Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2024
Warsaw Poland, 30 September - 11 October 2024

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 Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2024. 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.

Tuesday, 1 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Foreign Agent-Style Laws in Central Europe: Implications on Civil Society, Human Rights and Rule of Law
Convenor:	Transparency International Hungary; American Bar Association
Working language:	English

Hungary has faced on-going challenges with Rule of Law in fundamental rights for several years. The most recent challenge is the adoption of the Protection of National Sovereignty Act (PNSA), which gives the government unlimited discretion to monitor and investigate civil society organizations and others who are perceived by the government to be engaging in political activities by "influencing democratic debate and the decision-making process." This has a profound chilling effect on civil society and individuals to exercise their right to free expression, assembly and association, as well as their right to participate in public and political affairs.
In April of this year, the Slovakian Parliament adopted the first reading of the foreign agent-style draft law (FAL). Civil society members and relevant stakeholders are concerned that should the draft law be adopted formally, it will be used as a political tool by the government to control and

harass local entities because of their participation in public life.
This side event—co-organized by American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights, Transparency International Hungary, Hungarian Europe Society and American University's Washington College of Law—will focus on the aftermath of the PNSA adoption, current implementation and its chilling effects on civil society in Hungary, as well as the current human rights environment in Slovakia and Bulgaria. Local and international experts will highlight the main challenges that exist for media representatives, journalists and members of civil society in these countries. They will close with recommendations for the international community, OSCE members and local stakeholders on how to counter detrimental effects of foreign agent-style laws.

Speakers:
Mr. Miklós Ligeti Legal Director, Transparency International (TI) Hungary
Dr. Erik Uszkiewicz Vice Chair, Hungarian Europe Society
Ms. Iryna Smolina Senior Program Officer, National Endowment for Democracy
Dr. Edit Zgut-Przybylska Assistant Professor, Polish Academy of Sciences
Dr. Fernanda G. Nicola Professor of Law, American University, Washington College of Law
Moderator:
Ms. Jasmine Cameron Senior Legal Advisor, ABA Center for Human Rights

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	No Child Left Behind: The impact of Russia's war of aggression on children in Ukraine
Convenor:	Delegation of Canada to the OSCE
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: Since Russia first invaded Ukraine in 2014, more than half a million Ukrainian children have been living under Russian occupation in Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk. With Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the subsequent occupation of new territories in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions — every child in Ukraine has some experience with war. More than 530 children have been killed, and 1200 injured. Millions of children have been displaced by the conflict and thousands of children have been illegally deported or forcibly transferred. Due to Russia's aggression, children in Ukraine live in fear of death, injury, loss of family members and losing their home. They face limited access to education and, for many, their identity as Ukrainian is under threat. This event - organized by the delegations of Ukraine and Canada and the Ukrainian nongovernmental organization Voices of Children Foundation – will survey the conditions Ukrainian children face during wartime; explain the consequences of the situation for the future; and present an analysis of what should be done by Ukraine and its partners to save and protect Ukraine's children from the devastating impact of war.

Speakers:
• Olena Rozvadovska, co-founder and chair of the board of Voices of Children Foundation
• Kateryna Rashevska, legal expert at the Regional Center for Human Rights
• Iryna Suslova, Representative for the Rights of Children, Families, Youth, and Sport, Ukraine's Human Rights Commissioner.
• Valeriia Kuberska, lawyer at the Center of Civil Education Almenda

Moderator: Ambassador Véronique Pepin-Hallé, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE
Closing Remarks: Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE
Co-Sponsors (as of Sept.20): Canada, Ukraine, Czechia, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Moldova, Romania,

Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the co-chairs of the OSCE Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict: Albania, Belgium, Italy, Norway, and Poland.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	From Aid to Illegality: The Criminalization of Humanitarian Support for Migrants
Convenor:	Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: The criminalization of solidarity with migrants and refugees at the EU borders is on the rise. For many years, civil society has raised alarms about the increasing number of legal proceedings initiated against activists providing humanitarian aid. In Poland, since 2021, there has been a humanitarian crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border, caused by the instrumentalization of migration by the regime of Alexandr Lukashenko. In response to the crisis, the Polish administration implemented a policy of pushbacks and significantly increased the militarization of the region. It is estimated that between 4,000 and 20,000 personnel from the Border Guard, Polish Army, Territorial Defense Forces, and Police were deployed to the border area. Additionally, border fences were constructed, and no-entry zones were established for humanitarian, medical, and media organizations. In June 2024, the parliament amended the law, exempting the army from liability for the use of military weapons in peacetime. According to the civil society reports 116 refugees died on the Polish, Lithuanian and Latvian borders with Belaruss. In the absence of any state's humanitarian response, the Polish civil society organizations developed the system of humanitarian aid that continues to operate to this day. It is estimated that 25,000 people have called for humanitarian assistance. Polish NGOs, volunteers and activists, together with representatives of local communities, provide refugees with humanitarian and legal aid. This activity is stigmatised by representatives of the authorities and state bodies and - contrary to the applicable law - criminalised. The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, together with the Szpila legal collective, supports the activities of aid organizations, conducting a number of anti-repression activities and providing legal assistance to activists. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and its partners invite to a discussion on the decriminalization of humanitarian aid. The invited speakers will present a diagnosis of the problem of criminalization of aid at the EU borders and the long-term impact of stigmatizing humanitarian aid for migrants on social behavior.

The debate will be complemented by a screening of the documentary film FOREST directed by Lidia Duda. It tells a story of a family living in Podlasie, at the Polish-Belarussian border. They created their own paradise, but one day big politics have knocked on their door.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Life in captivity: 10 years of the occupation of Ukrainian Crimea and resistance to the Russian aggression
Convenor:	Public Organization CrimeaSOS; Human Rights Centre ZMINA; Crimean Human Rights Group; Human Rights House Foundation ; Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine began on February 20, 2014, with the invasion of the Russian Armed Forces aiming to capture part of Ukrainian territory – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Today, the Crimean peninsula remains de facto controlled by the Russian Federation. It has turned into an open-air prison where residents live at constant risk of being persecuted, subjected to torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial punishment, passportization, forced conscription into the Russian military, and indoctrination. However, a decade of oppression and persecution did not destroy human faith or democratic values. Residents of Crimea stand steadfast, transforming 10 years of suffering into 10 years of resistance. Participants of the event will be able to listen to the experiences of a released political prisoner and another political prisoner's relative, see an exhibition of photos from occupied Crimea, watch a video about life under the occupation, write letters to political prisoners, and familiarise themselves with the Book on Repressions and the "Black list" of perpetrators. At the event, speakers will discuss: Summarized story of the human rights violations within 10 years of the occupation Crimea in the context of the persecution in the "newly occupied" territories Testimony of a recently released political prisoner Nariman Dzhelyal Testimony of a relative of a political prisoner Ali Mamutov "Black list" of judges and other perpetrators responsible for politically motivated persecution Recommendations to the international community Speakers: Nariman Dzhelyal, released political prisoner and Deputy Head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Fevzi Mamutov, brother of the political prisoner Ali Mamutov Viktoria Nesterenko, Human Rights Centre ZMINA Iryna Baran, Crimean Human Rights Group Sabina Ilias, Crimea SOS Moderator: Dave Elseroad, Human Rights House Foundation

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Incitement to genocide of Ukrainians in the Russian and Belarusian propaganda: results of documentation, analysis and recommendations for international action
Convenor:	Prospect Foundation / iSANS – The International Strategic Action Network for Security
Working language:	English

Summary: Panelists will discuss results of extensive documentation and research by iSANS of statements by Russian and Belarusian propagandists and politicians in respect of Ukraine and Ukrainians, including incitement for genocide of Ukrainians as a national group – an international crime prohibited by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Rome Statute and national legislation of many states. They will present analysis and classification of various hostile statements and make recommendations on taking the perpetrators to individual criminal responsibility and the states of Russia and Belarus – to international state responsibility. Copies of the new research report by iSANS will be available.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Arbitrary Detention of Ukrainian Civilians Amidst Russia's War of Aggression: Accountability for Perpetrators and Justice for Victims
Convenor:	Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna; European Union Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna;

Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Andorra to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UN, OSCE and IOs in Vienna; Permanent Mission to the OSCE, UN and other International Organizations based in Vienna; Permanent Mission of the Republic of San Marino to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Working language: English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to cause human suffering on an appalling scale. We continue to receive shocking reports of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Countless war crimes have been committed and many other violations reported may amount to other most serious international crimes. The OSCE's monitoring and documentation of Russia's gross violations, including in Crimea and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, continue to present a valuable contribution to the overall efforts in ensuring Russia's accountability and in promoting justice. In this context, being gravely concerned by the reported cases of the arbitrary detention by the Russian Federation of a large number of civilians in Ukraine, the delegations of 45 OSCE participating States, in consultation with Ukraine, invoked the Moscow Mechanism to address this issue. As a result, the independent mission of experts concluded in its report of 25 April 2024 that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that both the war crime of 'unlawful confinement' and the crime against humanity consisting of 'imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law' have been committed by individuals involved in the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of Ukrainian civilians, including members of the Russian armed forces or occupying authorities." It is critical that the OSCE and the wider international community continue to build awareness of the importance of ensuring the following: the immediate release and safe return of all Ukrainian civilians arbitrary detained by Russia; accountability for those responsible for these acts; and the right of victims of arbitrary deprivation of liberty, and their relatives, to an effective remedy. This event aims at further exploring these vital issues.

Introduction: Viktoria Kuvshynnykova, Chargée d'affaires a.i,. Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna Panellists: Prof. Veronika Bílková, Moscow Mechanism expert Michael Siebert, EEAS, MD for Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation, and OSCE Olha Reshetylova, Head of the NGO "Media Initiative for Human Rights" Moderator: H.E. Amb. Neil Holland, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE Closing: Mr. Johan Frisell, Director for Security Policy, MFA Sweden

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:30-14:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title: Universal jurisdiction: the path to justice and solidarity in finding and prosecuting international criminals
Convenor: Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Public Interest Journalism Lab
Working language: English

Summary: In their Human Dimension Commitments, OSCE participating States have explicitly and unequivocally pledged to uphold the absolute prohibition of torture and have committed themselves to strive for its elimination. However, torture and other violations of international law are still practiced in the OSCE region, both in times of peace and in situations of armed conflict, as evidenced by the current war in Ukraine. This side-event will explore how exercise of universal jurisdiction by participating States in cases related to torture and other crimes committed in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine can contribute to combating impunity for perpetrators in the wider OSCE region. Universal jurisdiction is an essential tool of international justice. The exercise of universal jurisdiction by domestic courts is especially relevant in situations where such crimes are committed systematically or on a large and systematic scale, and the justice system of the State on whose territory atrocities were committed cannot reasonably be expected to successfully investigate and prosecute all such crimes. Following the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, the Ukrainian justice system is faced with the challenging task of prosecuting 137,500 cases of crimes under international law registered by the General Prosecutor's Office. At the time of writing, Ukrainian Courts are considering over 89,000 such cases. Exercise of universal jurisdiction would ease the burden on the national judicial system, and complement the work of the International Criminal Court. Most importantly, universal jurisdiction helps ensure that all survivors of torture and other international crimes can seek the right to truth, justice and reparation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	The Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Elections and Presentation of the ODIHR Handbook for the Observation of ICT in Elections
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Title: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Elections and Presentation of the ODIHR Handbook for the Observation of ICT in Elections Date and Time: 1 October 2024; 13:30-14:30 Short concept description including speakers: Today nearly all OSCE participating States use some form of ICT in their elections, however their application varies. Some participating States use ICT for actual casting or counting of votes while others use this technology in elections-related processes such as voter registration, identification and verification or for systems and platforms needed for management of voting results. These technological developments inevitably bring certain benefits but also numerous concerns, related to public trust issues, accountability, transparency, and general cybersecurity challenges, that were not common for traditional, paper-based election processes. At the same time, irrespectively of the technology used, when organizing elections, the participating States are obliged to respect international standards and commitments, including those stipulated in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document. In line with its mandate - to assist the OSCE participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments, including those related to elections - in 2024 ODIHR published a Handbook for Observation of ICT in Elections. The new edition of the Handbook updates the ODIHR methodology for the observation and assessment of ICT used during voting and counting processes and includes new aspects such as electronic registration, verification of voters and candidates, and cybersecurity issues. While the Handbook is mostly used by election observers, it provides practical and useful guidance for OSCE participating States in their efforts to introduce and use ICT-based election solutions. Speakers will include: - Priit Vinkel, ICT Election Expert, Estonia - Erton Sinani, Chief of Staff, Central Election Commission, Albania; - Alicia Ramon, ICT Election Expert, Spain - Moderator: Vladimir Misev, Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies, ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **13:30-14:30**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: How Foreign Agent-Style Laws Impact Media Freedom in Eurasia: The Case of Kyrgyzstan
Convenor: American Bar Association
Working language: English

Summary: In recent years, a troubling trend has emerged across Europe and Eurasia, characterized by the enactment of repressive legislation heavily influenced by Russia's foreign agent law. These laws undermine human rights and stifle the voices of civil society organizations, particularly those engaged in the work of defending human rights and advancing rule of law. By labeling these organizations as "foreign agents," governments subject them to stringent burdensome regulations, financial constraints, unnecessary scrutiny and public stigmatization. This approach fosters a chilling effect and significantly weakens the overall civil society landscape. This side event, co-hosted by the American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights(ABA/CHR) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), will provide an in-depth discussion of the consequences these foreign agent-inspired laws have on press freedom within OSCE participating states and will include a detailed case study of Kyrgyzstan. There, the government recently adopted and is implementing the foreign agent-type law, that has a profound visible chilling effect on the civil society and individual journalists and human rights defenders. The experts will also provide actionable recommendations to the OSCE members and civil society representatives on strategies to enhance media freedom and safeguard human rights throughout the region.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:30-19:30**
Venue: **Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title: Implementing Electoral Recommendations: How to Improve the Follow-up Framework for OSCE Participating States
Convenor: European Exchange
Working language: English

Summary: The implementation of election recommendations made by citizen and international observation missions is key to strengthening the integrity of elections in accordance with OSCE standards. The lack of a framework for follow-up means that many recommendations remain unimplemented for years, representing a missed opportunity to further strengthen democratic institutions. The Side Event should address the questions whether there is a wider interest among the OSCE participating states to improve the framework for the follow-up on recommendations process and what the potential instruments for strengthening the process might be. The Side Event is organized in cooperation with the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) and the OSCE/ODIHR.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:30-19:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title: Voices of Resilience: Migrant and Refugee Women in Contemporary Crises

Convenor: Network of Afghanistan Diaspora Organisations in Europe (NADOE)
Working language: English

Summary: This side event brings together experts and women activists to explore the pivotal role of women-led advocacy in addressing contemporary crises. Women activists have been at the forefront of influencing policies, raising awareness, and providing crucial support for displaced populations, especially women and girls, who constitute over 50% of global refugees. In the face of severe humanitarian challenges, including gender-based violence and widespread displacement in contemporary crises, women have demonstrated remarkable resilience and leadership. Examples can be given of women of Afghanistan resisting systemic human rights violations under Taliban's rule, as well as women from Gaza, Syria and Ukraine confronting violence, displacement, and restricted access to essential services. In a broader context, women activists have been instrumental in advocating for freedom, accountability, and effective humanitarian interventions to address contemporary challenges. They have played a critical role in promoting the incorporation of gender-sensitive measures, including access to education, healthcare, and safe spaces, into aid programs and international policies. Discussions will mainly highlight the resilience of women and how their advocacy efforts have influenced key policy shifts at various levels. It will also underscore the importance of gender-responsive policies in addressing the broader impacts of conflict and displacement. The women's leadership and resilience in these crises can drive long-term policy reforms across Europe and beyond.

 Shagofah Ghafori, Afghananistani activist and researcher focused on migration policies and diaspora engagement
 Amloud Alamir, Syrian journalist based in Germany involved in a World of Neighbours network and active in support of refugees
 Ahmad Wali Ahmad Yar, Postdoctoral researcher with expertise in international migration, migrant integration, and migration data
 Kateryna Pavlova, Ukrainian activist working on non-formal education, cultural diplomacy, peaceful conflict transformation and diaspora engagement

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **18:30-19:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title: Combating Impunity through Inter-State and Civil Society Cooperation on Universal Jurisdiction
Convenor: Civil Rights Defenders
Working language: Russian

Summary: Universal jurisdiction has come to the forefront in recent years as an emerging mechanism for justice and accountability, when national-level judicial mechanisms are insufficient or fail to work due to lack of independence and state control. In Belarus, for example, human rights defenders, civil society, and human rights lawyers struggle to bring perpetrators of rights violations to justice at the national level. Thus, universal jurisdiction is now being examined in light of its potential to combat impunity and demonstrate that despite the closing of civic space, there are still ways to bring justice to the victims of serious human rights violations. This side event will feature presentations from Belarusian civil society representatives with expertise on the topic. The discussion will explore best practices and successful cases, as well as challenges and obstacles to making universal jurisdiction work for and on behalf of Belarusians in the current climate of widespread impunity and injustice in the country.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**18:30-19:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	The role of civil society and international actors in supporting adjudication of war crimes by national courts
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English, Ukrainain

Summary: The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine has tragically claimed the lives of thousands of civilians and while amassing an ever-growing tally of violations of international criminal law and international humanitarian law. National authorities have registering over 130,000 suspected incidents of war crimes; however, without a dedicated international tribunal or court to hear these cases, Ukrainian domestic courts and its criminal justice system need to urgently adapt their institutions to adjudicate the war crimes cases as society demands justice amidst ongoing daily attacks. This tremendous strain on the judiciary poses significant challenges. Ukrainian legislation is not fully adapted to allow effective prosecution and adjudication of international crimes. Criminal justice actors such as judges, prosecutors, and attorneys need increased knowledge and skills to effectively adjudicate international crimes. The International Criminal Court's principle of positive complementarity recognizes the need to support domestic courts in this effort. Domestic criminal justice actors for their part, civil society organizations have played an increasingly important role in accountability and advancing international law and norms. Through monitoring domestic war crimes cases, international organizations also play a role in building the capacity of domestic courts adjudicating war crimes cases. Trial monitoring serves as a useful diagnostic tool to assess the observance of the fair trial rights of defendants and of the right to effective remedy for victims of international crime, and performance in court of professional trial participants. This session will focus on the tools international and domestic actors can use in supporting domestic courts to ensure access to justice and respect of the right to a fair trial and to judicial independence at the adjudication of international crimes, by referencing to the practices and experiences of OSCE participating States.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 2 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Media, information, and literacy: development in times of war
Convenor:	OSCE Secretariat
Working language:	English

Summary: Moderator: Olga Prokopenko, Head of the Media Project, OSCE SPU • Andryi Kulykov, Head of Commission on Journalism Ethics in Ukraine • Paul Fraleigh, Gender Adviser, OSCE SPU • Anastasiya Ravva, General Producer Espreso Media outlet • Halyna Petrenko, Director of the Detector Media NGO Description: Disinformation and propaganda is a serious and complex challenge for Ukraine. The issue has been ongoing for several years. It is crucial for individuals to fact-check information before sharing it on social media and to rely on trusted news sources for accurate and reliable information. Ukrainian media have been instrumental in combating disinformation through effective fact-checking and verification, and this event will highlight their successful strategies in maintaining journalistic integrity. Upholding ethical standards is essential, and journalists must independently develop and adhere to these, free from outside pressure, highlighting the importance of self-regulation.

In Ukraine, there is the Code of Ethics of Ukrainian Journalists – a document that defines the main moral and ethical guidelines that journalists should follow in performing their professional duties. The OSCE recognizes that equal rights and opportunities for women and men are essential to peace, democracy, and sustainable economic and environmental development. To support this, a document was created , which can be used by any Media in Ukraine as a standard of Gender rules and principles for their employees. 574325.pdf (osce.org) This document was developed by OSCE experts from the Commission on Journalism Ethics in Ukraine, NGO Women in Media, and approved by Kateryna Levchenko - Government Commissioner for Gender Policy in Ukraine. One of the most popular media in Ukraine – Espresso - has already adopted this policy. During the event, we will discuss: What tools are currently being used in Ukraine to combat disinformation and propaganda and what new challenges do we face, with the account to the development of Artificial Intelligence? Prospects for the development of self-regulation in Ukraine. What is needed to strengthen the independence of the Media? Why is the adoption of Gender Policy important for all Media?

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Silencing women environmental journalists: the effects of abusive litigation and how to counter it
Convenor:	Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media; Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Montenegro to UN, OSCE and IOs in Vienna; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE
Working language:	English

Summary: Independent journalism plays a fundamental role in raising awareness of the risks posed by climate change and environmental degradation, exposing wrongdoings and holding perpetrators accountable. The widespread of disinformation on climate and environmental topics contributes to hostility and attacks against journalists, in particular women, as the 2024 Joint Declaration on the Climate Crisis and Freedom of Expression notes. In addition to online and physical harassment, the risk of lawsuits is a major concern for climate and environmental journalists, whose investigations and coverage are likely to hurt the economic interests of powerful actors involved in environmentally harmful or illegal activities. Vexatious lawsuits or SLAPPs (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) have become effective tools used by powerful actors to harass and silence journalists working in the public interest. SLAPPs are often interconnected with online violence or physical assaults, and can be used as sort of 'legitimation' of attacks against journalists as part of a broader strategy to discredit independent journalists and facts more broadly. Intended to intimidate and silence journalists, they can be particular effective if targeting women journalists to drive them out of public participation. The outcome is a huge loss of vital information on some of the key issues affecting our societies. This session will focus on the gendered aspect of SLAPPs in the context of environmental journalism. The session will also provide an opportunity to discuss the relevance of the OSCE RFoM Safety of Journalists Toolbox as a one-stop-shop resource for journalists facing legal harassment and

other forms of attacks as a consequence of their work. OPENING REMARKS: - Irina Schoulgin-Nyoni, Ambassador-at-large for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, Sweden - Philippe Tremblay, Officer-in-Charge & Director, Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), OSCE PANELLISTS: - Alexander Kashumov, Attorney at Law, Head of the Legal Team of Access to Information Programme, Bulgaria - Anna Gvarishvili, Journalist, Editor, Manager of the Investigative Media Lab (IML) at the University of Georgia - Gladis Temirchieva, Chairwoman of the Investigative Journalism Foundation, Kyrgyzstan; Editor-in-chief, Vesti.kg MODERATOR: Barbara Trionfi, Senior Adviser, OSCE RFoM Q&A with participants CLOSING REMARKS: - Christoph Kamp, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the OSCE

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Imprisoned at Home, Harassed Abroad: The Persecution of Tajik Journalists
Convenor:	Fundacja na Rzecz Integracji Miedzykulturowej (Foundation for Intercultural Integration) ; Committee to Protect Journalists
Working language:	English

Summary: Double Threat: Tajikistan Imprisons Journalists at Home and Persecutes Them Abroad OSCE Human Dimension Conference, Warsaw 2024 Introduction: Tajikistan's independent media faces a dire situation. Journalists are not only imprisoned within the country for critical reporting, but they are also targeted and harassed if they flee into exile. This report sheds light on this critical issue. Crackdown on Dissent: Ranked 155th in the World Press Freedom Index, Tajikistan has imprisoned numerous journalists since 2015, including Hikmatullo Sayfullozoda and Abduqahori Davlat, who were sentenced to 16 and 28 years in prison, respectively. In 2022, additional journalists, such as Ulfatkhonim Mamadshoeva and Daler Imomali, were also arrested. In August 2023, businessman and author Abdukhalil Kholiqzoda, along with his editor Abduqodir Rustam and publisher Suhrob Rajabzoda, were likewise detained. Most recently, in August 2024, Paik newspaper editor-in-chief Ahmad Ibrohim was detained on bribery charges, facing up to 10 years in prison. No Safe Haven in Exile: A Tajik journalist living in exile has become a victim of transnational repression Tajik authorities have not only silenced journalists within the country but have also extended their crackdown to those in exile. Media outlets like Azda TV, Payom TV, Isloh, Bomdod.com, and independent bloggers have faced persistent harassment and persecution. Tajik journalists are not only targeted by Tajikistan but are also victims of transnational repression, with some being pursued by the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) as part of the regime's effort to silence dissent beyond its borders. Event Details: Topic: Protecting Tajik Journalists in Peril Focus: • The systematic persecution and imprisonment of journalists within Tajikistan. • The ongoing harassment and persecution of exiled Tajik journalists. • Ways to support exiled media outlets and journalists. • Legal aid for detained journalists and bloggers. • The international community's response to the media crackdown. Speakers: • Gulnoza Said, CPJ's Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator • Muhamadjon Kabirov, Editor-in-Chief of Azda TV (Tajik media in exile) • Additional Tajik journalists reporting from exile (names to be confirmed) Organizers: Committee To Protect Journalists (CPJ) Foundation for Intercultural Integration Azda TV (Tajik media in exile) Call to Action: This report and event aim to raise awareness of the plight of Tajik journalists and garne

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Political Prisoners in Belarus. Prospects for Release and Support

Convenor:	Freedom House; The "21 May" Support Fund; Association of Relatives and former political prisoners "Free Belarus Prisoners"
Working language:	English

Summary: The political crisis in Belarus has stretched on for more than four years, forcing thousands of pro-democracy activists into prison or exile. Since the crackdown began in mid-2020, 3,500 people have been recognized as political prisoners, with at least 1,352 still behind bars, including politicians, journalists, human rights defenders, and other civic leaders. Prison conditions are harsh, with frequent reports of torture, inadequate medical care, and poor sanitation. Since 2020, at least six political prisoners have died in custody, and at least seven are currently held incommunicado, some for over a year, with no contact with the outside world. Each month, dozens of activists complete their sentences and are released, while a few dozen more have been pardoned in the last three months. Many of them face serious challenges upon release, including physical and mental health issues, PTSD, travel bans, and difficulties finding employment or reintegrating into society. This panel will examine the ongoing crisis of political imprisonment in Belarus, discuss the most urgent needs of current and recently released prisoners, and explore prospects for their release.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	In Pursuit of Justice: What Should the Justice Architecture for Ukraine Look Like Based on the Experience of Victims and the Needs of the Justice System
Convenor:	Public Interest Journalism Lab; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group; Media Initiative for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Since 2014 and even more so after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, victims of grave crimes have been fighting to restore their rights and achieve a just punishment for the perpetrators. While this aspiration has been supported by an unprecedented response of the international community, it has also been continuously facing significant challenges. On the domestic level victims and survivors are met by investigators, prosecutors and judges, who are overwhelmed and lack institutional and legislative framework to consider grave crimes cases in compliance with international standards. Despite many efforts made in this realm, the justice system has not yet implemented a victim-centered approach to a sufficient degree, often failing to address or perpetuating stigma and trauma that victims and witnesses endure. Current international mechanisms, such as the ICC, proceedings under Universal Jurisdiction, and other initiatives are limited in its mandate and capacity, therefore leaving the victims and survivors with an incomprehensive justice architecture to refer to. Improving the status quo requires solutions, based on robust assessment of the current situation, needs of the justice system and experiences of the victims. The side event discussion will be partly based on the insights from several reports, namely: Analytical study “Cooling Effect. Motivation of Victims to Participate in the Justice Process and Their Support along the Way” by MIHR Report “In Search of Justice. The rights of victims and survivors of serious violations of international law committed during the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine” by HFHR Report “Needs Assessment of Ukraine`s Justice System: Delivering Meaningful Justice to the Victims and Survivors of the Armed Conflict by ULAG These reports are an accumulation of victims and witness testimonies, legal analysis, trial monitoring, experience of victim representation in domestic and international justice mechanisms, polls, in depth interviews etc. During the event, the following topics are going to be covered: Victims` experience and challenges faced when participating in justice processes. Current potential of the domestic justice system and the impact of the assistance provided.

Support and protection of Ukrainian victims in Poland, and insights relevant to ensuring justice for grave crimes committed in Ukraine within the domestic jurisdictions of European states. Possible solutio

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Building together. Presentation of the ODIHR Guidance on establishing and maintaining National Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (NSTACs)
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) will organize a side event to present the ODIHR Guidance on Establishing and Maintaining National Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Councils (NSTACs) which derives from the OSCE Commitments (6/18, 6/17 and 7/17) and the NRM Handbook – second edition: Recommended Standard 6: A national survivors' advisory body composed of survivor leaders should be established to support the work of each participating State's NRM. This body provides advice on all aspects of NRM structures, service delivery, and procedures, as well as anti-trafficking legislation, governmental policymaking, public awareness-raising, provision of education and training, and ensuring high standards of frontline support for adult and child victims and survivors. The event aims to: • Familiarize OSCE participating States, civil society, international organizations and survivor leaders with the concept of NSTACs and the importance of ethical survivor inclusion; • Showcase the new policy guidance and its key components; • Highlight practical tools and effective practices to support the establishment of NSTACs; • Present recommended standards for establishing NSTACs. • Provide a platform of dialogues among participants. Speakers for this event will describe and discuss the practical tools and approaches that are required for Governments of the OSCE participating States to establish successful and impactful NSTACs, highlighting the significance and value of the ethical employment of survivor leaders in all national anti-trafficking efforts and National Referral Mechanisms. Agenda of the side event Opening Remarks Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director Dr. Kari Johnstone, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Keynote Speaker Ambassador-At-Large Cindy Dyer, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (pre-recorded message) NSTAC Guidance Presented by Rachel Witkin Panellists Jane Lasonder, UK Vice-Chair, ODIHR/ISTAC Alina Catrinel Gheorghe, Romania, Member of ODIHR/ ISTAC Maria Povzner, France, Member of ODIHR /ISTAC Katerina Stephanou, LLM, Founder, Step Up Stop Slavery, Cyprus Moderated by Andrew Gardner, Acting Head of Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Restrictions of Freedom of Movement and Murder Cases as consequence of Russian Occupation
Convenor:	State Security Service of Georgia
Working language:	English

Summary: At the side event, the representatives of the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG) will provide the updated information on the current security environment in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region, occupied by Russia. The discussion will focus on the grave human right violations in the occupied regions of Georgia and consequent humanitarian challenges. The participants of discussion will be

presented with the opportunity to closely examine several topics of high importance: - Short introductory overview of the current security environment on the ground, changes into the conflict architecture since Russia-Georgia war of 2008 and its legacy; - Murder cases of Georgian citizens as a result of restriction of Freedom of Movement imposed by the Russian Federation. Other cases of consistent human right violations on the occupied territories as well as in the adjacent areas of the occupation line will also be discussed. - Instruments of hybrid warfare linked to the violation of fundamental human rights - illegal detentions, illegal so-called Borderization process and disinformation campaigns; - Necessity of wider and intense international engagement of the international HR bodies in the occupied territories of Georgia on human rights prism. SSSG will present the relevant photo and video footage during the presentation demonstrating the illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces in the vicinity of the occupation line.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Russian Elections Expose: Apathy and Degradation
Convenor:	Golos Movement
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: The regional elections in Russia, held from September 6-8, have highlighted a grave deterioration and apathy in the electoral process. The escalating oppression by authorities reveals a deep-seated fear of dissent, demonstrating that despite their apparent control, they are acutely aware that their support is tenuous and manufactured. Legislative changes are deviating from constitutional norms and imposing severe restrictions on fundamental rights, leading to increased repression. Under these circumstances, there is no room for meaningful participation by the opposition, and neither meaningful opposition nor public discussion has a chance to develop. This environment not only undermines political aspirations but also exposes participants to potential harassment and physical threats. Political repression of election observers and human rights activists in Russia continues and is only increasing. For example, Grigory Melkonyants has been in pre-trial detention for 13 months, and on the first day of the elections, Board member of Golos Movement for Defence of Voters' Rights David Kankiia was declared a 'foreign agent'. It therefore remains important to speak out at international level and to publicize Russia's electoral and human rights violations The election watchdog Golos and independent experts are ready to share their findings and insights: • Stanislav Andreichuk – Co-chair of the Golos Movement for Defense of Voters' Rights, Lead expert on long-term election observation • Ivan Shukshin – Russian Election Analyst, specializing in analyzing election results through various methods and models. • Roman Udot – Election Statistics Expert Analyst, focusing on voting anomalies and result accuracy.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Climate Change and Refugee Health: Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Anticipating Future Challenges
Convenor:	For Social Welfare of Citizens Public Union
Working language:	English

Summary: Side Event on "Climate Change and Refugee Health: Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Anticipating Future Challenges" is to be organized on the sidelines of the Warsaw Human

Dimension Conference, on October 2nd , 2024 by the "For the Social Welfare of Citizens" Public Union. The increasing impact of climate change has a significant influence on the health of refugees and displaced people, exacerbating their already vulnerable situation. Extreme weather patterns are exacerbating issues in camps, making access to basic healthcare even more difficult. This side event will serve as a forum for productive conversation in light of the OSCE's obligations to human security and environmental conservation. The goal is to handle these pressing concerns compassionately, building international collaboration and resilience in order to protect the well-being of the most vulnerable populations in the midst of the climate catastrophe. - Raise Awareness: Educate the public on the serious health risks that refugees and internally displaced people face as a result of climate change, highlighting the need for quick action and well-coordinated solutions. - Share Insights: To enhance comprehension of the ways in which climate change impacts the health and welfare of refugees, invite interested parties to contribute their expertise and experiences. - Identify Barriers: Look into the major obstacles that stand in the way of taking appropriate action to address the health issues of displaced persons, such as gaps in policy and resource constraints. - Develop Solutions: Promote cooperative efforts among stakeholders to create long-term solutions that boost health outcomes, increase resilience, and promote global cooperation in response to new health issues connected to climate change The estimated duration of the event will be 60 minutes long. Organizers will ensure that it is accessible to all participants and adheres to inclusive practices. The purpose of the "Climate Change and Refugee Health: Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Anticipating Future Challenges" side event is to share helpful advice and best practices for boosting the resilience and general well-being of refugees in the face of a more demanding environment. By encouraging collaboration among key players and addressing both short- and long-term issues, the event seeks to increase public awareness of the situation and develop workable policies that allow refugees to return home safely and sustainably.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**13:30-14:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Political Prisoners in Belarus: Working Together to Advocate their Release
Convenor:	Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Organised by the members of the informal Group of Friends of Democratic Belarus: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States. Members of the informal Group of Friends of Democratic Belarus have repeatedly expressed our deep concern regarding the severe human rights violations and abuses occurring in Belarus. With a view to facilitating a discussion on the current situation of political prisoners in Belarus and recommendations to OSCE participating States and institutions, the Group of Friends of Democratic Belarus is organising a side event to bring together representatives from OSCE delegations, OSCE structures, civil society organisations and experts. The event will consider challenges faced by Belarusian political prisoners and their families, the OSCE’s role and ways to co-operate more closely with civil society to support further progress. Questions to be addressed include: 1) What are the persistent challenges and emerging issues faced by Belarusian political prisoners and their families since 2020? 2) How can the OSCE – with its comprehensive definition of security, including human rights and democracy – best hold Belarus to account for its implementation of human dimension commitments, including in respect of political prisoners? 3) How can partnerships between governments, civil society and international organisations be strengthened in order to further progress on release of political prisoners and their families? What sort of support do those released from detention need? Welcoming remarks on behalf of GoFDBY by Amb. Mr. Raimonds Oskalns Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Leader of the Belarusian

democratic forces, Head of the Unified Transitional Cabinet Volha Zazulinskaya, Strana Foundation Professor Wolfgang Benedek, University of Graz Closing Remarks by Amb. Fatène Benhabylès-Foeth (FR)

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**18:30-19:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	AI-generated disinformation in the context of elections
Convenor:	Delegation of Malta to the OSCE; Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: WORKING DESCRIPTION - tbc in cooperation with CIO Access to accurate, diverse, and public interest information is vital for democratic societies and informed decision-making. With the rise of generative AI, public discussions have increasingly focused on threats posed by mis-, dis-, and malinformation, especially in the context of the numerous elections taking place in 2024. In this year of elections across the OSCE region, the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference offers a timely platform to assess the implications of AI-generated election disinformation, to assess responses, and draw lessons for ensuring healthy information spaces for the future and upcoming electoral processes. The way both technology is regulated and content is governed by Big Tech has significant implications for freedom of expression, media pluralism, and, ultimately, democracy, peace, and security. Recent incidents, such as deepfake videos of politicians spreading false claims, AI-generated robocalls sharing misleading election information, or deepfakes targeting women politicians as gender-based online violence illustrate the growing threat of AI-driven disinformation. Such trends risk undermining the confidence in electoral integrity and democratic processes as well as eroding trust in independent media. First assessments of AI's impact on recent elections reveal that its interferences have been more limited than initially feared. Increased awareness, specialized expertise and invested resources seem to have helped preventing major AI-generated election interferences. However, despite these encouraging assessments and regulatory efforts, the scale, scope, and speed at which AI can generate false content make it increasingly difficult for individuals to discern truth from fabrication. The wide-spread integration of AI applications in the information ecosystem, for example in search, and increasing capacities to rapidly and cheaply generating false content at scale pose new challenges. Against the backdrop of ongoing AI challenges such as biases, surveillance capitalism, hallucinations, and power concentration that remain unsolved, these developments further prompt the question on whether and how to prioritize access to trustworthy, reliable, and public interest information. This session seeks to take stock and discuss the effectiveness of recent regulatory frameworks, Big Tech pledges, multi-stakeholder engagements, and potential technological solutions...

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**18:30-19:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Five Years On – Arbitrary Detentions of ISIS-affiliated Individuals in North East Syria and the Responsibility of OSCE Participating States for the Repatriation of their Nationals
Convenor:	Reprieve; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Over five years since the territorial defeat of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in North East Syria (NES), some 56,000 people remain detained for presumed, but unproven, affiliation to ISIS. Nearly 30,000 of the detainees are children, likely constituting the highest concentration of children arbitrarily detained of their liberty anywhere in the world. Conditions in the camps where women and children are detained are degrading and life-threatening, and boys are increasingly at risk of forcible separation from their mothers and transfer to prisons. Men are held incommunicado across dozens of prisons, without charge or trial, have been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. They are dying at a rate of one to two a week due to a raging outbreak of tuberculosis, inadequate medical care, and deprivation of their basic needs including food and water. It is well-known that victims of ISIS have been caught up in this system of detention – notably including foreign nationals trafficked to the region. Despite sustained attention to the crisis, and findings by human rights experts, courts, and treaty bodies that fundamental human rights are being systemically violated, States in the OSCE region have been slow to repatriate their nationals from NES, particularly male detainees. Their reluctance to do so raises difficult questions about the respect for human rights in the counter-terrorism context; the international community's commitment to accountability for core international crimes; and States' facilitation of administrative detention by non-state actors and related responsibility for violations committed. With this system of detention increasingly entrenched and no clear exit for detainees, particularly the children, this side-event organised by Reprieve in partnership with ODIHR will provide a forum for human rights actors, civil society, delegations of OSCE participating States, and other Conference participants to confront the lack of progress in solving this crisis. In seeking to promote practical human-rights based responses, it will reiterate the recommendations and calls to OSCE participating States to take proactive steps for the urgent repatriation of their nationals from the camps and detention centres. Light refreshments will be provided.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**18:30-19:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Georgia: How Restrictive Foreign Agent-Style Law Affects Civil Society, Media and Human Rights?
Convenor:	Human Rights Advocacy and Democracy Fund; American University; Georgian Democracy Initiative; Consumer Rights Center; American Bar Association; Committee to Protect Journalists
Working language:	English

Summary: In Georgia, in the last couple of years the government has been pressuring civil society including human rights defenders, journalists, and media outlets because of their work in the area of democracy, human rights and rule of law. In order to further control civil society, the Georgian Government adopted the law "On Transparency of Foreign Influence" and will intentionally use it as a political tool to suppress dissent. The law is restrictive in its nature, ambiguous in its scope, arbitrary in its application and creates a profound chilling effect on the society as a whole. It contradicts current legal international and local standards as established in international treaties to which Georgia is a member and in Georgian Constitution. The side event, co-organized by the American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights, Georgian Democracy Initiative, Human Rights Advocacy and Democracy Fund, Consumer Rights Center, and American University's Washington College of Law, will explore these negative effects the law has on Georgia's civils society as well as Georgia's future aspiration to join the EU and NATO right before local elections. The leading local and international experts will elaborate on the law's negative effects on freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the overall work of civil society organizations and human rights defenders. Furthermore, the experts will outline current local and international efforts by human rights communities to support civil society and HRDs and offer recommendations on the steps forward. 7. Speakers: Ms. Nino Elbakidze – Lawer, Human

Rights Advocacy and Democracy Fund Dr. Gulnoza Said – Program Coordinator, Committee to Protect Journalists Mr. Eduard Marikashvili – Chairperson, Georgian Democracy Initiative Mr. Irakli Mkheidze – Executive Director, Consumer Rights Center Dr. Fernanda G. Nicola – Professor of Law, American University, Washington College of Law Moderator: Ms. Jasmine Cameron, Senior Legal Advisor, ABA Center for Human Rights

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**18:30-19:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Belarus' Human Rights Crisis: Status & Recommendations to Participating States
Convenor:	Human Rights House Foundation
Working language:	English

Summary: The history of freedom of assembly, association, and expression in Belarus since independence reads of a state in near-permanent war against its own civil society. This has only heightened since 2020, with the liquidation of all human rights organisations, and a near complete closing of civic space in the country. In 2024, ongoing attacks by the Belarusian state against independent civil society and human rights defenders have only increased. This side event will focus on the current state of the human rights landscape in Belarus, including an overview of main trends, recent legislative actions to further curtail rights, and other steps taken by the Belarusian state against independent civil society and human rights defenders. Panelists will also provide specific recommendations to OSCE participating States to address these issues, both bilaterally and within the framework of the OSCE. The event will conclude with a Q&A session. Panelists: Ekaterina Kouznetsova, Belarusian Helsinki Committee Viktoryia Fiodarava, Legal Initiative Taciana Niadbaj, PEN Belarus Natallia Satsunkevich, Viasna

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**18:30-19:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Enhancing human rights-based and victim-centred approach to identification of and assistance to victims of human trafficking
Convenor:	OSCE Secretariat; Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
Working language:	English

Summary: Early and effective identification of victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) remains paramount in upholding their rights and ensuring their comprehensive protection and access to assistance. The 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (PC.DEC/557) addresses protection and assistance as part of the OSCE's multidimensional and comprehensive response to trafficking in human beings and proposes a number of actions that go beyond the assistance and protection of witnesses and victims in the criminal justice system. By recommending the adoption of relevant laws and the establishment of National Referral Mechanisms to protect and promote the human rights of THB victims, the Action Plan calls for accurate identification and appropriate treatment of victims in ways that respect their views and restore their dignity. It stresses that such efforts will only have an impact when co-operation between law enforcement practitioners and social service providers is established and strengthened. All throughout, the Plan unequivocally places trafficking victims and their rights at the centre of the anti-trafficking response. Yet, country visits by the OSCE Special

Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the work of the Special Representative's Office (OSR/CTHB) have consistently revealed that the formal State-led identification of trafficking victims and their long-term protection and assistance are often hindered by the requirement for a victim to participate in criminal proceedings. The challenge is further exacerbated by mass migration flows given the particular vulnerabilities of the displaced population, and had become even more acute in the context of the humanitarian crisis related to the war against Ukraine. Against this backdrop and in line with ODIHR Handbook "National Referral Mechanisms - Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons", the side event will discuss promising practices in the identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular in ensuring that all victims of trafficking gain immediate and unconditional access to protection and long-term assistance, including in the context of the current humanitarian crisis related to the war against Ukraine.

Refreshments will be provided

SPECIAL EVENT

Time:	**19:30**
Venue:	**NGO Lounge, Sofitel**
Title:	Presentation of main areas of interest of the incoming Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship – followed by informal networking
Convenor:	Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE
Working language:	English

Summary: The incoming Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship will present the priorities for 2025. The event is an opportunity to exchange views on those priorities and on the role of civil society in the OSCE and how to strengthen that. The discussion will be followed by networking and refreshments.

Thursday, 3 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Political prisoners in Azerbaijan
Convenor:	Institute for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: The side event will address the urgent issue of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, where the government continues to imprison journalists, activists, opposition leaders, and human rights defenders for exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association. Despite international condemnation, the Azerbaijani government uses politically motivated charges to silence dissent and maintain control over public discourse. This event will provide a platform for OSCE member states, human rights organizations, and legal experts to share personal testimonies and evidence regarding the current state of political repression in Azerbaijan. It will also discuss the broader implications for democracy, rule of law, and human rights in the region, calling for coordinated international pressure and action to secure the release of all political prisoners and end the ongoing human rights abuses.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Obstacles faced by refugees from Ukraine
Convenor:	Hungarian Helsinki Committee
Working language:	English

Summary: This is the third year of the war in Ukraine and the toll it takes on the country keeps growing. At the same time, neighbouring countries hosting refugees from Ukraine and providing temporary protection started introducing restrictions in the services available to them. Both in Hungary and Poland access to subsidized housing has been limited making beneficiaries of temporary protection face destitution. There are more and more obstacles that refugees from Ukraine face as the war continues. While return is not recommended by UNHCR for many there are few alternatives remaining. In this panel, civil society representatives from Poland, Hungary and Ukraine will discuss these challenges, the reality facing those who do return despite all odds and will try to come up with common avenues for advocacy to counter this fast-spreading trend of restrictions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	The OSCE Decision 7/20 must work in practice: position and recommendations of the CSP Working Group on Fight against Torture and Enforced Disappearances
Convenor:	SOVA Center for Information and Analysis; Public Verdict Foundation
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: In December 2020, an important document was adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council - Decision 7/20, reaffirming previously adopted and introducing new commitments in the field of prohibition of torture for OSCE participating States. The Civic Solidarity Platform was one of the most active advocates for its adoption and for the inclusion of many provisions. During the side event, the experts from various OSCE states, members of the CSP Working Group on Fight against Torture and Enforced Disappearances will talk about the most pressing issues with the implementation of commitments under Decision 7/20 and will present their position and recommendations of the necessary immediate steps aimed at ensuring the implementation of the Decision's provisions in practice. Working languages: English, Russian

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Out of the Shadows: Addressing Trafficking in Persons Belonging to Minorities, including National Minorities
Convenor:	OSCE Secretariat
Working language:	English

Summary: The link between trafficking in human beings (THB) and racial or ethnic discrimination in the OSCE region is rarely explored, despite evidence that minority groups, including national minorities, face higher risks. Deep-rooted discrimination and limited representation in decision-making not only worsen the vulnerability of persons belonging to minorities to trafficking, but also obstruct access to protection services and justice. Based on extensive research on the intersection between THB and

minorities across the OSCE region, this joint paper produced by the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) aims to strengthen the evidence base of the specific issues faced by minorities as victims of trafficking and provide an overview of a highly complex and nuanced issue. Following the OSR/CTHB's event to launch the publication in Vienna in September, this side event marks ODIHR's Warsaw follow-up event on the findings of the paper. Introductory remarks: • Ms.Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR First Deputy Director • Dr. Kari Johnstone, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Brief research presentation • Ms. Catherine Barnshaw, OSCE OSR/CTHB Panel Speakers • Ms. Jeanne Celestine Lakin, Chair of the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) • Ms. Mariaam Bhatti/Itohan Okundaye, ISTAC survivor leader • Dr. Joanna Talewicz, President of the Towards Dialogue Foundation from Warsaw • Ms. Jana Drgoncova, Public Policies Analyst and Coordinator, Office of Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities Moderation: • Alessia Vedano, Anti-Trafficking Adviser, ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	How Russia persecutes Ukrainians. Reconstruction of the crimes committed in three regions of Ukraine.
Convenor:	Media Initiative for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Languages: English, Ukrainian MIHR has been documenting and analyzing testimonies of victims of arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, deportation, and related crimes against the civilian population in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the places of detention in the Russian Federation. In 2023 the first analysis based on the I-Doc data system, which reproduces the circumstances of crimes committed by the Russian armed forces against Ukrainian civilians in Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions of Ukraine was presented at the WHDC side event. This year, during the side event, MIHR will present the second part of the analysis that covers all three regions and gives the broadest overview of continuous crimes committed against the civilian population of these regions. The conclusions of the analysis show the Russian intentional policy of persecution of civilians in the occupied territories of Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions. At the event, speakers and participants will discuss: - New analytical report on the violations committed by Russians against civilians during the occupation of Northern regions of Ukraine. - Testimonies of victims, who were unlawfully detained in Kyiv region. - Testimonies of the relative who is looking for her husband, brother and family friend, who were abducted by Russians at the beginning of the occupation of Kyiv region and are being held in different places of detention in Russia. - The routes of deportation of Ukrainian civilians and the places of detention in the Russian Federation. - The investigation of the perpetrators of the crimes committed against unlawfully detained civilians. - The connection between different violations that lead to a common policy of the Russian Federation towards civilians and their persecution. - The ongoing field missions and documenting work conducted in Ukraine by MIHR. MODERATOR: Anna Rassamakhina, lawyer and analyst, Media Initiative for Human Rights SPEAKERS: Tetiana Katrychenko, executive director, Media Initiative for Human Rights Vadym, a victim from the Kyiv region Olha, a relative of victims from the Kyiv region Representative of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (tbc).

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Breaking the Cycle of Western Corporate Complicity in Russia's War Crimes in Ukraine
Convenor:	International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Ukraine's Western allies are facing challenges in implementing restrictions aimed at limiting Russia's access to Western technology, crucial for the production of high-precision weaponry. U.S. and European companies are known for manufacturing the most advanced electronics and precision metalworking tools. However, these tools and components continually appear in Chinese supply chains, Russian missile factories, and on the battlefield in Ukraine. Numerous Western and Japanese metalworking machines have been discovered in Russian defense factories, producing arms used to target Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure. At the same time, countless Western electronic components are found in Russian weapons, including Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, Iskander ballistic missiles, and Kh-101cruise missiles. Companies acknowledge that their products can be legitimately sold to one customer and then resold to a Russian or Chinese defense manufacturer. They assert that once a product is in a customer's possession, its use is beyond their control. Some Western firms might prefer to remain uninformed about their customers' identities to avoid ethical dilemmas. Furthermore, companies have commercial incentives to ensure the confidentiality of their customers' data. This has led to the ineffectiveness of self-policing. As Russia continually evolves its strategies and techniques to retain access to Western technology, national authorities and companies struggle to keep up. Concurrently, numerous civil society groups dedicated to investigating supply chains have emerged. International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR), State Capture: Research and Action, and the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (NAKO) are working together to hinder Russia's access to Western tech that fuels its war of aggression against Ukraine by: documenting Western components in Russian weapons, investigating supply chains, providing authorities with evidence on sanction evasion methods, and engaging directly with Western companies. This side event will discuss civil society strategies to prevent war crimes by undermining Russia's ability to produce weapons and continue its war of aggression against Ukraine. Speakers: Olena Tregub, Secretary General at the Ukrainian Independent Anti-Corruption Committee Emily Patterson, Co-Executive Director at State Capture: Research and Action Moderator: Svitlana Valko, Ukraine Program Manager at International Partnership for Human Rights

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Responding to "Foreign Agents" Legislation to Support Civil Society Resilience
Convenor:	United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the OSCE in Vienna

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The fundamental freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and expression are under increasing threat in many parts of the OSCE region. Governments across the region are introducing so-called “foreign agents” legislation (sometimes referred to as “foreign influence” or “sovereignty protection” laws) under the guise of transparency measures, which is often used instead to unduly restrict civil society activity. This legislation often arises in tandem with laws restricting media freedom, anti-LGBTQI+ measures, and other efforts to constrict and control civic space. Purpose of this event: To provide a platform for civil society from participating States currently navigating “foreign agents” legislation to explore why it is proliferating in the OSCE region; to identify concrete measures participating States, international organizations, and local civil society can take to address and mitigate the detrimental effects of these laws. Speakers: Deputy Assistant Secretary Monica Jacobsen, U.S. Department of State Ambassador Irina Schoulgin Nyoni, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Andras Lederer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee Tinatin Khadeshli, Civic IDEA, Georgia Rinat Tuhvatshin, Kloop Moderator: Jasmine Cameron, ABA Center for Human Rights

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **14:30-15:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title: Kazakhstan's Fight Against Torture: Challenges, Solutions, and Progress
Convenor: Permanent Mission of the Republlic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The fight against torture and ill-treatment requires the active commitment of states, including the adoption of UN legal instruments such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and the establishment of effective national mechanisms for the prevention of torture. This panel discussion, organized by the Human Rights Commissioner and leading human rights defenders of Kazakhstan, will shed light on the situation regarding torture in the country, discuss successful initiatives, and evaluate current efforts to prevent ill-treatment. During the discussion, special attention will be given to assessing the effectiveness of national mechanisms, such as the National Preventive Mechanism, and identifying areas for their improvement. Participants will discuss existing problems and challenges in fulfilling OPCAT obligations, offer recommendations for strengthening monitoring and transparency, and consider practical steps to enhance the training of law enforcement and medical personnel in the prevention of torture. Additionally, the discussion will serve as a platform for analyzing the role of international organizations and partnerships in strengthening the human rights infrastructure in Kazakhstan. Participants will review successful international initiatives and discuss how to improve cooperation with international partners to effectively address the problem of torture, with the aim of developing specific measures and strategies to create a safer and more just human rights environment in the country.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **14:30-15:30**
Venue: **Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title: Political prisoners in Russia
Convenor: Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; United States Mission to the OSCE; Delegation of Canada to the OSCE; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the

	OSCE; Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE; United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the OSCE in Vienna
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Many OSCE participating States have repeatedly expressed their deep concern regarding the severe human rights violations and abuses occurring in the Russian Federation, including with regards to political prisoners. On August 1, the United States, jointly with partner nations, and Russia completed their largest prisoner exchange since the collapse of the Soviet Union, freeing 14 high-profile human rights defenders, journalists, and dissidents, among them the Pulitzer Prize winning activist Vladimir Kara-Murza and Memorial co-founder Oleg Orlov. Despite the success of this exchange, Russia continues to hold more than 700 political prisoners. This event will bring together experts, policymakers, and advocates to discuss recent developments, challenges, and strategies for addressing the repression in Russia as well as the plight of political prisoners. It will also follow up on the use of the so-called Vienna Mechanism on the issue of political prisoners in Russia, an OSCE tool which was invoked by 41 OSCE participating States in March 2024. The goal of the event will be to share insight into trends in political imprisonment, lessons from Russia's past, and how the international community can best advocate for justice and release. Speakers: * Alsu Kurmasheva * Ilya Yashin * Sergei Davidis, Memorial Human Rights Centre * Sonata Coulter, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State overseeing policy toward Russia and Central Europe * Irina Schoulgin Nyoni, Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law of Sweden Moderator: Ambassador Neil Holland, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Constrained Voices: The State of Human Rights and Civil Society in Turkey
Convenor:	Truth Justice Memory Center; Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working language:	English

Summary: Moderator: Burak Çelebi Panelists: Speakers from Hafiza Merkezi – Ekrem Murat Celikkan, Ozlem Zingil Speaker from Amer – Isil Demirakin Event Overview: We invite you to join a critical panel discussion at the upcoming OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, focusing on the current state of human rights and civil society in Turkey. This side event will explore the challenges and pressures faced by civil society organizations, activists, and citizens in Turkey amidst an increasingly restrictive environment. Moderated by Burak Çelebi, the panel will feature expert speakers from Hafiza Merkezi and Amer, who will provide in-depth analyses of the ongoing human rights situation in Turkey. Hafiza Merkezi will elaborate on the persistent challenges to human rights and the ongoing struggle of civil society in Turkey and present their latest report, which investigates the use of counter-terrorism legislation against human rights defenders. The report offers a comprehensive overview of the use of terrorism charges against human rights defenders, highlighting how criminalizing human rights defenders has affected freedoms and civil liberties. In addition, our colleagues from ESHID/AMER will discuss their most recent publication on Freedom of Association and Assembly, which delves into the broader context of civil society under pressure in Turkey, offering insights into the future of human rights advocacy in the country. Key Objectives: To discuss the current state of human rights and civil society in Turkey. To analyze the impact of recent legal and political measures on civil liberties. To

present recent research findings and publications from Hafiza Merkezi and Amer that contribute to the understanding and discourse on human rights and civil society in Turkey.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Political Persecution in Russia: New Wave of Repression
Convenor:	OVD-Info; Human Rights Center Memorial
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Political persecution in Russia continues to escalate. The qualitative and quantitative increase in the scale of reprisals in Russia and the occupied territories of Ukraine over the past year was both a necessary condition and a consequence of the continuation of a full-scale war of aggression. With the help of a diverse range of repressions aimed at suppressing a variety of human rights and freedoms, the Russian authorities have maintained control over the situation. Currently, there are more than 700 political prisoners on the knowingly incomplete Memorial's list. 2803 people are subjected to political persecution according to OVD-Info, including 1394 deprived of their liberty. In February 2024, Alexei Navalny, who was perceived as the leader of an alternative democratic Russia, was killed in a prison in the Arctic Circle. At the same time, many political prisoners with health problems continue to be imprisoned. However, despite all the repression, Russian human rights defenders and NGOs continue to work and provide assistance to the victims of the regime. List of speakers: Sergey Davidis - "Political Prisoners Support. Memorial" Project Polina Kurakina - OVD-Info Mariia Nemova - "Neotlozhka" - OVD-Info's special project Speaker from the First Department - [to be identified]

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Preventing and Combatting Torture in Places of Detention - In Theory and in Practice
Convenor:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Despite clear international obligations and commitments, the risk of prisoners being exposed to torture and ill-treatment is pervasive and remains a significant concern in the OSCE region. Particularly, in times of conflict and in cases involving politically motivated charges, the lack of oversight and power imbalances can lead to a sense of impunity. There is therefore a critical need for robust preventive measures and monitoring of adherence to international standards. Prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a key focus of the OSCE commitments. At the 2020 Tirana Ministerial Council, the OSCE participating States stressed the importance of effective legal and procedural safeguards throughout all stages of detention, including early stages of police custody, as effective measures for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (MC.DEC.7/20).One central mechanism in this regard is the independent oversight of places of detention through National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) and civil society organizations. NPMs and civil society organizations inter alia monitor detention facilities to ensure that the minimum prison conditions as set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMR) or Mandela Rules are upheld. In armed conflict, International

Humanitarian Law (IHL) foresees special protection for prisoners of war (PoWs) but also other persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to an armed conflict. In particular, they must be treated humanely in all circumstances and the access to places of detentions must be granted to the ICRC. These visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), play an important role in the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment as well as in securing humane treatment and conditions of detention for all detainees. Numerous reports by international bodies, including under the Moscow Mechanism, document the widespread and systematic use of torture and other ill-treatment by Russian authorities in Ukraine against prisoners of war and detained civilians. This side-event aims to review torture prevention in detention facilities in armed conflict and peace times and to discuss how to improve existing preventive measures. The speaker: Mr.Terry Hackett This event will be held under Chatham House Rules.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Emerging trends in repression by authoritarian governments in Eurasia: A comparative review of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism legislation and practices
Convenor:	Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: As freedom of expression and democratic institutions continue to erode across Eurasia, authoritarian governments are increasingly using counterterrorism and counter-extremism legislation as a tool of repression. This session will explore the latest trends in how these regimes are using such legislation to target independent media, activists, journalists and bloggers. Under the pretext of countering extremism and enforcing censorship, many have faced severe legal consequences, with basic civil liberties increasingly curtailed. The proposed side event will provide a comparative overview of recent developments in counter-terrorism legislation and its application in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It will highlight the misuse of these laws to restrict freedom of expression and strengthen authoritarian control. Experts will present detailed country analyses, illustrate the profound impact of these repressive measures, and offer recommendations for the international community to address the discussed challenges.

Refreshments will be provided

SPECIAL EVENT

Starlight Stadium - ODIHR's newest knowledge product supporting Human Rights Defenders in their pursuit of safe monitoring of human rights situations across the OSCE region.

Time:	**17:00-20:00**
Venue:	**Kino Kultura (Krakowskie Przedmieście 21/23) Warsaw, Poland**
Title:	Starlights Stadium
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Starlight Stadium will launch on Thursday, 3rd October 2024 from 17:00-20:00 at Kino Kultura (Krakowskie Przedmieście 21/23) in Warsaw, Poland. Starlight Stadium is an online game that provides a safe space to learn more about human rights and how to effectively, safely engage in human rights

monitoring. Through Starlight Stadium players can investigate alleged human rights violations, apply human rights monitoring principles, analyse the situation against international human rights standards, collect and verify information, write a report with conclusions and recommendations, and undertake advocacy to facilitate change. It was created with the motivation to gamify ODIHR's established Human Rights Monitoring, Safety and Security curriculum to increase its accessibility and present a fun way to learn the crucial monitoring skills that underlie human rights work.

During the interactive launch event, participants can expect to learn about the game's development process and its potential applications through an engaging panel discussion, play and discuss the game with others, and raise a toast to the completion of this project. You can find the agenda of this event enclosed.

We highly value in-person participation and we hope you can attend this significant event. No prior registration is needed.

For any questions about the event or its logistics, please contact Marine Constant, Human Rights Adviser and Capacity Building Coordinator (Marine.Constant@odihr.pl) and Christina Kelly, Assistant Project Officer (Christina.Kelly@odihr.pl).

Friday, 4 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Torture as a State Policy: a Case of Ukrainian Prisoners of War
Convenor:	Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Working language:	English

Summary: As a result of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, thousands of Ukrainians have been captured and are being held as prisoners of war (POWs). Torture has become a widespread practice, with over 95% of Ukrainian POWs reportedly subjected to it, according to the Head of the UN Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Danielle Bell. This constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Jill Edwards, has similarly highlighted the persistent and credible allegations of torture, describing the inhumane treatment of civilians and POWs by Russian authorities as "unrelenting". This side event will provide an analysis of the legal qualification of the systematic use of torture as a state policy of intimidation, and will advocate for accountability under international law, including the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Attendees will also hear testimony from a former POW and be briefed by a representative of the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of the Prisoners of War. Together, we will explore the legal and humanitarian implications of these war crimes, calling on the international community to take concrete steps towards justice for victims. Moderator: Yiğit Aksakoğlu, Netherlands Helsinki Committee (TBC) Gleb Bogush, Research Fellow at the University of Cologne Sergiy Petukhov, Senior Lecturer at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy Oleg Gushchyn, Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of the Prisoners of War Olena Turas , Former POW Contact point: Nathalie Heidema, NHC, NHeidema@nhc.nl

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Examining Russia’s Policy of Enforced Disappearances in Ukraine
Convenor:	Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KhPG); Center for Civil Liberties; Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: This event addresses Russia's widespread and systematic practice of enforced disappearances (under Article 7(1)(i) of the Rome Statute) in Ukraine's temporarily occupied territories since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion. The evidence, based on witness testimonies, documentary and digital sources, indicates that these disappearances are part of a coordinated policy by Russia aimed at suppressing resistance in occupied areas through terror. The Russian military, law enforcement, and affiliated groups systematically targeted civilians perceived as hostile to the Russian regime, including journalists, activists, and former military personnel. The victims often faced violence, unlawful detention, and inadequate medical care while their families struggled to obtain information about their whereabouts. The full extent of these crimes remains unknown due to ongoing occupation in some regions. The panel discussion, witness testimonies, and Q&A session offer a holistic understanding of the subject matter and encourage meaningful interactions among attendees. Side event participants • Olena Kuvaieva, Strategic Litigation Center lawyer, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union • Olesia Skobova, lawyer, the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group • Valentyn Serdiuk, Legal Analyst, Center for Civil Liberties • Oleg Gushchyn, Legal Counsellor, The Coordination Headquarters of the Treatment of Prisoners of War • Olena Turas, Witness testimony Moderator: Oleksandra Romantsova – Center for Civil Liberties Executive Director, 8 years of experience in documenting war crimes on the territory of Ukraine, "Tribunal for Putin" initiative. Working language: English

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Threats against human rights, democracy and climate justice ahead COP29 in Azerbaijan
Convenor:	Climate Observers Partnership
Working language:	English

Summary: The side event will focus on the critical intersection of human rights, democracy, and environmental sustainability in the context of Azerbaijan, the host country. As Azerbaijan assumes a prominent role in global climate negotiations, it is imperative to address the ongoing suppression of media freedom and human rights defenders within the country. The Azerbaijani government has systematically silenced dissenting voices, targeting journalists, activists, and civil society organizations, which undermines democratic processes and stifles debate on crucial environmental issues. This side event aims to bring attention to these human rights violations and their implications for the broader OSCE region. It will explore how the exploitation of oil and gas resources in Azerbaijan has been linked to increased state repression and will advocate for the inclusion of media freedom, human rights, and gender equality in the COP29 discussions. By highlighting these issues, the event seeks to ensure that the principles of democracy and environmental sustainability are not compromised by authoritarian practices.

Refreshments will be provided

SPECIAL EVENT

Time:	**08:30 - 09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Presentation of the work and findings of the ODIHR Ukraine Monitoring Initiative: Reporting on violations of IHL and IHRL related to the armed conflict in Ukraine
Convenor:	ODIHR
Working language:	English

Summary: In order to fulfil its mandate in assisting OSCE participating States in implementing their Human Dimension commitments, ODIHR established the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative (UMI) immediately after 24 February 2022, in order to monitor, research, document and report on alleged IHL and IHRL violations resulting from the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. To date, ODIHR has issued five interim reports.
UMI's monitoring and public reporting aims to contribute towards ensuring accountability for IHL and IHRL violations committed in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine, by establishing the facts and giving a voice to survivors and witnesses. Additionally, UMI informs the wider public on the human rights and issues recommendations based on its observations to both sides of the armed conflict.
At the event ODIHR will present a summary of the findings to date, share details of future plans and experiences of conducting the monitoring from members of the remote monitoring and interviewing teams.

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Stolen Childhood: Role of the Belarusian Regime in Displacing, Re-educating and Militarizing Ukrainian Children
Convenor:	Human Rights Centre ZMINA; Regional Center of Human Rights; Freedom House
Working language:	English

Summary: After the occupation of the Crimean peninsula and parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Russian Federation began implementing a policy aimed at eradicating Ukrainian identity in the occupied regions, a policy the scale and systematic nature of which has significantly increased since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. The transfer of Ukrainian children from the occupied territories to Russia and Belarus for "recreational activities" in camps is an integral part of this policy. Ukrainian children are subjected to local education, as well as cultural and militarized events, all of which are aimed at Russification and erasing their Ukrainian identity. This side event will feature a focused discussion on the indoctrination and militarization of Ukrainian children in re-education camps in Belarus, framed as a potential crime against humanity – discriminatory persecution. Experts and human rights defenders will examine the systematic efforts to erase Ukrainian identity through forcible Russification, military propaganda, and ideological conditioning in these camps. The event aims to highlight the urgent need for accountability, explore legal avenues for prosecution under international law, and reinforce the international community's commitment to protecting the rights of the child amidst ongoing conflict. At the event, speakers will discuss: - The role of the Belarusian regime in displacing, re-educating and militarizing Ukrainian children - Types of re-education, militarization and other efforts Belarus entails to erase the Ukrainian identity of children after their displacement - Perpetrators involved in financing, organizing and implementing the policy of displacement, re-education and militarization on the Belarusian side, as well as the Union State - Legal prospects of prosecuting the indoctrination and militarization of Ukrainian children in Belarus as crimes against humanity in the ICC. Speakers:

Human Rights Centre ZMINA Regional Center for Human Rights Human Rights Center “Viasna” BELPOL Freedom House

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Enhancing the rule of law through whistleblowers protection
Convenor:	Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety
Working language:	English

Summary: This event will bring attention to the vital role of whistleblowers in upholding democracy and exposing illicit activities that threaten the public interest. By shining a light on violations, corruption, and abuse of power, whistleblowers contribute to saving lives and preventing fraud. However, they frequently encounter reprisals for their actions. The event will provide a comprehensive understanding of how legal frameworks can fortify member states against corruption and facilitate the exposure of wrongdoing through whistleblowing, and highlighting the importance of providing them with robust legal protections and support.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Reflecting on 20 years of ODIHR’s Legislative Assistance: Highlights, Trends and Challenges
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Laws have an immense, although often unforeseen, influence on our daily lives, shaping our societies, our rights, our obligations and personal freedoms. The quality of laws that impact our lives is a direct consequence of the manner in which they were developed and consulted. Almost twenty years ago, ODIHR started assessing, upon request, draft and existing laws and lawmaking systems of individual OSCE participating States (pSs) to promote better compliance with international human rights standards and OSCE human dimension commitments. 2024 marks the twenty years of the establishment of ODIHR’s Legislative Support Unit and the publication of its 500th legal review. During this time, ODIHR provided legislative assistance to almost 40 pSs and on a variety of topics, including election and political parties, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression and information, judicial reform, fair trial rights, NHRIs, criminal reform, gender equality, security sector reform and many more. ODIHR also carried out 14 assessments of lawmaking processes in eight countries. Building upon these twenty years of legislative assistance, ODIHR has also developed the Guidelines on Democratic Lawmaking for Better Laws (published in 2024) which aim to promote more openness, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and participation at all stages of the legislative cycle to ensure that . lawmaking processes and adopted legislation are human rights-compliant, accessible, non-discriminatory, gender-responsive and sensitive to the needs of diverse social groups. During the side event, ODIHR will present the main highlights from its 20 years of legislative assistance work, but also reflect on key legislative trends and challenges. The event will also seek to explain ODIHR’s methodology when providing legislative assistance and will also be used as a platform to present ODIHR’s latest highlight publications, the Guidelines on Democratic Lawmaking for Better Laws (translated also into Russian and Ukrainian).

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Russian Human Rights Community in the Fight Against Impunity
Convenor:	Moscow Helsinki Group
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: We believe that the OSCE countries' current focus on security issues and restoring peace should not overshadow the necessity of protecting human rights, including in Russia. The human rights situation in Russia is critically deteriorating against the backdrop of Putin's regime's aggression against Ukraine, military censorship, and political repression targeting anti-war views and opposition to the government. Independent media are being shut down, propaganda is fueling hatred and violence, and civil society is being suppressed. Despite repression, threats from militant patriots, international isolation, and a lack of resources, human rights defenders and activists continue to fight for human rights and democracy. They respond to issues concerning prisoners, cases of torture, restrictions on freedom of expression and association, politically motivated persecution, and misuse of anti-extremism measures. An essential part of the daily work of Russian human rights defenders and activists also includes practical efforts to minimize the damage caused to Ukraine by Russia, assisting Ukrainian refugees, and supporting the efforts of Ukrainian civil society in investigating crimes committed. The Russian Human Rights Council invites you to a discussion on how human rights protection continues in Russia, the challenges it faces, and what it needs.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Addressing attacks on lawyers and the rule of law in Turkey: a profession on trial
Convenor:	Lawyers for Lawyers
Working language:	English

Summary: For years, lawyers in Turkey have been unable to fulfil their professional duties effectively, due to external pressure and improper interference. Attacks on lawyers range from threats and surveillance to judicial harassment, including arbitrary (mass) arrest, detention, and criminal prosecution. Prosecution of lawyers is frequently the direct consequence of the identification of lawyers with their clients or their clients causes. In many cases, lawyers who are targeted, represent people who are considered ‘enemies of the state’, such as people who are prosecuted under counter-terrorism laws, or who have been critical of the government’s policies or behaviour, including journalists, opposition leaders or members of minority groups. The sustained and systematic attacks on lawyers and the improper interferences with their legitimate work have created a climate in which lawyers eventually refuse to represent clients connected to politically sensitive or controversial issues out of fear of becoming the target of acts of harassment. This severely compromises the universal right to effective legal representation and access to justice for all. During this side event, speakers will delve into the difficulties lawyers in Turkey face when conducting their professional activities. They will consider the implications of the increasing rights violations of lawyers in Turkey; the threats to the independence of bar associations in Turkey; and the importance of persistent attention and pressure from governments on both multilateral and bilateral levels, as well as the role played by civil society solidarity movements. Last, the speakers will offer recommendations and suggestions for the OSCE members and civil society

representatives on how to address the situation of lawyers in Turkey, and what measures to take to enable them to play their important role as essential agents of the administration of justice.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Rule of law and occupied Crimea: illegal trials as a tool of persecution
Convenor:	Center of Political Analysis and Forecasting "Crimea"
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: The event will be devoted to highlighting massive human rights violations in the occupied Crimea and Russia's ongoing discriminatory policy in the occupied territories of Ukraine. In particular, attention will be focused on the lack of opportunity for residents of the occupied peninsula to exercise the right to a fair trial and the consequences of this. The event will emphasize the importance of restoring the rule of law and ensuring justice for victims of human rights violations and the challenges faced in this process. Topics to be discussed: 1. Trends of human rights violations in the occupied territories of southern Ukraine. 2. Politically motivated trials as the main tool of prosecution. 3. The “judicial” system and the trial in the occupied Crimea: the position of international institutions. 4. Mechanisms for ensuring accountability and justice for the victims of human rights violations. Speakers: Eskender Bariiev - Head of the Board of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center, member of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people Suleimanova Emine - sister of political prisoner Marlen Mustafayev Kurtamet Aishe - mother of political prisoner Appaz Kurtamet Lukianenko Tetiana- relative of political prisoner Rustem Gugurik Liudmyla Korotkykh - lawyer of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center Borys Babin – expert of the Crimean Tatar Resource Center

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Political persecution in Turkmenistan and Karakalpakstan.
Convenor:	Turkmenistan Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law; Human Rights Center Memorial
Working language:	Russian

Summary: Turkmenistan is one of the most repressive countries in the world. The country has an authoritarian regime that does not recognize the opposition and suppresses any dissent. Hundreds of people have been held incommunicado in Turkmenistan since 2002. * There are no free elections, and real power is concentrated in the hands of the president and his father. * There are no independent media, and criticism of the government is harshly punished. Freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, the right to a fair trial, the right to life and personal integrity, and the right to freedom of movement have been systematically violated for many years; Human rights defenders, journalists, and activists are subject to transnational persecution. * There is a lack of transparency in governance, and information about government activities and the economic situation is unavailable. * Culture of fear: There is an atmosphere of fear and mistrust in the country, people are afraid to express their opinions and fear persecution. According to the Constitution, the Republic of Karakalpakstan is a sovereign state within Uzbekistan. Tashkent's attempt to abolish the republic's special status in 2022 led to mass protests on July 1-2, 2022, which were brutally suppressed by security forces. Thousands of protesters were detained and tortured. Official sources reported 21 deaths, while unofficial sources reported dozens of

unaccounted victims. The authorities are still hiding the truth about what happened. A special commission headed by the Ombudsman of Uzbekistan has not yet published its report, the text of which was completed last year. Despite the facts, the authorities deny the widespread use of torture and prevent foreign human rights activists from accessing the region. Tashkent ignores requests from human rights organizations. The events of July 1-2, 2022 became the starting point of a campaign of repression against the Karakalpaks. Most cases are initiated in connection with publications on social networks. According to estimates by an international expert group, at least 49 civil and religious activists from Karakalpakstan are currently deprived of their freedom, more than 50 are serving sentences in the form of "restricted freedom." Since the end of July, criminal cases against 11 activists have been considered by the courts, which indicates an increase in the scale of persecution. Official media are completely silent about these processes.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Climate Justice, Authoritarianism, and COP29
Convenor:	Crude Accountability; Freedom Now
Working language:	English

Summary: Crude Accountability and Freedom Now invite you to a side event on climate justice and authoritarianism. COP29, arguably the world's largest and most important climate event, will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November of this year. In the midst of an unprecedented crackdown against civil society, with politically motivated imprisonment of numerous activists, journalists, and civil society representatives, including those speaking out about climate and the environment, this discussion will address the human rights, climate, and environmental justice concerns at the center of COP29. What role does the OSCE play in addressing these issues? How do security and human rights intersect in these critical opportunities to raise awareness? Please join us for a thoughtful presentation of these issues. The use of international events (like COP29) by authoritarian regimes in an effort to legitimize their activities, even as they violate the fundamental principles of the OSCE and other international institutions, creating security threats for all of us. (Karl Horberg, Freedom Now) Threats to climate, environmental, and anti-corruption activists in the OSCE space by authoritarian, kleptocratic, and authoritarian regimes and how to hold them accountable—Azerbaijan as a case study (Zhala Bayramova) What COP 29 can mean for climate activists in Central Asia and other parts of Eurasia—key concerns and possibilities. Aliya Tonkobayeva (Wedelich) Refreshments will be served.

Refreshments will be provided

Monday, 7 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	On the Situation of LGBTQIA+ Human Rights in Kazakhstan
Convenor:	Human Rights Consulting Group Public Foundation
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: The situation with LGBTQIA+ human rights in Kazakhstan has been deteriorating year by year. There is no anti-discrimination legislation that protects the rights of LGBTQIA+ people. LGBTQIA+, especially transgender individuals, face human rights violations in many areas of life, being denied access to social opportunities and services such as justice, family, employment, education,

healthcare, and others. Cases of violence against LGBTQIA+ remain frequent, are not properly investigated, and perpetrators are rarely held accountable. Victims of LGBTQIA+ hate crimes often do not seek protection from law enforcement, as the police are notorious for their homophobia, harassment, arrests, and humiliations. LGBTQIA+ individuals face challenges in exercising their political human rights, particularly the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. At the event, Kazakhstani human rights defenders will present a report on the situation of LGBTQIA+ rights in Kazakhstan and will also offer recommendations to improve the status quo.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Climate Security in the Context of the Russian Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine—Impacts on Environment and Human Rights
Convenor:	DRA e.V.; Crude Accountability
Working language:	English

Summary: Crude Accountability and Austausch invite you to a side event that focuses on the connections among climate justice, human rights, security, and the environment in the OSCE region as war rages and the climate crisis intensifies. Understanding and acting in response to these threats is increasingly important within the context of the OSCE and in response to the dangers they pose to member states and civil society working there. Among the issues to be discussed in this side event are: 1. The Russian Shadow fleet; a threat to the climate, local environment, and the Western sanctions regime. The continued operation of Russia's oil export industry, especially after the war of Russian aggression against Ukraine began, presents a three-pronged attack on the OSCE's first dimension and does so through the involvement of OSCE participating states. Utilizing a collection of reports and ship tracking by Crude Accountability, the panel will discuss the operations of the Russian Shadow fleet, the opaque nature of the shipping industry, war sponsorship in the West, the environmental threat of ship-to-ship transfers, and the threat to the climate. (Crude Accountability) 2. Climate and environmental impacts of Russia's full-scale invasion in Ukraine (Anastasia Bondarenko, Austausch) 3. Reprisals against environmental defenders in the Russian Federation (TBD) While the OSCE has taken ever greater steps to acknowledge security concerns related to climate and environmental challenges, as demonstrated by the 2021 MC Decision on Strengthening Co-operation to Address the Challenges Caused by Climate Change, more must be done. Please join us for conversation about the central place climate holds in the understanding of security in the OSCE context.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Transgenderism. A treath to children's, women's and the family rights
Convenor:	Pantarey Foundation
Working language:	English

Summary: Transgenderism, a threat to children's, women's and family rights. Experts from Austria, Norway and Poland will speak. Speakers will include: Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, Austrian activist, who will speak on the threat to the rights of the family as a basic social structure. Marius Rikeras, a well-known lawyer protecting children's rights , will speak about the threats posed by transgenderism to children's fundamental rights, Zuzanna Jakowicka feminist activist and blogger will tell how

transgenderism changing the definition of gender affects the understanding of women's rights. The conversation is moderated by Michał Specjalski of the Pantarey Foundation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Launch of ODIHR's "Belief, Dialogue and Security" Guide
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: ODIHR's "Belief, Dialogue and Security" guide has been produced in response to calls from participating States to provide guidance on how to ensure that fruitful dialogue and joint action can take place across religious and belief boundaries. Concretely, it addresses how states can facilitate dialogue and joint partnerships, which are crucial to foster respect for freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief (FoRB). The guide also offers a number of good practices and interviews with actors engaged in a broad range of dialogue and joint action initiatives. The guide is the result of extensive stakeholder consultation, and has benefitted from the input of ODIHR's Panel of Experts on FoRB. The launch will gather representatives of participating States and civil society organisations to discuss challenges in convening such discussions, for example the need to ensure diverse representation amongst religious or belief community representatives; show why FoRB is important for meaningful dialogue, how dialogue can be used to increase respect for FoRB, and why both dialogue and FoRB are important components in building comprehensive security; present the guide's key recommendations and examples of best practice; and promote gender and youth mainstreaming in dialogue that transcends religious and belief boundaries. Speakers: Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director Susan Kerr, ODIHR Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief Mariam Gavtadze, Strategic Litigation and Advocacy Program Director, Tolerance and Diversity Institute, Georgia Alexandr Klyushev, Chairman of the Association of Religious Organizations of Kazakhstan John Kinahan, Forum 18 The event will take place in English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Conditions of detention of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian hostages in Russian captivity
Convenor:	Free Russia Foundation; Center for Civil Liberties
Working language:	English

Summary: Since the start of its hybrid invasion of Ukraine in 2014, and in direct violation of the Geneva convention and other international obligations, Putin's forces have detained and illegally deported to Russia countless Ukrainian military and civilians —including children. With the full-scale military invasion of 2022, the human rights abuses were brought up to a completely new level— both in scale and in atrociousness, with hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians now imprisoned by the Kremlin. The Russian government purposely keeps their identity and location secret and most of them are subjected to torturous conditions. Many die from these conditions, while others become severely disabled. Through a multinational effort that includes hundreds of activists, human rights defenders, NGOs and governments, Free Russia Foundation has been helping find and free Ukrainian prisoners of the Kremlin since our very founding in 2014. At the proposed side event, Free Russia Foundation, in partnership with Center of Civil Liberties, Ukraine's 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will discuss the Conditions

of detention of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian hostages in Russian captivity Speakers will include: Viktoriia Tsymbaliuk, Representative of Coordinating Headquarters for the treatment of Prisoners of War of Ukraine Vladimir Zhbankov, Legal Assistance Director, Free Russia Foundation Danylo Kravtsov, Former Ukrainian POW Anton Naumliuk, director of office in Poland, Free Russia Foundation Moderator: Oleksandra Romantsova, Executive Director, Center for Civil Liberties

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Breaking the Chains: Addressing Kleptocracy and Corruption in Central Asia — Human Rights, Democratic Reform, and the Role of Sanctions
Convenor:	Freedom for Eurasia; Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Pivotal side event that delves into the pressing issues of kleptocracy and corruption in Central Asia, exploring their detrimental impacts on human rights and democratic reform. This event will bring together esteemed experts in kleptocracy research, human rights advocacy, and policy implementation to foster a comprehensive dialogue on these critical subjects. Panel Discussion: The highlight of the conference will be a panel discussion featuring prominent scholars, activists, and policy makers with extensive experience in tracking and combating kleptocratic regimes. The panel will address the following key themes: • Understanding Kleptocracy: An in-depth analysis of kleptocratic systems in Central Asia, their emergence, key players, and mechanisms of operation. • Consequences on Human Rights: Exploration of how corruption undermines human rights protections and perpetuates cycles of abuse, oppression, and inequality within affected countries. • Democratic Reform Challenges: Discussion on the obstacles to democratic progress in the region, with a focus on the interplay between kleptocracy and governance structures. • Sanctions as a Tool for Change: Evaluation of the efficacy of sanctions in combating kleptocracy, drawing on case studies and lessons learned from past interventions. This side event aims to facilitate meaningful discussions that will identify actionable strategies for advocacy, policy intervention, and international cooperation to combat kleptocracy and promote respect for human rights and democratic values in Central Asia. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with panelists during a Q&A session, fostering a collaborative environment for solutions.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Civic Space in Central Asia: Strategical additional paths to justice in OSCE region
Convenor:	Human Rights Movement Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Importance of the Side event 1. Raising Awareness: Central Asia faces unique human rights challenges, with various governments enacting policies that may limit freedoms. The roundtable offers a platform for raising international and regional awareness about these issues. 2. Fostering Regional Cooperation: Central Asia's interconnectedness makes regional cooperation essential for addressing human rights challenges. The roundtable creates an opportunity for stakeholders from across the region to collaborate. 3. Influencing Policy Change: The discussions and recommendations made during the roundtable can influence both domestic and international policies related to human rights. Such recommendations can guide civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and international

organizations in their future advocacy efforts. 4. International Engagement: The roundtable can bring in attention and pressure from international bodies such as the United Nations, the European Union, and various human rights organizations. This international engagement is crucial for holding governments accountable. 5. Strengthening Civil Society: By bringing together diverse participants—NGOs, grassroots organizations, and legal experts—the roundtable helps strengthen civil society in Central Asia and empowers local actors to continue their human rights advocacy. 6. Formulating Practical Solutions: Rather than merely identifying problems, the roundtable focuses on creating concrete, actionable solutions, providing a roadmap for how the region can improve its human rights situation. This roundtable serves as a key moment for collective reflection and strategizing, essential for advancing the human rights agenda in Central Asia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Anti-LGBT+ legislation and its consequences: the case of Russia
Convenor:	Charitable Fund Sphere
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Sphere Foundation and Citizens' Watch invite you to a discussion on the current situation with rights of LGBT+ people in Russia in the light of anti-LGBT+ legislation introduced between 2022 - 2023. After the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and the rise of "traditional values" rhetoric in policy making, the LGBT+ community became a target for the regime. During 2022-2023, significant changes occurred in Russian legislation that impacted the situation of LGBT+ people in Russia. At the end of 2022, the legislation against the "propaganda" of so-called "non-traditional sexual relationships" was broadened in scope, and its widespread enforcement began in early 2023. In July 2023, a law banning gender affirming health services and changing a person's gender marker in identity documents was adopted, and at the end of the year, the Supreme Court recognized the "International LGBT Public movement" as extremist. Such legislation developments impacted the lives of LGBT+ persons, the lives of human rights defenders working with and for the LGBT+ community in Russia and the legal and judicial systems as a whole. Law has become a state instrument used arbitrarily to suppress dissent, and fair trial is never guaranteed. Recognition of the "International LGBT Public movement" became the first precedent worldwide targeting a specific group and labeling it as extremist. There is a rise of anti-gender movement and far-right parties around the world. Thus, the Russian scenario could inspire other like-minded actors in power to limit human rights of a particular group, labeling them as extremists and a danger to national security. Thus, it is essential to discuss the Russian case and learn lessons on how to counter anti-democratic trends and sustain democracy, moreover, it is highly needed to find common ground on helping LGBT+ people in Russia and elsewhere in the current situation. At the event, we will also present the findings of our research of the court practice regarding the ban on "LGBT propaganda" among all age groups and the dissemination of information about the LGBT+ among children. We will demonstrate to the participants that, in fact, any mention of LGBT+ in public and even private spaces, such as social media correspondence, can lead to liability under Administrative Code. We will also discuss the situation of non-profit organizations and human rights initiatives helping LGBT people and what opportunities for this important work still remain.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Torture and Persecution of Civilians as Crimes Against Humanity by the Russian Authorities in Ukraine: Ensuring International Accountability
Convenor:	World Organisation Against Torture / Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT); The Media initiative for human rights/Медійна ініціатива за права людини; Human rights centre ZMINA; International Federation for Human Rights; Physicians for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Civil society investigations show that having seized control over some territories of Ukraine in 2022, the Russian military deployed an extensive system of filtration measures to identify and subject to arrest, torture, sexual violence and related offences anyone they suspected of disloyalty to the Russian military and political command and the so-called 'Russian World' ideology. The scale and pre-planned nature of these crimes, as well as the involvement of various Russian Federation State structures acting in a coordinated manner, suggests that these crimes may amount to the crime against humanity of persecution. At the event, speakers and participants will discuss: - The new report "Torture and other violations as crimes against humanity by the Russian army in Ukraine" by OMCT, MIHR and ZMINA, including revealed patterns and legal analysis, - The role of hate speech in the crime against humanity of persecution and its linkage with torture and related offences by Russian authorities in Ukraine, - Present advocacy and legal strategy to build a case on the above-mentioned crimes and violations as crimes against humanity before ICC, as well as a systematic policy of human rights violations before the UN human rights bodies - Discuss ways of supporting survivors of torture and conflict-related sexual violence through the improvement of medico-legal documentation We will delve into a discussion on the practical aspects of the structural investigation in common elements of alleged crimes against humanity and building strong legal cases involving the above-mentioned crimes against civilians in the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine and against those civilians transferred to Russia.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Religious Freedom Under Attack: Russia's Actions in Occupied Ukraine
Convenor:	Center for Civil Liberties
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: Since the first months of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began in February 2014, religious communities of various denominations have fully experienced the cruelty and ruthlessness of Russia's repressive policies in the occupied territories. Russian troops deliberately persecuted religious leaders and individual believers of most figures and individual believers of most denominations. Representatives of religious minorities were arbitrarily arrested, threatened, beaten, illegally imprisoned, tortured, and some were deliberately killed. Through the lens of international law, the event will present documented evidence of these violations, exploring how Russian authorities have used religious persecution as a tool to undermine Ukrainian identity and sovereignty. Experts will discuss the genocidal intent behind these acts, emphasizing the urgent need for accountability. This event will focus on the widespread religious repression and war crimes committed in Ukraine's Russian-occupied territories. The event aims to unite efforts in investigating these crimes, push for international legal action, and advocate for the protection of religious communities in conflict zones. Side event participants Oleksandra Romantsova – moderator, Center for Civil Liberties Executive Director, 8 years of experience in documenting war crimes on the territory of Ukraine, Tribunal for Putin initiative. Rev. Mykhailo Brytsyn, Director of Mission Eurasia Religious Freedom Initiative Mykola Komarovskyi,

expert, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KhPG) Dmitry Bodyu, Witness testimony (via ZOOM) Work languages: English

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Why Are There No Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh? Presenting evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh
Convenor:	Democracy Development Foundation; International Partnership for Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: This side-event will present critical findings from an international fact-finding mission that investigated the situation of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh from the 2020 war through the September 2023 exodus. The mission, based on hundreds of witness interviews and extensive open-source data, reveals a deliberate strategy to eliminate the Armenian presence in the region, resulting in almost no ethnic Armenians remaining in Nagorno-Karabakh as of May 2024. The findings of the mission and subsequent legal analysis reveal consistent patterns of attacks, intimidation, and forced displacement, which align with the criteria for ethnic cleansing as understood in the context of the former Yugoslavia conflict. They detail severe human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests, and the denial of essential resources like food and medication. The destruction of cultural heritage sites further emphasizes the government's strategy to eliminate the Armenian presence in Nagorno-Karabakh. Amid the increasing global incidence of violent conflicts, the event seeks to present the experiences of Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenians, raise awareness of war crimes, support accountability efforts, and advocate for justice for the displaced Armenian population as a precursor to sustainable peace in the region. Speakers: Arpi Harutyunyan, Portfolio Manager for Justice and Human Rights, Democracy Development Foundation (DDF). Alen Shadunts, Research and Advocacy Officer, DDF. Zoom speaker: Andranik Shirinyan, Country Representative, Freedom House in Armenia. Moderator: Simon Papuashvili, Programme Director, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR).

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Launch of ODIHR's report "The right to monitor assemblies in the OSCE region: experiences from the field"
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: Freedom of peaceful assembly constitutes a key part of OSCE's human dimension commitments. It is one of the important human rights issues that ODIHR is addressing through its monitoring and capacity-building activities that aim to assist OSCE participating States in complying with their human dimension commitments. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly not only covers the right to hold or participate in public assemblies, but also protects the rights of those monitoring them. Independent monitoring of peaceful assemblies provides a vital source of independent information on the activities of assembly participants and law enforcement actions, fostering public debate and dialogue between state authorities and civil society. It serves as a diagnostic tool for reforms, ensuring the free

exercise of peaceful assembly in line with human rights standards, contributing to police accountability, preventing violations, and providing early warnings for potential conflicts or security issues. States should therefore ensure their protection and respect and facilitate the right to observe and monitor all aspects of assemblies. To assess the existing practices, ODIHR has prepared a report "The right to monitor assemblies in the OSCE region: experiences from the field". Based on the interviews conducted with assembly monitors from 16 participating States, this report discussed how the right to monitor freedom of peaceful assembly is facilitated or obstructed across the OSCE region. The aim of the side event is to draw the attention of OSCE participating States to this evolving area of human rights defenders' work and engage participants in a discussion on the measures state authorities should take to promote, facilitate and recognize the right to monitor assemblies as a part of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. Speakers: - Ms. Ana Jabauri, Monitoring Team Lead at the Human Rights Center, Georgia - Ms. Mathilde Nilsson, Legal observer at the Ligue des droits de l'Homme, France - Mr. Omer Fisher, Human rights expert and drafter of the report Moderator: - Ms. Anete Erdmane, Human rights adviser/Monitoring and Response Coordinator at OSCE/ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday, 8 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh: the right to safe and dignified return
Convenor:	Human Rights Union of Nagorno-Karabakh Refugees
Working language:	Armenian, English, Russian

Summary: During 2020-2023, Azerbaijan, continuing its Armenophobic policy, carried out ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh. These events create the need to draw global attention to the human rights violations committed against the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh. In the background of all this, the Side Event aims to highlight the legal and moral rights of Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to return to their homes safely and with dignity, in accordance with international human rights law and principles.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Decline in democracy and increased threats to freedom of religion or belief in Georgia
Convenor:	Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI); Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo
Working language:	English

Summary: The significant backslide in democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights in Georgia affects Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and the fundamental rights of religious communities. The government has been increasing pressure and discrimination against religious minorities. It is securitizing FoRB, and implementing unconstitutional policies. The recently adopted Russian-style Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence targets human rights defenders, NGOs (including TDI), and religious organizations. Despite all this, FoRB-related challenges do not get enough attention locally or internationally. The side event will start with the panel discussion, addressing the human rights issues

in Georgia, with a particular focus on FoRB and the human rights defenders, opening it up to the questions from the floor. The side event aims to exchange information with international stakeholders and advocate for FoRB and other fundamental human rights in Georgia. Panelists: Ekaterine Chitanava - Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI); Mariam Gavtadze Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI); Jennie Holck-Clausen - Norwegian Center for Human Rights (NCHR); John Kinahan - Forum 18. The side event is organized by the Tolerance and Diversity Institute (TDI) and the Norwegian Center for Human Rights (NCHR), the University of Oslo, and also supported by the United Nations Association of Georgia (UNAG)'s Unity Through Diversity Program.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Safe and dignified return of displaced persons
Convenor:	Western Azerbaijan Community
Working language:	English

Summary: This side event will focus on the right to return of displaced persons within the OSCE region, highlighting the broader challenges of forced migration. The event will examine the legal, humanitarian, and human rights dimensions of the right to return, while offering a platform for dialogue and advocacy for displaced persons across the OSCE region. Displacement remains a significant issue in many OSCE participating states, driven by ethnic conflict, political instability, and territorial disputes. Despite international legal frameworks, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the right to return for displaced persons remains unrealized in many conflict-affected areas. This side event aims to explore the historical and contemporary contexts of displacement in the OSCE region, and shed light on the role of the OSCE and the international community in promoting durable solutions, such as the safe and voluntary return of displaced persons, justice for affected communities, and reconciliation efforts. By bringing attention to the plight of displaced persons across the OSCE region, this event is expected to contribute to fostering dialogue, strengthening international cooperation, and advocating for the full realization of the right to return of displaced persons in conflict-affected areas.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Council of Europe Comprehensive Approach to Combating Hate Speech and Crime
Convenor:	Council of Europe
Working language:	English

Summary: Hate speech and hate crime exist on a continuum of hatred, where the occurrence of hate crime can be a direct consequence of the escalation of hate speech. Both hate speech and hate crime pose a serious threat to the safety of individuals and groups that are targeted. They violate core human rights of the victims, undermine equality and human dignity, and destroy social stability and peace, thereby threatening the very basis of democratic societies. In May 2024, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)4 on Combating hate crime. This is a comprehensive soft-law standard to prevent and combat hate crime and support its victims, enhance the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and tackle underreporting in cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders. This new recommendation compliments Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on

Combating Hate Speech which provides guidelines for a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach to prevent and combat hate speech, covering legal and non-legal measures. These Recommendations build on case law of the European Court of Human Rights, international standards including those of the OSCE, EU and UN bodies, and promising practices identified in recent years. The following questions now arise: how do we put these comprehensive standards into practice? Who should act, what should they do, and where should they start? During this one-hour session, following a short introduction to the two recommendations, speakers will engage in a plenary discussion involving the audience. In particular, the involvement and empowerment of individuals and groups targeted by hate, effective non-legal measures, and how to foster multi-stakeholder cooperation will be addressed. Moderator (in person): - Menno Ettema, Head of Hate Speech, Hate Crime and Artificial Intelligence Unit, Council of Europe Speakers (in-person/ online tbc): - Erik Adell Hellström, Chair of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), Council of Europe Anti-Discrimination Department, Council of Europe - Representative of CSOs targeted by hate – on the role of NGO's in informing targeted groups of their rights, engage in hate crime prevention and reporting. - Representative of state agency, on cooperation between national actors and CSO's on effective non legal measures to address hate crime and speech.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	The phenomenon of Armenian refugeeism
Convenor:	Panarmenian Union Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan
Working language:	Armenian, English, Russian

Summary: The refugee crisis is indeed one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time. It stems from a complex mix of political conflict, war, persecution forcing millions to flee their homes in search of safety and better opportunities. The large-scale displacement of people highlights significant gaps in the global framework for the protection of human rights. There are several waves of Armenian refugees, which are connected to each other with causal ties. The aim of side-event is to discuss the phenomenon of Armenian refugeeism and the issue of restoration of rights of Armenian refugees of 1988-1992. Indeed, finding a solution to the refugee crisis requires addressing the root causes and ensuring the restoration of fundamental human rights, including the right to return, free movement, property rights, and cultural and spiritual freedom. To achieve this, a multifaceted approach involving international cooperation, political will, and humanitarian commitment is necessary. Addressing the refugee crisis requires not only a commitment to uphold international human rights law but also collective global action, long-term conflict resolution, and more equitable sharing of responsibility among nations.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1- Plenary**
Title:	Tolerance and Non-Discrimination and the role of Civil Society
Convenor:	Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE
Working language:	English

Summary: Chaired by Ambassador of Ireland, Anne-Marie Callan Introducers • Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director • Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the Chair-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism • Dr. Regina Polak, Personal Representative of the

Chair-in-Office on Combatting Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions • Ambassador Evren Dağdelen Akgün, Personal Representative of the Chair-in-Office on Combatting Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims • Dr Kishan Manocha, Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Objective This Side Event will present an opportunity for civil society to engage with the three Personal Representatives of the Chair-in-Office on Combatting Intolerance and Discrimination and with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The Personal Representatives contribute actively to OSCE action in the field of combatting discrimination and promoting tolerance. As well as sharing their perspectives on combatting intolerance and discrimination, the Personal Representatives will reflect on the role of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue in building trust across communities. ODIHR will present on how it supports the work of the three Personal Representatives and how their work aligns with the wider role of ODIHR in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Civil society organisations play a crucial role in this field. Discussion will focus on implementation of OSCE commitments on combatting intolerance and discrimination and will present a unique opportunity for discussion including on promoting further interfaith dialogue and cooperation and strengthening cooperation with civil society to enhance mutual respect, dialogue and acceptance.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Indigenous peoples in Russia are being criminalized and ruined, their rights violated by the state and mining companies
Convenor:	Anti-Discrimination Centre Memorial; Non-Commercial Legal Entity Arctida
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: The problems faced by Indigenous peoples in the Arctic zone of Russia will be discussed by the head of the NGO Arctida Ilya Shumanov and the independent experts from the Indigenous peoples' movement. Ilya Shumanov will present the latest findings of his team, related to the lobbyist role of the GONGO (funded by the mining companies) who through corrupt representatives of the Indigenous peoples call for a withdrawal of international sanctions against Nornickel (and similar Russian industrial forces). The independent experts from the Indigenous peoples' movement will speak about the real situation of people living traditionally in Tundra and Taiga, where mining destroys the environment, poisons the water and air, and ruins their ability to hunt, fish and gather resources. Billions of rubles of the income received by companies like Nornickel and the Russian state in the Arctic are not shared with the Indigenous peoples; those who dare to criticize this robbery and destruction are labeled extremists and are criminalized by the state.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Impunity is contagious. Rethinking security and human rights on the Polish-Belarusian border. Can Poland do better?
Convenor:	Club of Catholic Intelligentsia; Egala Association; Migration Consortium
Working language:	English, Polish

Summary: Summary: As Europe grapples with rising security threats, dangerous migration routes, and worsening human rights violations, the Polish-Belarusian border in Podlasie has become a focal point

of concern. This historically scarred region is now confronted with an urgent question: How can it navigate these challenges without repeating past mistakes and compromising human dignity? As tensions grow, so do the questions. Can security be achieved without sacrificing human dignity? Can disillusionment and harmful policies be reversed? These urgent issues took center stage at our side event, where experts on migration, human rights defenders and refugees, who went through the worst, convened to find answers. The event featured powerful testimonies and frontline data from individuals and organizations like Konsorcjum Migracyjne, Grupa Granica, and Egala Association, Club of Catholic Intelligentsia in Warsaw exposing the human cost of pushbacks. Their insights reveal the severe impact of pushbacks on vulnerable groups, particularly women and LGBTQ+ refugees. Despite a government change, three years after the humanitarian crisis began, there remains no accountability for the state's human rights violations. Impunity lingers, spreading like a contagion threatening the entire country's respect for basic rights. With anti-migrant rhetoric, hate speech, and hate crimes on the rise, participants at the event warned that the space for human rights is shrinking rapidly. As Europe stands at this crossroads, the search for alternative, rights-based solutions to the migration crisis has never been more urgent. If it's permissible to treat Syrian refugees on the border inhumanely today, who will be next? Be a part of this essential dialogue. Help us advocate for alternative approaches that uphold human dignity and ensure a rights-respecting future for European borders. Your voice and participation are crucial in shaping a compassionate and just response to these complex challenges. Event Highlights: Testimony of a person wronged by Polish anti-refugee policy and pictures and videos directly from the border zone. Panel Discussion: The panel discussion gathered diverse perspectives, including refugees sharing their experiences at the Polish-Belarusian border, local voices highlighting community challenges, and legal experts calling for human rights reforms. Activists and migration specialists offered insights on balancing security and compassion in Europe.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Canaries in the Coal Mine: Linking the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons in the OSCE Region with Democratic Resilience
Convenor:	U.S. Department of State, U.S., Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE, Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE, Delegation of Canada to the OSCE, Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the OSCE, Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Despite the immense progress that we have seen in advancing LGBTQI+ equality in the last decade, the challenges that remain throughout the OSCE region inhibit LGBTQI+ persons from fully exercising their human rights. Human rights are universal and apply equally to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Countries that respect the rights of every individual tend to be more stable, more healthy, more democratic, more prosperous. Those discriminating against LGBTQI+ persons tend to be less free and tend to be less equal. Attacks against LGBTQI+ persons often presage a dangerous weakening in democratic institutions and rise in authoritarianism. Protecting the rights of LGBTQI+ persons is a vital component of regional and international security, and the OSCE—a crucial place for civil society and governments to convene—must consider how the promoting respect for the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons are central its Human Dimension work. While many national governments have been enacting laws and policies to

ensure that LGBTQI+ persons are able to exercise their rights, sadly, this progress is uneven in the OSCE region. It is marred by backsliding on equal rights and enjoyment of human rights for LGBTQI+ persons in several countries, who are often "canaries in the coal mine" for broader degradations in the protection of human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law. U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Jessica Stern and other panelists will discuss the disturbing and dangerous trends in backsliding on the rights of LGBTQI+ persons across the OSCE region and how they must be considered inextricably linked with democratic resilience. With experts across the OSCE region, she will examine how participating States can and should work together to promote equality and combat all forms of discrimination and intolerance. Moderator: Jessica Stern, U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Persons Speakers: Ambassador Anna Olsson Vrang, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE Eka Tsereteli, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG), Georgia Others to be confirmed

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Religious discrimination and hate crimes in Europe A cause of concern in France and Germany
Convenor:	Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience
Working language:	English

Summary: Background: Religious discrimination and hate crimes have been a growing concern in various parts of Europe, particularly in France and Germany. These issues have gained significant attention due to their impact on social cohesion, individual rights, and the overall well-being of diverse communities. Understanding the dynamics and prevalence of these challenges is crucial for addressing them effectively and promoting a more inclusive and tolerant society. Objectives: The primary objectives of this side-event are to: 1. Examine the current state of religious discrimination and hate crimes in Europe, with a focus on the situation in France and Germany. 2. Analyze the underlying factors and sociopolitical contexts that contribute to these issues. 3. Discuss the impact of religious discrimination and hate crimes on affected communities, and explore their broader implications for human rights, social harmony, and democratic values. 4. Identify and share best practices, policy recommendations, and effective interventions to address and mitigate religious discrimination and hate crimes in Europe. 5. Foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, including policymakers, civil society organizations, and community leaders, to develop comprehensive and sustainable solutions. Proposed Agenda: 1. Welcome and Introduction 2. Keynote Address: Overview of Religious Discrimination and Hate Crimes in Europe 3. Panel Discussion: Experiences and Challenges in France and Germany o Presentations by experts and representatives from France and Germany o Q&A session 4. Closing Remarks and Next Steps Participants: The side-event will bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including: • Experts and researchers in the field of religious discrimination and hate crimes • Representatives from civil society organizations, human rights groups, and interfaith networks • Community leaders and advocates from affected communities

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Young Voices of Hope in Times of Division
Convenor:	KAICIID International Dialogue Centre
Working language:	English

Summary: At a time when religion appears to be at the heart of conflict and division, the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) has been actively investing in the capacity of young people to build bridges and create spaces of trust, collaboration and mutual understanding across different faiths. It is in this spirit that the Ambassadors' Programme of the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC) was born in 2023, with the intention to build up a network of young European Jewish and Muslim community leaders who work together to dispel prejudices, nurture mutual understanding, and collaborate on interreligious initiatives in cities across Europe. After a difficult year of conflict and tragedy in the Middle East, KAICIID wishes to provide new insights into building trust, bringing hope and catalysing meaningful change in challenging times, giving voice to the engagement of the young MJLC Ambassadors. The intention is to offer an interreligious contribution to the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda by addressing worrying trends in antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred as heinous expressions of hate speech. Building on the policy recommendations stemming from the KAICIID-supported dialogue platform the "European Policy Dialogue Forum" (EPDF), the event "Young Voices of Hope in Times of Division" is organised in partnership with the MJLC and with the support of the European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe). The working language is English.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Ending Statelessness in the OSCE Area
Convenor:	OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; UNHCR Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN Agencies
Working language:	English

Summary: In 2014, under its global statelessness mandate, UNHCR launched the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness: a catalyst for commitment, action and solidarity for the prevention and reduction of statelessness. Over the past ten years, the Campaign has brought significant progress against statelessness, including in many OSCE participating States, and brought us closer to the bold vision of a world free of statelessness. With the end of the Campaign in sight and building on the positive momentum gained, a Global Alliance to End Statelessness will be launched at the High-level Segment in Geneva on 14 October 2024. This new multistakeholder platform will enable experience-sharing, pledge implementation and national actions to end statelessness by bringing together members states, regional organizations, UN entities, stateless-led organizations, and other civil society actors. This year, the UN also celebrates the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, so the side event will mark all three of the above important cornerstones. The OSCE remains committed to support participating States to end Statelessness in the OSCE area. In this view, ODIHR and HCNM pledged in 2023 to continue building capacity and exchanging good practices on addressing statelessness in OSCE participating States by, inter alia, organizing one annual joint activity on addressing statelessness together with UNHCR in the next five years (2024-2028). Panelists will elaborate on the remarkable improvements in the OSCE region and present the new Global Alliance to End Statelessness. This side event will seek to take stock of progress made since the start of the #IBelong Campaign and identify good practices in addressing the issue by participating States as part of their commitments to improve the situation of stateless persons, including Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Refreshments will be provided

Wednesday, 9 October

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Promoting human right compliant and gender responsive armed forces
Convenor:	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in cooperation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Working language:	English

Summary: Mainstreaming gender in armed forces and other defense institutions helps to enhance their responsiveness to the communities they serve, boost their operational effectiveness, diversify and maximize the potential of their personnel, and uphold the highest standards of professional accountability. It also ensures compliance with OSCE commitments and international law, including the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). To help security institutions, including armed forces, to evaluate their gender responsiveness, DCAF developed a self-assessment guidance tool. This tool aims to measure the extent to which institutions meet the distinct and different security and justice needs of men, women, boys and girls, and promote the full and equal participation of men and women. In addition to gender, human rights more broadly are at the centre of the role of armed forces personnel. They are bound to respect human rights in the exercise of their duties, and their own human rights in their own institutions should be upheld, both in the barracks and during operations. It is only when the rights of armed forces personnel are equally ensured that they are likely to uphold and streamline these rights in their duties. This commitment is articulated in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which recognizes armed forces members as "citizens in uniform", entitled to the same rights as all other citizens. ODIHR has developed a comprehensive methodology to help armed forces assess their institutional adherence to human rights and gender equality. This methodology is outlined in ODIHR's new facilitator's guide, which is based on ODIHR and DCAF's Human Rights of Armed Forces Personnel: Compendium of Standards, Good Practices and Recommendations, and ODIHR, DCAF and UN Women's Gender and Security Toolkit. This side event will explore strategies and tools for armed forces and defense institutions to assess their adherence to human rights and gender equality standards. In particular, speakers will reflect on the following: • The impact of gender and human rights issues on the external and internal functions of armed forces and defense institutions. • Major gaps and challenges in promoting human rights and gender equality among armed forces. • The value of conducting human rights and gender self-assessments in armed forces institutions. • Best practices and lessons learned from gender self-assessments. • Collaboration with civil society and international organizations to support armed forces in their gender and human rights efforts.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue in support of peace and security
Convenor:	Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations
Working language:	English

Summary: In 2019, the OSCE Academic Network published a report (principal author: Philip McDonagh) 'Religion and Security – Building in the OSCE Context/Involving Religious Leaders and Congregations in Joint Efforts.' In April 2021, the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) inaugurated the

Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations in Dublin City University. Over the period 2021-2024, the Centre has developed partnerships with the main ecumenical and inter-religious organisations on the island of Ireland (Ireland/Northern Ireland) and has developed multi-stakeholder projects of projects of engaged research in several policy areas. In January 2023, at the European Parliament's dialogue seminar on liberal democracy, the Director of the Centre made a keynote speech on the promise and potential of Article 17, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (dialogue with churches, faith communities, and philosophical organisations). Under the OSCE Chairmanship of North Macedonia, the Centre hosted a brainstorming meeting in Dublin on 2-3 November 2023. In the OSCE, the well-defined agenda of combating anti-Semitism, intolerance against Muslims, intolerance against Christians and members of other religions, and racism and xenophobia can usefully be supported by a parallel agenda of promoting dialogue on peace, social cohesion and security from the perspective of faith communities. This approach is already reflected in relevant OSCE Ministerial Council decisions, e.g. Porto (2002), Basel (2014), and Kyiv (2013). The side event will address the following questions: • In the OSCE, how should we envisage the dialogical relationship between principles and particular actions/confidence-building measures? • Where should support for such a dialogue belong within the OSCE institutions and structures? • How should a dialogue involving actors take account of those whose worldview or life stance is not expressed in religious terms? • Are there relevant steps that can be taken in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act? • Is it possible to begin to identify likely themes for the dialogue? • Is there a read across to the UN Pact for the Future, to be adopted this month, which in its current draft form calls for the involvement of a 'diverse range of actors' in support of intergovernmental decision-making?

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Addressing Roma Human Rights Concerns in Ukraine Through Dialogue Between Government, Civil Society and International Community
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: The Russian Federation's military attack in Ukraine has caused tremendous suffering and harm to the civilian population. The war has placed already vulnerable groups, including Roma, at a higher risk of discrimination and abuse, and deepened their socio-economic hardship. Forcibly displaced Ukrainian Roma often face prejudice and discrimination in their attempt to access the shelter, protection, humanitarian aid, employment and services available to refugees and internally displaced people. Roma women suffer particularly from manifestations of intersectional discrimination, exploitation and human trafficking. Roma civil society and the international community have joined the Ukrainian state's efforts to address the needs of Roma communities impacted by the war. Nonetheless, more coordinated action is needed to ensure that Roma can realise their human rights without discrimination and with dignity. This side event provides a venue for discussion between Ukrainian government representatives, Roma civil society and the international community on key challenges facing Roma and potential joint action to improve the situation. Speakers: Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director Ihor Lossovskyi, Deputy Head, State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience Janush Panchenko, Roma human rights activist Oleksandr Osipov, Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Views Zemfira Kondur, Project Coordinator, Council of Europe Office in Ukraine Mykhailo Bilyavskyi, Lawyer, Roma mediator, Roma Women's Fund "Chiricli" Moderator: Iryna Sukhinina, Project Officer, ODIHR

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	Defending Dignity: Addressing Human Rights Crisis and Transnational Repressions Against Karakalpak Activists in Uzbekistan
Convenor:	Norwegian Helsinki Committee
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: This side event seeks to illuminate and discuss the urgent and critical human rights abuses faced by Karakalpak activists in Uzbekistan. With leading experts in human rights advocacy and research, the event will focus on various pressing issues, including torture, unlawful extradition requests, transnational repression, and the systematic persecution and discrimination of the Karakalpak people. Panel Discussion: The event will feature a distinguished panel of human rights advocates, legal experts, and researchers who specialize in Central Asian politics, ethnic minority rights, and international law. Key discussion points will include: • Human Rights Violations: An overview of the current human rights landscape for Karakalpak activists in Uzbekistan, including documented cases of torture, forced disappearances, and wrongful imprisonment. • Transnational Repressions: Examination of how Uzbekistan has engaged in transnational repression to silence dissent and the implications for Karakalpak activists abroad. • Unlawful Extradition Requests: Analysis of the legal frameworks surrounding extradition and the specific cases of Karakalpak activists facing unjust legal actions. • Ethnocide and Discrimination: Insights into the cultural, social, and political discrimination faced by the Karakalpak community and the broader implications for their identity and rights as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). • Political Participation: Discussions on the fundamental right of the Karakalpak people to political participation, with an emphasis on strategies for advocacy and reform. Throughout the event, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with panelists during a Q&A session, fostering a collaborative atmosphere for brainstorming solutions and strategies aimed at protecting the rights of the Karakalpak community.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Effective Remedy Measures to prevent the disappearance of autochthonous Minorities in their native land: the case of the Greek Orthodox Minority of Istanbul
Convenor:	Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans
Working language:	English

Summary: In the context of Human Rights a neglected issue is the remedy and reparations towards communities have subjected to violations their rights. The U.N. General Assembly Resolution 60/147 on the "Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law" although states the fundamental principles to alleviate the consequence of past injustices. The situation of minorities faced in the past grave violations of their human and minority rights leading to their massive expatriation is a severe problem since in some cases their very existence is endangered due to their population erosion to the degree their biological continuation to be in question. The case of the Greek-Orthodox Minority of Turkiye which was exempted from the infamous "Population Exchange" of the Laussane Treaty (1923) is a characteristic one. While this Minority has a population of 130.000 early 1960's today is less the 2.000 members. The most severe violations after 1950 were : (1) The mass scale Pogrom of 6-7 September 1955, (2) The massive

deportation of the members of the Minority holding the Etablis status of Laussane Treaty, (3) During the years 1962-2004 under the coordination of the "Minority Special Committee" implementation of a dismantling program of the Minority institutions such the schools, foundations etc including violations of their religious rights. Although after 2003 some of the past violation measures were abolished the prime of issue of the future of the Minority is uncertain. EFC has proposed several measures to face effectively this problem of the present Government of Türkiye such as necessity to support the repatriation of the young members of the expatriated Minority still positive responses are waited from Türkiye. Specific proposals will be submitted for general and specific cases with a constructive spirit. Expertise to speak: Mr. Nikolaos Ouzounoglou and Ms. Nepheli Papatheodorou (already registered to SHD) and external invited speakers Ms. Seda Alcinar (Passport S21081159), Ms. Georgia Aimilia Voulgari (Passport AY3815419). The last two speakers need entrance permission.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Confronting Hate: Hate Speech, Roots, Facilitators, and Prevention Strategies
Convenor:	Solidarity With Others
Working language:	English

Summary: Confronting Hate: Hate Speech, Roots, Facilitators, and Prevention Strategies This side event will provide a comprehensive exploration of hate speech, focusing on its origins, the mechanisms that enable its spread, and the strategies needed to prevent it. The event will bring together experts, policymakers, and civil society to discuss the multifaceted nature of hate speech and how to effectively confront it. Key discussion points include: 1. Understanding the Roots of Hate Speech: This session will delve into the root causes of hate speech, including historical, cultural, and socio-political factors. Experts will analyze how prejudice, discrimination, and misinformation fuel hate speech, particularly in marginalized communities. 2. Facilitators of Hate Speech: This segment will examine the role of social media platforms, political discourse, and mainstream media in amplifying hate speech. Discussions will address how digital algorithms, political agendas, and media narratives contribute to the normalization and spread of hate speech in society. 3. Prevention Strategies: The final session will focus on proactive measures to combat hate speech, drawing from successful case studies and policy frameworks. Topics will include legal reforms, education and awareness campaigns, the role of social media regulations (such as the Digital Services Act), and community-driven initiatives aimed at fostering inclusion and tolerance. Participants will discuss actionable strategies that governments, organizations, and individuals can adopt to reduce hate speech and promote a more inclusive society. Special attention will be given to the role of prevention in developing and non-developed countries, where weaker legal frameworks may allow hate speech to proliferate unchecked. This side event aims to inspire collaborative efforts in confronting hate speech, offering concrete solutions to address both its immediate impacts and its long-term eradication. The speakers are as following : 1) Mrs. Eleni Kardemitsi, Trainer, from Athene, No Hate Speech Movement 2) Dr. Anna Tatar from Poland, Never Again Association 3) Aneta Szarfenberg Phd. 4) Prof. Joanna Miclic

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	New illegal instruments of persecution of political opponents by the Lukashenka regime: incommunicado detention, repeated convictions, trials in absentia and other forms of transborder repression

Convenor: Center of the Belarussian Solidarity
Working language: English

Summary: iSANS experts will present evidence of the application by the Lukashenka regime of illegal instruments of persecution of its political opponents, including incommunicado detention of political prisoners, extrajudicial execution resulting from torture and non-provision of medical services, repeated convictions aimed at keeping political prisoners in jail indefinitely, holding trials in absentia of exiled opponents of the regime and confiscation of their property, and the use of other forms of transborder repression. Speakers will discuss recommendations for international action, including ways to ensure release of political prisoners and holding the perpetrators accountable.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title: Mobilizing the OSCE Moscow Mechanism to examine of the forced displacement of Belarusians and their persecution abroad
Convenor: Human Rights Center Viasna; Legal Initiative; National Anti-Crisis Management
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Presentation of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism to examine of the forced displacement of Belarusians and their persecution abroad

Refreshments will be provided

Time: **16:00-17:00**
Venue: **Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title: The Needs, Capacity and Potential of Roma and Sinti Women's Organizations and Activists in the OSCE Region
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights European Union Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna; United States Mission to the OSCE; Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE
Working language: English

Summary: Roma women's organizations and activists play a crucial role in representing and advocating for Roma and Sinti women's rights, largely violated by intersectional forms of discrimination and systematic inequality. These are represented mainly by Roma and Sinti women engaged in non-governmental sector and very few in decision making processes. Roma women civil society hold valuable expertise and practices on gender equality, gender mainstreaming and intersectionality. Yet, more funding and administrative support along with collaboration, capacity building and empowerment opportunities have to be invested to ensure that their voices are heard throughout all levels of policy making. This side event provides platform for discussions and reflections among and between Roma women's civil society and representatives and delegations of OSCE participating States on key challenges facing both Roma and Sinti women in the OSCE region and organizations advocating for their needs. Speakers: - Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director/Director's Alternate, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - Ambassador Anne-Marie Callan, Head of Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE, Chair of the Human Dimension Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council - Amber Greene, Acting Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice, Bureau of

Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State - Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland - Carmen Gheorghe, President, E-Romnja - Đorđe Jovanović, President, European Roma Rights Centre - Simona Toroțcoi, Representative, European Roma Grassroots Organization Network Moderator: Cristi Mihalache, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, Chief of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 4 - Opera**
Title:	Importance of local democratic communities in the countryside
Convenor:	Institute for Democracy at UMB
Working language:	English

Summary: The importance of building local communities and cultural development in countryside areas. What is the level of activism in Slovakia and comparing it with the surrounding East European countries. How to react to the current government's attacks against the civic society and how to bring pieces of advice to small towns and cities about the importance of the civic society as one of the legs of democracy. Is this one of the ways to change voter behavior in East European countries?

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	From Propaganda to International Crimes: Unpacking the Dimensions of Hate in Russia's War against Ukraine
Convenor:	Social Action Centre
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: Organizers: Crimean Human Rights Group (Ukraine), Social Action Centre (Ukraine), Freedom House The war in Ukraine has been significantly shaped by the systematic use of anti-Ukrainian propaganda by the Russian Federation. This propaganda not only fuels widespread intolerance and hate speech against Ukrainians but also aligns with Russia's official policies of intolerance towards groups based on the characteristics of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The side event will explore how Russian state-controlled media and official policies have systematically incited hate and violence against these groups, and look at patterns of hate-motivated international crimes committed during the war. Presentations will include an analysis of documented cases, showcasing the patterns of these crimes and the role of hate speech in perpetuating such violence. The event will explore how these narratives have been used to incite violence and will present detailed findings on the role of Russian media in promoting hate speech and encouraging genocide against Ukrainians, as well as the commission of war crimes. Crimean Human Rights Group will present their research into Russian media's role in inciting genocide against Ukrainians and committing war crimes, including the use of hate speech against Ukraine and democratic countries. This research will provide a crucial perspective on the media's role in fostering an environment where international crimes are not only tolerated but actively encouraged. The Social Action Centre, will present research supported by Freedom House into the documented hate-motivated international crimes in the context of war along with the methodology developed in collaboration with international law experts from Truth Hounds NGO for documenting these crimes. These crimes include torture, forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, unlawful detentions, and religious persecution.

The event aims to raise awareness among OSCE participating States and civil society organizations about the significant impact of Russian propaganda in inciting violence and hate-motivated crimes during the Ukraine war. It will also provide policy recommendations for integrating the documentation of these hate-motivated crimes into broader human rights protection and post-conflict justice strategies.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	Documenting the Systematic Attack on Ukraine's Medical Infrastructure
Convenor:	Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Working language:	English, Ukrainian

Summary: Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine devastated both military and civilian infrastructure. Among the most critical casualties of this aggression are healthcare facilities, which have been deliberately targeted, resulting in dire consequences for the Ukrainian civilian population. Numerous incidents underscore the systematic shelling and attacks by the Russian Federation. It is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. In the wake of this violence, Ukrainian NGOs focused on documenting the systematic attacks on healthcare infrastructure, intending to hold those responsible accountable under international law. This event will highlight the findings from these documentation efforts, emphasizing the need for justice and unification of efforts to address these crimes effectively and advocate for stronger legal protections for medical institutions during times of conflict. This event aims to explore these challenges in depth, discussing potential solutions to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the ongoing efforts to document the destruction of Ukraine's healthcare infrastructure.

Refreshments will be provided

Thursday, 10 October

SPECIAL EVENT

Time:	**08:30-09:30**
Venue:	Meeting room 5 – Belweder
Title:	Women's Power Breakfast: Advancing women's representation in politics, promoting gender-responsive governance
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

2024 marks not only 20 years since the OSCE Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality (14/04), it is also the 15th anniversary of the 2009 Decision on the Women's Participation in Political and Public Life – an important moment to look back on and assess how far have we got in implementing this shared commitment of the OSCE participating States.

In those 15 years, OSCE participating States continued to advance legislative and policy frameworks on gender equality and implemented efforts to reduce men's over-representation in parliaments, governments, but also judiciary, the security sector, and in government bodies overall. However, in the last few years, we are observing states' struggles to advance gender equality further, for example, in implementing new measures for women's equal political participation, especially in leadership

positions, or in preventing a growing problem of violence against women in politics. This development keeps states from really delivering for all women and men, in all their diversity, as an ultimate goal of gender mainstreaming in public decision-making and gender-responsive governance. These struggles are amplified by the ongoing democratic and gender equality backsliding. For example, progress on women's representation in national parliaments is slow and not linear. Only 31% of MPs are women in the OSCE region. Keeping this speed, states will need at least four decades to reach fully balanced representation of women and men in parliaments. To mark the 15th anniversary of the 2009 Decision on the Women's Participation in Political and Public Life, ODIHR will host Professor Drude Dahlerup, one of the world's leading gender & politics scholars, discussing with her promising practices, lessons learned but also how to overcome remaining barriers. On this occasion and at the end of the event, we will also introduce ODIHR's latest publication – the Gender-responsive Governance Toolkit.

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 2 - Saski**
Title:	The Power of Change: The Role of Civil Society in Criminalizing Gender-Based Violence in Kazakhstan.
Convenor:	Public Foundation for The Parliamentary Development in Kazakhstan
Working language:	English

Summary: The side event "The Power of Change: The Role of Civil Society in Criminalizing Gender-Based Violence in Kazakhstan" is dedicated to exploring the role of civil society in Kazakhstan's efforts to criminalize gender-based violence. The event will feature leading experts and human rights defenders who will share their experiences and significant initiatives aimed at protecting women's rights and advancing legislative reforms in the criminalization of violence against women and children.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting Room 3 - Krolewski**
Title:	Violation of basic human rights and principles of equality, especially of women and children in the territory of AP Kosovo and Metohija
Convenor:	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna
Working language:	English

Summary: The OSCE is an important forum for strengthening and promoting tolerance and protection of human rights across its region. OSCE participating States have committed to ensuring the protection of the rights of women and recognized gender equality as a fundamental aspect of a just and democratic society based on the rule of law. Unfortunately, despite the OSCE principles and values, Serbian population and non-Albanian communities in one part of the Republic of Serbia, the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija , are on a daily basis deprived of their basic human rights. The aim of the event is to raise awareness amongst participating OSCE States and civil society of a dire situation in Kosovo and Metohija in order to uphold the respect for democracy, rule of law and protection of the most vulnerable. It is of outmost importance for the OSCE participating States to gain insight into the situation in the field, where members of the Serb and other non-Albanian communities are faced with numerous violations, including ethnically motivated attacks, physical violence, discrimination and intimidation and structural violence. These violations represent continuous disrespect for international demands to abstain from unilateral and escalatory actions that hinder the normalization process with Belgrade, without facing consequences. The Serbian community is deprived of basic human rights such

as the right to food, education, health, work or housing. These measures primarily affect the most vulnerable social groups such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, leading to further intolerance and discrimination. Examples of these violations are numerous - deprivation of prenatal and postnatal rights, including maternity leave and registration of a new born, or deprivation of scholarships. The panelists are: -Dusan Kozarev, Acting Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Afairs -Tatjana Macura, Minister without portfolio in charge of gender equality, prevention of violence against women and economic and political empowerment of women

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**14:30-15:30**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Engaging Men to Support Gender Equality: From Awareness to Action
Convenor:	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language:	English

Summary: The OSCE has long been committed to advancing gender equality, with a particular emphasis on the vital role that men and boys play in achieving this objective. A recent conference hosted by CHANGE and WIN, two OSCE projects working in this area led to the OSCE Policy and Practice Recommendations on Engaging Men. At this event the recommendations will be presented along with the "Sarajevo Recommendations on Engaging Male Politicians as Critical Actors for Gender Equality in Politics". While emphasis on the constructive engagement of men to support gender equality is key to achieving substantive gender equality, it is also important to support men to deliver on gender equality. At the same time further support is needed for traditional advocates for gender equality, strengthening of institutional mechanisms and gender mainstreaming. Speakers: • Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director, • Dr. Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Head of Gender Issues Programme, • Liliana Palihovici, Special Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Gender, • Amb. Anne-Marie Callan, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE, • Knut-Are Okstad, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE, • Thomas Churchyard, independent expert, • Dr. Jovan Andonovski, Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia, member of the iCHANGE Transnational Network to Prevent, Address and Reverse Gender Backsliding.

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 1 - Plenary**
Title:	On the situation with the protection of women's rights from domestic violence in Uzbekistan
Convenor:	NGO Central Asian progress and Integration Forum
Working language:	English, Russian

Summary: Despite the legislative measures taken by the authorities, the real situation with the protection of women's rights remains a significant problem in society

Refreshments will be provided

Time:	**16:00-17:00**
Venue:	**Meeting room 5 - Belweder**
Title:	Train to WIN – OSCE efforts on standardizing trainings on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
Convenor:	OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme; OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina; Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OSCE; Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OSCE
Working language:	English

Summary: Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is recognized as a cross-dimensional area of concern, covering all three dimensions of OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. OSCE's efforts to prevent and combat VAWG are guided by the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Ministerial Council Decisions 15/5, 7/14 and 4/18. They call on to participating States to take action, including through capacity-building of law enforcement agencies and judiciary on preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls. During this event the importance of the standardized training on VAWG and the efforts to ensure substantive and comprehensive training to first responders will be discussed. Proposed Minimum standards and Components of the Training Curricula for Police and Judicial Training on VAWG, a publication developed by Gender Issues Programme/WIN project will be launched and in addition speakers will present efforts to improve VAWG training curricula in South East Europe. The panelists will in addition aim to facilitate an open discussion on the good practices in addressing VAWG by law enforcement, as well as, inter alia, the importance of in-depth training, institutional culture and partnerships with civil society. The aim of the side-event is to: • Launch the publication Proposed Minimum standards and Components of the Training Curricula for Police and Judicial Training on VAWG • Provide examples of OSCE work on improving police and justice sector training curricula on VAWG • Enable the discussion on most urgent action points and partnerships to improve training curricula on VAWG across SEE.

Refreshments will be provided