other and the audience.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Religious Liberty in an increasingly intolerant world  
Convenor: Alliance Defense Fund  
Working languages: English

Summary: The recent proliferation of religious liberties cases before the European Court of Human Rights speaks to a crisis in culture. What happens when religious freedoms clash with newly emerging civil privileges? How do we promote tolerance when conflicting rights and world views collide?

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Countering Torture in Central Asia: Comparative View of Implementation of the U.N. Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT)  
Convenor: Sponsored by OSI-Tajikistan, with participation of NGO anti-torture coalition representatives from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and the OSCE Academy-Bishkek  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Despite wide-scale problems associated with the justice and security systems of Central Asian states, there are apparent distinctions among the same when looking at the implementation of the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT). This Side Event will present an overview of the practice of torture and methods of countering it in the three states of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. The intention is to network, share histories, learn from possible successful practices and debate the ways forward in the implementation of CAT, OPCAT and related international norms.

*Refreshments will be provided*



Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Establishment of NPM in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: challenges of the initial stage  
Convenor: Penal Reform International  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Optional Protocol to the Convention on Prevention of Torture is designed as a mechanism which should have a torture preventive function through regular visits of closed institutions. The countries that have ratified the optional protocol as a rule establish a National Preventive Mechanism(s) NPMs. The NPMs should be established in Accordance with the Paris principles, be independent and correspond to principles of democracy and pluralism. The Republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are in the initial stage of establishing the NPMs, both countries have draft laws on NPM which have been under public discussion for the period of one year already. Legislative process of establishment in both Central Asian republics has some similarities, but also a number of differences. The NPM legislation drafting process uncovered the problematic issues of financing, membership in NPM, organising of work of NPM in regions. There are crucial and different approaches that maybe used to address those issues. The side event is aimed at revealing the current challenges of the establishment of NPM as well as discussing the models of NPMs in both republics. The discussion of models is especially important in the light of already established NPMs in particular the well known “Ombudsman Plus” mechanism, which is functioning in a number of states in the region, but also the alternative mechanisms in particular the one that is envisaged in the draft law of the Kyrgyzstan NPM. A number of high rank state officials from the Ministry of Justice, Ombudsman office and civil society representatives are going to be present during the side event. Also a number of national experts from Kyrgyzstan who have worked on the draft law on NPM will be present to discuss and present their work.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Accountability for Torture and Rendition  
Convenor: American Civil Liberties Union, Open Society Justice Initiative  
Working languages: English

Summary: The panel will address the lack of accountability for torture and other human rights violations associated with CIA-driven rendition programme. It will assess US & European investigations and prosecutions relating to violations, the obstacles to an effective right to remedy and the importance of publicly accounting for such violations to prevent further abuse

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: ODIHR Assistance on Legislative Reform in the OSCE area  
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization, Election, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Departments  
Working languages: English,Russian

Summary: All OSCE participating States undertake legal reforms on a regular basis. Such reforms may be undertaken for a variety of reasons, whether to ensure that their legislation is in line with OSCE commitments and other international human rights standards.

Upon official requests from OSCE participating States or OSCE field operations, ODIHR assesses the compliance of draft or existing legislation with OSCE commitments, other international standards and good practice.

During this side event OSCE commitments and ODIHR's mandate in the field of assistance on legislative reform, as well as ODIHR Departments involved in assistance on legislative reform will be presented (namely, the Democratization Department, Elections Department and Tolerance and Non-discrimination Programme).

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Belarus - Restrictions to the political and civil rights of citizens after the 2010 presidential elections: a focus on the situation of imprisoned human rights defender Aliaksandr Bialiatski.  
Convenor: FIDH / Human Rights Center Viasna / Frontline / Human Rights House / Norwegian Helsinki Committee / HRW / Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland)/ Norwegian Helsinki Committee  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: With the participation of Valentin Stefanovitch (Viasna, Belarus), Zhanna Litvina (BAJ, Belarus)

Moderation: Sacha Koulaeva (FIDH)

Presentation of the FIDH report “Restrictions to the political and civil rights of citizens in Belarus after the 2010 presidential elections” and discussion on the ongoing political repression in Belarus, defamation campaigns and harassment against human rights defenders. A specific focus will be made on the situation of the Human Rights Center Viasna, whose president, Aliaksandr Bialiatski, has been detained since August 4 and whose politically motivated trial is pending.

*Beverages will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Kazakhstan: How the International Community can Support the Striking Oil Workers in Struggle for their Human and Labour Rights?  
Convenor: Open Dialog Foundation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The side event will be dedicated to a meeting with the representatives of striking oil workers of Zhanaozen, which will present the reasons of their strike and inform about the development of the situation in the last 5 months (strikes have started on the 11th of May 2011) in Magistau region: including persecution of the leaders of the labor union Natalia

Sokolova and Akzhanat Aminov, murders of the activists of the labor union and their relatives.

The aim of the meeting:

- To attract attention of the international community to the situation in Magistau in order to avoid conflicts and further persecutions
- To pass on the experience of peaceful resolution of conflicts
- To create an international monitoring group

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Lack of Justice: No accountability for grave abuses in North Caucasus, Georgia, South Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan (Andijan)  
Convenor: Norwegian Helsinki Committee  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Among the core commitments of the OSCE is rule of law, including the right to equal protection by the law and the right to effective remedies if one's rights have been violated. The issue of lack of effective remedies becomes especially pertinent in situations of grave abuses, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The side event points to failure by a number of OSCE participating States to addressing situations of grave abuses in terms of justice and accountability.

Situations of lack of accountability for grave abuses that will be presented are from North Caucasus; the 2008 war between Georgia and Russia; the May 2005 Andijan massacres in Uzbekistan; and the 2010 South Kyrgyzstan violence. Different from the other situations, the 2008 Georgian-Russian war may fall under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC), since Georgia is a State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. It could also be argued that it is still not too late for Kyrgyz authorities to rectify the current lack of real justice for victims of the 2010 violence.

The side event will show how lack of justice remains a serious obstacle to peace, reconciliation and development, undermining trust in state institutions and leaving thousands of people in a situation of despair.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Thursday, 29 September**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Human Rights Situation in Belarus: 9 months after 2010 presidential elections  
Convenor: Committee on International Control over the Human Rights Situation in Belarus (CIC)  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Belarus remains one of the most repressive countries in the OSCE. The situation with human rights and the rule of law in the country deteriorates even more

during the electoral period, leading to disappearances, politically motivated criminal charges and sentences and massive pressure on the civil society. Immediately following the presidential elections in December 2010, Belarus clamped down on peaceful protesters and brought politically motivated charges of organizing mass riots against the opponents of president Lukashenka. Interrogations, searches in offices and homes of human rights defenders and journalists continue to this day, culminating in the arrest of one of the leading human rights defender Ales Bialiatski, for which some EU member states also bear responsibility. The measures taken by the intergovernmental organizations to persuade Belarus to follow its human dimension obligations up to the moment seem to have very little, if any, impact, as Belarus continues to show disregard for its human rights commitments. At the briefing representatives of the Committee on International Control over the Human Rights Situation in Belarus and Belarusian human rights NGOs will share their views on the developments in the country since 19 December 2010 and discuss possible measures to be taken by the OSCE and its participating states after the release of the “Moscow Mechanism” report on Belarus.

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: How to improve the protection of human rights defenders in the OSCE region (Russian Federation, South Caucasus, Belarus, Kirghizstan)?  
Convenor: Human Rights House Foundation, Front Line and Observatory for the protection of human rights defenders (FIDH/OMCT), Youth Human Rights Movement  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Over the last year, the human rights defenders in the Russian Federation, South Caucasus and Central Asia have faced increased and more sophisticated pressure from the authorities. In this panel, representatives from human rights organizations in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kirghizstan and the Russian Federation will give examples about the challenges they and their colleagues are facing in their daily work for the defence of human rights. Concrete examples concerning what has been done or could have been done to protect human rights defenders at risk in the countries will be given. The human rights defenders will through examples give recommendations to the present and future Chairmanship of the OSCE concerning how the organization can strengthen the protection mechanism of human rights defenders in the OSCE region.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Political and legal basis of the independence of the Republic of South Ossetia in the context of ensuring of rights and freedoms of human and citizen  
Convenor: NGO “Renaissance”  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: By the end of 1989 there was tense social and political situation in Georgian SSR. In Georgian official press appears materials of national-chauvinist character. For instance, there was an article of professor T.Kvanchilashvili published in “Literaturuli Sakartvelo” newspaper, it focused on demographic aspects of development of Georgia and

man-hating ideas regarding termination of nationality of non-georgian peoples of the republic. In the other newspaper “Komunisti” was published an article of Professor Z. Chkvanava “The way is found” where suggested the expulsion of non-Georgian population of the republic having more than two children. Periodical “Georgian Youth” published an interview with writer A. Bakradze, sustained in scornful tone towards languages and culture of other peoples of the Republic and etc.

In October-November meetings, strikes and actions take place in Georgia claiming to establish united, indivisible Georgia, cancel all its autonomies, withdraw of Georgia from Soviet Union. Slogan “Georgia-for Georgians” becomes popular.

In this situation transformation of autonomous oblast into autonomous republic within Georgian SSR was perceived by the Authority of South Ossetia as defined guarantee of the protection of rights of Ossetian population of the autonomous oblast.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.15-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Freedom of Association in Belarus: How to Improve Conditions of NGO Work  
Convenor: The Assembly of Pro-democratic NGOs of Belarus  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Legal conditions for establishment and operation of civil society in Belarus do not meet international standards. Unnecessary barriers to registration of NGOs, a ban on the activities of NGOs without state registration, criminal penalties for acting on behalf of unregistered NGOs, restrictions on obtaining domestic and foreign funding for NGOs, as well as discriminatory attitudes in law enforcement practice prevent the development of civil society in the country.

Representatives of the Assembly of NGOs will dwell on the situation with registration of public associations in Belarus, including statistics and analysis of the legal practice. The speakers will also talk about the experience of cooperation of different Belarusian NGOs, defending their interests related to the possible adoption of a new law on non-commercial organizations. Apart from that, the speakers will present the view of other NGOs regarding possible improvements of legal conditions for establishment and operation of NGOs, including the potential abolition of Article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which implements punishment for the activities performed on behalf of unregistered public associations.

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Post-Astana NGO engagement with the OSCE  
Convenor: Netherlands Helsinki Committee  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In 2010, renewed NGO interest in the Helsinki process, the operations of the OSCE and the performance of OSCE participating states in fulfilling OSCE commitments led to the Astana parallel civil society conference.

This side event is looking back to how recommendations from the Astana conference have been received, and looking forward to how NGOs can continue international coalition

building with a view to stimulating human rights protection by the OSCE (and by the region's other inter-governmental organizations, the Council of Europe and the European Union) and by individual states in the region

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Friday, 30 September**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: New Media Activism and the Internet Freedom Agenda  
Convenor: Jefferson Institute  
Working languages: English

Summary: New media platforms have rapidly evolved into the main alternative public spaces and the engines of grassroots self-organization. These tools can aid current human rights advocates with their goals and also engage the next generations of activists that are familiar with digital media and already utilize it as a primary means of communication and learning.

Human rights NGOs are leveraging new media tools to enhance networking, reporting, storytelling, advocacy, and mobilization, so that they might collectively arrive at solutions to overcome local and transnational obstacles to the realization of fundamental human rights.

This event will highlight several cases of human rights and democratization activism through the use of new media. It will provide participating NGOs, mostly from the NIS region, an opportunity to exchange experiences and discover best practices for combating common human rights problems in similar environments. All attending participants will be encouraged to join a wider discussion following the presentations. In addition, a portion of the discussion will be dedicated to focusing on the decline of internet freedom. In an attempt to summon efforts of a broader civil society strategy in addressing this issue, participating NGOs will be encouraged to provide innovative solutions and new ideas to a discussion that has recently been dominated by governments and corporations.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Recruitment and Training of Election Observers  
Convenor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) was founded in 2002 by the German Government as an important step towards improving Germany's capabilities for the deployment of civilian personnel for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peace consolidation. Its mandate is to train, provide and support personnel for international operations mandated and conducted by the UN, OSCE, EU and other international organisations.

Since election observation missions are an essential element of democratization processes and crisis prevention, the recruitment, training and deployment of election observers is an integral

part of ZIF's mandate. Germany seconds an average of 250 observers a year to ODIHR EOMs. All of them are members of ZIF's expert pool, have passed a complex application and selection process and completed training.

ZIF conducts trainings both for short-term and long-term election observers, offering a realistic preparation for mission assignments which is closely tailored to the needs in the field. Particular emphasis is given to the code of conduct and security of election observers.

Within the frame of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, ZIF looks forward to presenting and discussing its lessons learned from almost ten years of recruiting and training election observers.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Central Asia: refugees as an indicator of human rights monitoring  
Convenor: Association for Human Rights in Central Asia/Open Dialog Foundation  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: In central Asia the systematic practice of torture is escalating, the situation of prisoners is worsening, human rights defenders are topping up the lists of prisoners of conscience, number of refugees is counting by thousands

What will the Western support of totalitarian regimes lead to?

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Save the Vote: Guaranteeing Unrestricted Political Participation and the Right to Vote for People with Disabilities  
Convenor: Mental Disability Advocacy Center  
Working languages: English

Summary: The right to vote is a simple concept and a human right. Yet, in many jurisdictions people with disabilities are prohibited or prevented from exercising their political rights. This side event will analyse the current challenge to universal suffrage posed by the upcoming Venice Commission (a largely European body of constitutional law experts) session to decide on a statement regarding the right to vote of people with disabilities. The discussion will also focus on setting out the action which participants can take to ensure that the Venice Commission adopts a human rights-compliant document at its October session.

Oliver Lewis – MDAC  
Irena Lipowicz, Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Poland  
European Disability Forum  
Inclusion Europe  
Self Advocate

Organised by the Mental Disability Advocacy Center, with funding from the Open Society Foundations.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: The practice of international election observation  
Convenor: Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The round table could focus on the following issues:  
- 15 years of international election observation: results and problems;  
- the role of election observation mission's recommendations;  
- the problems of methodology of international election observation;  
- the need for and commitments in the area of international election observation;  
- best practices of international election observation.

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Monday, 03 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Political Participation of Migrants in the OSCE region  
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization Department  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Integration of legally residing migrants, which is a key OSCE commitment, is an essential challenge in building greater democratic participation and developing deeper social cohesion. While OSCE participating States have made advances with regard to the integration and representation of migrants, progress remains uneven across the OSCE region.

At the Side Event, the Migration Policy Group will present the results of the 2010 Migrant Integration Policy Index, which is a fully interactive tool and reference guide to assess, compare and improve integration policy as well as provide an overview of migrant integration assessments carried out in the OSCE region.

This Side Event will help explore links between migration and democratic governance and participation. Participants will discuss challenges to integration of migrants in the OSCE region, and identify barriers to their political participation. A senior politician/official with a migrant background will speak at the side event and share his or her personal experiences/story of success.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Nagorno-Karabakh, the IDPs Issue  
Convenor: Human Rights Without Frontiers  
Working languages: English



Summary: On 26-31 January 2011, a three-member team of *Human Rights Without Frontiers Int.* conducted a fact-finding mission to Azerbaijan with the objective of investigating the current situation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country within the context of a protracted displacement crisis and the stalled peace process on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The team visited IDPs dormitories and collective settlement centers located in Baku and at its outskirts. The mission's findings are based on household interviews with around 100 IDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh (Khojali and Shusha) and some of the adjacent occupied districts (Kelbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, and Zangelan). The interviews were conducted with a view to obtaining first-hand accounts of the challenges IDPs currently face and their priorities for addressing these challenges.

As stated in the Resolution on the need of a EU strategy for the South Caucasus adopted by the European Parliament in May 2010, "hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs who fled their homes during or in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh war remain displaced and denied their rights, including the right to return, property rights and the right to personal security". The Parliament called on all parties "to unambiguously and unconditionally recognize these rights, the need for their prompt realization and for a prompt solution to this problem that respects the principles of international law" and demanded, in this regard, "the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan, accompanied by deployment of international forces to be organized with respect of the UN Charter in order to provide the necessary security guarantees in a period of transition, which will ensure the security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh and allow the displaced persons to return to their homes and further conflicts caused by homelessness to be prevented". It also urged the Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities and leaders of relevant communities "to demonstrate their commitment to the creation of peaceful inter-ethnic relations through practical preparations for the return of displaced persons".

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Respect of the rights of labour migrants in Central Asia and the Russian Federation  
Convener: Organized by NGO Human Rights Center (Tajikistan) with the participation of NGOs "Perspective +" (Tajikistan) and "ADC Memorial" (Russian Federation). Sponsored by OSI-Tajikistan, Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The situation of migrant workers from Tajikistan and other CA countries in the Russian Federation is still difficult. According to the Tajik organization Human Rights Center, labor migrants from Tajikistan continue to be victims of human trafficking and labor exploitation in Russia and Kazakhstan and do not have sufficient support from their state of origin. The researches conducted by the Russian organization "ADC Memorial" with FIDH shows that the social and economic rights of migrant workers in the Russian Federation are often violated by employers and private employment agencies.

This side event will provide information about the observance of the rights of labour migrants from Central Asia in the Russian Federation. It will also provide information on how Tajikistan implements its obligations to protect and promote labour migrants rights and about the effectiveness of Tajikistan's policy in the regulation of labour migration, with a

presentation of the joint report of FIDH/ADC Memorial/ Tajik Bureau on Human Rights and the Rule of Law : “Tajikistan: Exporting the Workforce – At What Cost?”

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Presentation of key findings of the FRA project on Separated, Asylum-seeking children in EU Member States followed by discussion  
Convenor: EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)  
Working languages: English

Summary: The presentation will focus on the challenge posed to EU institutions and Member States by the arrival of separated children in the EU from third countries since, according to the EU Charter for Fundamental Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, they have a duty to care for and protect children.

The presentation will highlight the key findings of the FRA research on separated, asylum-seeking children in EU Member States. It will examine the experiences and views of 336 separated, asylum-seeking children and those of 302 adults responsible for their care across 12 EU Member States. It will look at their living conditions as well as the legal issues and procedures which concern them. The different findings correspond to the various settings in which these children live, thereby addressing the need to incorporate children’s views and experiences into work that seeks to inform policy action. The presentation will be followed by discussion on the challenge for the EU and its Member States of how to deal with this issue effectively, while fully respecting fundamental rights and acting in the best interests of each child.

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Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Democratic Change in Belarus: A framework for Action  
Convenor: Center for European Policy Analysis and Freedom House

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The on-going political crackdown in Belarus has intensified Western attention to “Europe’s last dictatorship.” Since the onset of this repression, the economic and political situation inside the country has deteriorated and Belarus’ dictatorial leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka faces his gravest crisis to date. These developments call for robust U.S. and European Union (EU) engagement which should aim to catalyze positive, democratic change and lay the groundwork for a post-Lukashenka Belarus.

The Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and Freedom House will convene an engaging and insightful panel to discuss the recent findings and recommendations of an expert Working Group on Belarus, comprised of leading analysts, scholars, and former policymakers. Co-chaired by A. Wess Mitchell (president, CEPA) and David Kramer (president, Freedom House), in its report the Working Group provides 1) impactful policy strategies for supporting members of the opposition, civil society and journalists and 2)

recommendations for catalyzing democratic change and creating the groundwork for a possible transition in Belarus.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: New Europe  
Convenor: European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion (EMISCO)  
Working languages: English, French

Summary: In last years, through the war on terrorism and the rise in extremist violence, the European politicians and some mainstream media have exploited the unwanted situation to target Muslim communities and Islam. Far right movements, academics and a part of clergy have become very vocal in ridiculing and demonising all Muslims who live in Europe. Physical attacks, vandalism and anti-Islam legislations are spreading.

This relentless campaign has resulted in widening the gulf between Muslim communities and the majority as well as an increase in the negative perception to such an extent that Muslims feel under siege and in some cases are turning their back towards the society.

EMISCO is working to counter this trend and raise awareness among Muslim people, thus supporting the process of social cohesion. At the same time, we are appealing to the European decision makers and political establishment to remember the humanistic spirit of Europe and strive for the continuation and even redefining the democratic culture. This is our **New Europe Project**.

In short, we are looking for a new model of an inclusive Europe, where Muslim communities can feel safe, appreciated and useful, and not degraded and marginalised.

*Warm beverages will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: Exhibition: "Ethnic Cleansing to Displacement Continuum"  
Convenor: Coalition for Justice (CFJ)  
Working languages: English

Summary: The exhibition will feature the light installations telling the story of how ethnic cleansing policy affects people's lives and transforms human environments. Set in the recent history of the ethnic cleansing of Georgians, the exhibition aims to portray ethnic cleansing as global evil affecting persons of every color and creed. The exhibition is based on 1992-1993 photo-reportages of various journalists traveling to Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region of Georgia

### **Tuesday, 04 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Paving the way for murder: online hate and terrorism  
Convenor: International Network against Cyber Hate (INACH)  
Working languages: English

Summary: This side-event will discuss the risks of unbridled hate speech on the Internet and the often violent results in the physical world. The increasing role of ultra-nationalism and populism plays seems to create a climate in which it becomes perfectly acceptable to commit violence in the physical world against minorities and “political enemies”. Experts from the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom will address these related issues

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.15  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Protecting the Freedom to Receive and to Give Professional Guidance and Therapeutic Care for Unwanted Sexual Minority Concerns  
Convenor: International Federation for Therapeutic Choice  
Working languages: English (Handouts in English, French, German, Italian & Polish)

Summary: Some sexual minorities, i.e. persons with non-heterosexual orientations, atypical gender identifications, or other behavioral tendencies want to realize their right to personal autonomy and self-determination, i.e. to the “full development of their personality” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26; cf. Articles 22 & 29), in such a way as not to base their relational and sexual lives according to these behaviors, orientations, and/or identifications.

In this side event, the universal rights to the full development of one’s personality, to freedom of opinion and expression, and to medical care and necessary social services will be discussed in light of the right of sexual minority persons, who find their orientation, identity or behavioural tendencies unwanted, to receive competent professional guidance and therapeutic care, and the right of medical and mental health professionals to offer such care. Guidelines by which medical and mental health professionals may offer ethical and competent care to such sexual minority persons also will be discussed.

Time: 14.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: “Exploring the Cases Behind the Numbers”. Presentation of ODIHR’s Final Draft: *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses: Annual Report for 2010*  
Convenor: ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department  
Working languages: English

Summary: This is the annual event to present the Final Draft of ODIHR’s Hate Crime Report for comments from delegations and NGOs prior to publication in mid-November.

This year’s theme will focus on case studies of hate crimes behind the numbers and statistics of the report.

- Ms. Perry, Hate Crime Officer, will begin by presenting some key aspects of the 2010 report.
- Mr. David McInerney, a Sergeant in the Racial and Intercultural Office with Garda Síochána, and ODIHR’s National Point of Contact for Ireland, will discuss the

Ms. Janina Arsenjeva from the NGO, European Disability Forum, will describe the organization's work on disability hate crime, and particularly their legal advocacy in a case currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: COJEP International  
Convenor: Islamophobic terror and conspiracy theories  
Working languages: English, French

Summary: Last events in Europe and especially the terrorist attacks in Norway have once again demonstrated the damaging impact of Islamophobic discourse and the conspiracy theories about Muslims. The prevalence of physical attacks against Muslims which often take place within the context of ongoing discriminatory practices and biased rhetoric have created an increasing sense of insecurity among Muslims and the larger society. Both the media and political representatives usually fail to respond to and challenge expressions of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims in public discourse. On the top of this, law enforcement officers do not have capacities to effectively deal with anti-Muslim hate crimes and security officials pay little attention to the danger of Islamophobic terrorism. Now it is the time to tackle the progression of this hatred through common and concerted actions.

This side-event aimed to find some new ways to struggle this phenomenon.

COJEP International, an International NGO which operates in 15 countries in the field of human rights, youth, democracy, citizenship and anti-discrimination, aims to deepen the discussion on the place of vulnerable communities in some OSCE Participating States. The security and fundamental rights of these communities are today in danger by some media and political discourses.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: The Hague Convention on International Child Abduction  
Convenor: United States Department of State  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: Based on the resolution on international parental child abductions that was passed at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Belgrade, July 6-11, 2011, the United States will host an information session on the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: 18.00-20.00

Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Combating anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma: the latest General Policy Recommendation of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)  
Convenor: European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (Council of Europe)/ ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues  
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: The side event will introduce ECRI's latest General Policy Recommendation which provides Governments with guidelines on combating racial discrimination against Roma. Based on its long-term country work and dialogue with Governments, civil society and Roma communities, ECRI proposes more than a dozen measures. They extend from political discourse to housing, education and access to public services. The side event will be a unique opportunity to discuss how to introduce these recommendations into practice and how to complement activities of the Council of Europe and the OSCE in this field.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Opera Room  
Title: National Minorities in Kyrgyzstan: "Emigration or Integration?"  
Convenor: Institut d'Alisher Navoi, Brussels, Belgium  
Working languages: Russian

Summary: Hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their historical home by ethnic violence in June 2010 in Kyrgyzstan. How is the rest of remaining national minorities going to be integrated in new Kyrgyzstan?

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Strategic Approaches to Implementing OSCE Commitments on Hate Crime  
Convenor: Anti-Defamation League & Sosyal Değişim Derneği (Association for Social Change)  
Working languages: English

Summary: This side event will focus on practical steps countries with differing hate crime response policy frameworks can initiate to improve compliance with OSCE commitments. The session will outline tools currently being advanced by NGOs to promote progress in countries at different stages of crafting, and implementing hate crime policy.

The event will spotlight strategies currently being employed in three countries with varying legal and legislative contexts to overcome common challenges to monitoring, responding to and deterring hate crime.

The session will feature hate crime experts from the US, Turkey and Bosnia Herzegovina who will discuss effective models that can be used in participating states. The following challenges will be covered in detail:

Obtaining government support for legislation and training

Establishing monitoring centers and collecting data

Drafting legislation where none currently exists  
Engaging the support of civil society  
Building a coalition of supporting organizations  
Becoming an ally with local law enforcement

*Refreshments will be provided*

**Wednesday, 05 October**

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Combating hate crime two years after Ministerial Council Decision 9/09 – are commitments seriously implemented? The case of homophobia and transphobia  
Convenor: ILGA-Europe  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: At the Ministerial Council of Athens (2009), participating States committed to combat all hate crimes by adopting a comprehensive approach. This included, among other measures, the adoption of “tailored legislation”, as well as the development of reporting and access to justice schemes, and training programmes dedicated to competent law enforcement officers.

During this side event, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) NGOs, as all civil society organisations dedicated to Human Rights which play an active role in combating hate crime, will share their assessment of the situation as regards the implementation of participating States’ commitments.

Speakers:

Sanja Juras (Lesbian Group Kontra, Croatia)  
Joël Le Déroff (ILGA-Europe)

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.30-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Fundamental Freedoms are threatened when people want to live their sexuality in accordance with their Christian faith.  
Convenor: Wuestensrom e.v. – Institute for dialogue and identity generating counselling  
Working languages: English, German

Summary: In Germany and other European countries the Freedom of Speech, the Freedom of Religion, the Freedom of Conscience, the Freedom of Science are limited and threatened by political parties in matters of sexuality and sexual orientation. As a so called Ex-Gay and also counsellor I want to share information and experiences about that issue and want to show, what negative effects so called anti-discrimination and the ideology of a so called "sexual identity" has on people, who want nothing more than to live their sexuality according to their Christian faith.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-15.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: PHURI DEJ: Roma Women – Ambassadors of Roma Culture and Heritage  
Convenor: MFA Slovenia and NGO Mission S  
Working languages: English

Summary: The “PHURI DEJ” project was financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia. The main target group was Roma women (esp. illiterate women). The aim of this project was to show that also the most neglected and marginal group within the Roma population possessed certain knowledge that could enrich the society as a whole. These Roma women were trained to become ambassadors of Roma culture(s) and heritage and to find future employment in this field adjusted to their personal lives. Project results and products made by the women during the course of the project will be presented.

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Challenges and trends within mass media concerning Roma and Sinti; the role of the media and of Roma organizations in countering prejudices and negative stereotypes and responding to intolerance directed at Roma and Sinti.  
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues  
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: OSCE Athens MC Decision 9/2009 urged the participating States to step up their efforts in promoting tolerance and combating prejudices against Roma and Sinti people in order to prevent their further marginalization and exclusion and to address the rise of violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti.

The MC Decision also tasked ODIHR, in co-operation and co-ordination with the HCNM and the Representative of Freedom of the Media, to continue to assist participating States to combat acts of discrimination and violence against Roma and Sinti, to counter negative stereotypes about them in the media.

The Side Event will follow up on this tasking aiming to facilitate an open discussion among Roma organizations and representatives of the media as well as of governments and international organizations on the issue of intolerance directed at Roma and Sinti and prejudice and stereotypes about them. Furthermore, the event will stimulate sharing of experiences among participants on ways and means employed to overcoming obstacles and challenges encountered in their work in combating such phenomena.

The side event will also encourage participants to recommend measures and activities that will contribute to increasing the capacity of mass media to counter the biased portrayal of Roma and Sinti and will, together with Roma organizations and in particular those working in the area of media, promote tolerance and respect for diversity and human rights.

*Refreshments will be provided*

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Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Extremism and the Roma and Sinti in Europe: Challenges, Risks, And Responses  
Convenor: ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues  
Working languages: English, Romani

Summary: As early as in 1990, the OSCE participating States recognized the particular problems of Roma and Sinti as targets of racial and ethnic hatred. The Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area devotes an entire chapter to “Combating Racism and Discrimination,” providing a framework for addressing violence against members of this community. The past few years have witnessed a rise in the reported aggressive incidents and violent acts against Roma and Sinti in a number of European states. Taking note of this, in 2009 the Ministerial Council expressed concern over the increase of violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti and urged the participating States to address this trend as well as to unequivocally and publicly condemn any violence targeting Roma and Sinti and to take all necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies.

In order to raise awareness about extremist manifestations of racism, intolerance and hate-motivated violence against Roma in Europe and to analyze its potential threat to social cohesion and security, ODIHR together with University College London organized a scholar conference in 2009 and are in the process of publishing a book early next year addressing these issues through scholarly analyses. The side event provides an opportunity to present the research findings and analysis of the contributors of the book on the various forms of extremism targeting Roma and Sinti communities in Europe and the possible responses to them followed by an open debate.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.00-20.00  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: Screening of and debate on the movie “The Long Way Out”  
Convenor: ECPAT Bulgaria and the Netherlands, Nobody’s Children Foundation, Terre des hommes – Child Relief and Save the Children in Albania  
Working languages: English

Summary: The documentary is revisiting six young people’s lives in Albania after ten years. The first film “*Enfance a vendre, histories d’Albanie*” documented their paths as migrant children, exploited in Greece, victims of trafficking. Ela, Elton, Maringlen, Najada, Saleo and Shpetim are young adults now and have agreed to show, express and present who they are today. They were not only actors, but the directors of their own part in the film: showing what they wanted, the way they wanted. Clara Ott, the director has been there to accompany them but them – and no one else made the choice to present what can be seen. The film shows them as unique characters, each different, depicting their stories from their own individual perspective.

The overarching theme all through is individual choice: these young people – influenced by their past, by the people they met and by the assistance they received, made decisions in their lives to arrive where they are now. Some said no to crime and are scrambling to make a living, have a family and raise their children. Some others – due to different influences - made choices that led them to different directions. Saleo agreed to be filmed in prison where he

was, awaiting release in just a few days. He talks of a wall – a wall that is not restraining, but is protecting. He watches his old self as a child in the earlier film... Smiling and shedding his tears.

The screening will be followed by a debate with the promoters of the movie ([www.marioproject.org](http://www.marioproject.org))

*Refreshments will be provided*

### **Thursday, 06 October**

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 2  
Title: Enhance Child Protection and Prevent Child Trafficking  
Convenor: Hosted by the Project Mario partners: ECPAT, Nobody's Children Foundation, Save the Children Albania and Terre des hommes, and supported by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: This side event aims to raise awareness among OSCE participating States about challenges and good practice in the protection of children who belong to particularly vulnerable groups. It is a follow-up to the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Joint Statement on Child Protection, Especially among Migrant, Undocumented, Unaccompanied, Separated and Asylum Seeking Children, to enhance Prevention of Child Trafficking, presented at the OSCE Review Conference in Warsaw in October 2010. The side event will present a number of concrete initiatives at policy and practical level that aim at enhancing the protection of vulnerable children and improving local and national child protection systems to prevent child trafficking. These include: research and field work on ways of protecting children on the move and separated children, asylum seeking and refugee children; advocacy to ban the detention of migrant children and peer education as a tool to improving outreach to and rights' protection of children from marginalized communities; challenges and good practices in ensuring adequate procedures to determine the best interests of each child and in identifying durable solutions.

The Project Mario partners work to better protect children from Central and South Eastern Europe. The side event panel will include speakers from the Project Mario partners, as well as from the Youth Center in Elbasan (Albania) and a coalition of Polish NGOs, advocating the prohibition of the immigration detention of migrant children. It will be opened by the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children and the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and moderated by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.00-14.45  
Venue: Meeting Room 3  
Title: The report '*Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in Europe*' published by the Commissioner for

Human Rights of the Council of Europe - challenges and perspectives regarding hate crimes against LGBT persons.  
Convenor: Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Norway, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Government of Flanders (Belgium) & Council of Europe

Working languages: English

Summary: On 23 June 2011 the Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, launched his pan European study on the socio-juridical situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in Europe. This groundbreaking [report](#), based on comparative legal analysis and field research in all 47 member states of the Council of Europe, relied on data provided by governmental officials, national human rights institutions and civil society as well as data provided by ODIHR, UNHCR, OHCHR, and European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The report contains 36 recommendations focused on several policy areas. One section of the report focuses on hate crimes, violence and hate speech against LGBT persons. Among others, the report recommends that homophobic and transphobic hatred should be included as possible motives in national legislation on bias-motivated crime and hate speech. This side event will present the results of the research report as well as its recommendations. We invite you to discuss the challenges and the perspectives regarding hate crimes against LGBT with our guest speaker from the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and representatives of the above mentioned governments. This event is organized with the support of the authorities of Finland, Germany, government of Flanders (Belgium), Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 13.15-14.45  
Venue: Plenary Hall  
Title: Women's role in peace processes and reconstruction  
Convenor: Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, ODIHR Human Rights Department

Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The purpose of this side event is to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. At this side event Mr. Pekka Haavisto, a Finnish MP and former minister with a strong background of working with the United Nations in conflict affected areas, will be the key speaker and introduce a discussion on women's role in peace processes and reconstruction. Other invited speakers will provide perspectives from the field on women's involvement in peace efforts and on the role of indicators in monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Ms. Wendy Patten, Special Representative on Gender Issues of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, will moderate the panel.

*Refreshments will be provided*

Time: 18.15-19.30

Venue: Meeting Room 1  
Title: Gender Parity in a Century and a Half?  
Positive Measures to Increase Women's Participation in Politics  
Convenor: ODIHR Democratization Department  
Working languages: English, Russian

Summary: The equal participation of women and men in political and public life, particularly in decision-making and leadership positions, is a key OSCE commitment. Yet, if recent trends in women's political representation persist, the world will only enjoy gender parity in elected office in a century and a half. Despite significant progress in strengthening policy and legal frameworks for gender equality in many OSCE participating States, the OSCE region itself will not experience gender balance in elected bodies for more than 50 years.

This Side Event will explore positive measures that political parties and political institutions can adopt to increase women's meaningful participation in politics. Speakers will present findings on women's political participation captured in the baseline study *Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan*. Participants will discuss trends in women's political participation in the OSCE region, and together jointly identify criteria for more effectively assessing both improvements and set-backs in levels of women's representation. The criteria identified will be used to develop a comprehensive methodology for indexing gender equality gains in the political sphere in OSCE participating States.

*Refreshments will be provided*