



**SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW**  
**of**  
**OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**  
**(ODIHR) SIDE EVENTS**  
**at the**  
**Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2023**  
Warsaw Poland, 2 - 13 October 2023

**Tuesday, 3 October**

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Presentation of the ODIHR Handbook for the Observation of Election Administration  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: As tasked by the OSCE participating States (MC 19/06), ODIHR continuously strives to maintain its professionalism and further improve its methodology by developing handbooks on specialized aspects of elections. In 2023, ODIHR has finalized the development of the Handbook for the Observation of Election Administration, which will be presented at this side event. The handbook further enhances election observation methodology in this area and gives primary reference material for all types of ODIHR observation activities for assessing election administration in a comprehensive, systematic and consistent manner. The Handbook also defines key principles that are integral to the proper work of election management bodies and should form a basis for international observers to thoroughly assess the election administration and its work, specifically principles of integrity, legality, effectiveness, independence, impartiality, transparency, accountability and inclusivity.

Panellists:

Matteo Mecacci, ODIHR Director  
Alexey Gromov, ODIHR Senior Election Adviser  
Carla Luis, Member of the Central Election Commission of Portugal  
David Kankiia, Board member, Movement for Defence of Voters' Rights Golos

## **Thursday, 5 October**

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Addressing Anti-Religious Hate Crime in the OSCE Area  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: Anti-religious intolerance and hate crimes continues to be a concern across the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region. Such manifestations of intolerance threaten both the security of individuals and societal cohesion, as discrimination and intolerant discourse often escalate into violence and wider scale conflict. At the same time, a comprehensive security regime is also needed to fully respect, protect and fulfil freedom of religion or belief, which is specifically acknowledged as one of the fundamental principles guiding mutual relations among OSCE participating States and an integral aspect of the OSCE's concept of security. Furthermore, participating States of the OSCE have agreed on a broad range of commitments to address racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including intolerance against Christians, Muslims, Jews, and members of other religions. This side event will present the current situation in the OSCE area with regards to anti-religious hate crime, including reporting and addressing it. It will also highlight ODIHR's recent and forthcoming tools, such as community security guides and factsheets. The discussion will also address gender-related aspects of anti-religious hate crime. The side event will be organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) with the support of the FoRB Roundtable Brussels-EU.

Panelists:

Eric Roux or Ivan Arjona, FoRB Roundtable Brussels-EU  
Djermana Kuric, Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Representative of the Jewish Community in North Macedonia  
Christine Mirre, CAP Freedom of Conscience

Moderator:  
ODIHR

Time: **16:00-17:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Addressing Online Hate in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: Humanity is on the cusp of entering the era of AI. The application of software codes to teach computers how to understand, synthesize, and generate knowledge is already leading to AI augmentation of human intelligence. The opportunities and risks pertaining to this transformative technology are profound. Hateful AI-generated content has the potential to engulf the online space and create a zero-trust society where truth can no longer be discerned. Equally, it can assist users, particularly young people, to promote prosocial messaging and tackle intolerance and hate in an unprecedented way.

The purpose of this side event is to:

- Explain the application of generative AI in relation to online content.
- Unpack the risks and opportunities pertaining to AI in relation to issues of intolerance and hate online.
- Highlight strategies that civil society actors employ to help young people address intolerance and hate in the online space, in light of the opportunities and risks posed by generative AI.

Panelists (online):

Cameran Ashraf, Head of Human Rights, Wikimedia Foundation, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, Central European University

Melissa Mott, Director of Antisemitism, Holocaust, and Genocide Education, ADL

## **Friday, 6 October**

Time: **14:00-15:00**

Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**

Title: Human Rights Defenders in Exile

Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The legitimate and important role that human rights defenders play in our societies makes it essential that they can operate in a free and safe environment. This is also true in cases when the environment they operate in is not their home country. Amid the ongoing crackdown against the civil society in various parts of the OSCE region and beyond it, the number of human rights defenders seeking safety outside their home countries has dramatically increased. These human rights defenders are trying to continue their work, while navigating personal, legal and organizational challenges that came with (often urgent) relocation. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) follows the situation of human rights defenders who are unable to safely operate from their home countries. ODIHR conducted a needs assessment of Belarusian human rights defenders operating from Lithuania, Georgia and Poland and identified good practices in all three countries, related to the ease of access, assistance in relocation or ability to establish new non-governmental organizations. ODIHR also proposed recommendations to the authorities of the three countries on further improvement of the protection of Belarusian human rights defenders, who stressed their need for a stable and long term status with the ability to travel for their work and form associations and open organizational bank accounts – essential to their enjoyment of freedom of association. Dedicated civil society organizations and other actors across the world are working to improve the condition of relocated human rights defenders. International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR) have produced a set of evidence-based recommendations to stimulate a wider discussion among the protection community regarding the implementation of improved support, and are presenting them in co-operation with ODIHR. Panelists will elaborate on identified good practices and propose potential solutions, inviting the audience to discuss further ideas to better the situation of relocated human rights defenders.

Panelists:

Enira Bronitskaya, Human Constanta

Aleksandar Sekulić, Human Rights Adviser, ODIHR

Tamar Beria, Programme Manager, IPHR

Moderator:

Andrew Gardner, Deputy Head of Human Rights Department, ODIHR

Time: **16:00-17:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Self-advocacy by women from under-represented groups for achieving justice and gender equality  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: The CHANGE project received the 2023 OSCE Gender Equality Champion Award as an innovative and catalytic initiative in support of gender equality across the OSCE region in the project category. While seeking to strengthen impact on democratic institutions, policies and social norms to advance gender equality, women's human rights and women's safety, the CHANGE project has a strong focus on women from under-represented groups and their representation at individual, collective and institutional levels. A project's methodology "I-CHANGE" capacity building for self-advocacy strengthens voices and visibility of Roma women and other women from under-represented groups. The side event will present the methodology and examples of its' practical application to advance fundamental rights and freedoms of Roma women, leading to their increased access to decision-making, leadership, and representation.

## **Monday, 9 October**

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Presentation of ODIHR Recommendations on Judicial Independence and Accountability  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The event will be conducted in English and Russian, and will aim to gather participants from across the OSCE region. ODIHR will present a newly develop set of recommendations that compliment the Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence. The tool aims to help policymakers, including: ministries of justice, ombudsman offices, judiciaries, civil society, and other stakeholders involved in the reform of the justice sector. ODIHR's new Recommendations address such issues as accountability of judicial councils, disciplinary proceedings against judges, transfer and promotion of judges, freedom of expression, and equality and non-discrimination in the judiciary.

Time: **16:00-17:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: ODIHR Brief: Guiding Principles of Democratic Lawmaking and Better Laws  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: Building on ODIHR's unique methodology for assessing legislative processes of individual OSCE participating States over the past 20 years, ODIHR has developed new Guidelines on Democratic Law-making for Better Laws. The main purpose of the Guidelines is to provide an overview of key rule of law, democratic governance and human rights standards and good practices underlying each stage of the legislative cycle, from the very early policy discussions, to the development, drafting, consultation, discussion, adoption and publication, and later monitoring and evaluation of laws. They also seek to showcase how to make such processes open, transparent, effective and inclusive, accessible, non-

discriminatory, gender-responsive and sensitive to the needs of diverse groups of society, representative and participatory. In essence, their main goal is to provide guidance to decision-makers on how to draft better legislation by enhancing the quality of law-making processes.

## **Tuesday, 10 October**

Time: **16:00-17:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Making the Nelson Mandela Rules actionable for prison staff: ODIHR/PRI curriculum on the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English, Russian

Summary: The side event aims to present ODIHR and Penal Reform International (PRI)'s new Trainer's Manual: Introduction to the Nelson Mandela Rules International training program. It will provide an opportunity to discuss how participating States and other relevant actors can promote the practical implementation of the Rules, including through capacity building initiatives. It will also raise awareness on the importance of the Rules as key standard to protect the human rights of prisoners, while providing reliable guidance to prison staff and prison administrations. States have a duty to ensure that people in prison are treated humanely and that their human rights are respected and upheld. OSCE participating States have repeatedly emphasized the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and the necessity to ensure that all persons in detention are treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. The revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (known as the Nelson Mandela Rules), are regarded as the key international standard governing prison administrations and providing protection for the rights of persons deprived of liberty, including protection from torture and other ill-treatment. To help prison staff understand and implement the Rules in practice, ODIHR, in partnership with PRI and in consultation with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), have developed a trainer's manual that includes presentations, practical exercises and guidance notes. The manual is based on the ODIHR/PRI Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules and was tested in a four-day pilot training in Gothenburg, Sweden. Since then, ODIHR held a successful training for Italian penitentiary police and a Training of Trainers for staff involved in the delivery of training for prison officers in Belgrade, Serbia. To make the tested curriculum available to other institutions for trainings of prison staff and increase the number of trained prison staff, ODIHR will make it available as a publication.

Panelists:

Mr. Dmitry Nurumov, PRI Representative for Central Asia

Ms. Smiljka Baranček, Director of Training Centre, Prison system and probation Directorate, Croatia

Mr. Isaac Tacho, Probation Inspector, Swedish Prison and Probation Service

Moderator:

Laura Jaffrey, ODIHR Adviser on Torture Prevention

## **Wednesday, 11 October**

Time: **14:00-15:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: The Human Rights Situation of Ukrainian Roma affected by the war in Ukraine  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: The Russian Federation's military attack in Ukraine, has led large number of displaced populations, including Roma, in the country and abroad. As part of the mass influx of displaced people, Roma experienced discriminatory experiences and intolerant treatment at every stage of the displacement cycle – from fleeing the conflict zones to securing shelter, protection, humanitarian aid and state services made available for internally displaced and refugees. Roma women were particularly affected by manifestations of discrimination based on intersectional identities they possess. Anti-Roma attitudes remain the key motivation behind these obstacles.

Time: **16:00-17:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Capacity-Building Tools for Roma and Sinti Civil Society: Guidelines for Roma and Sinti activists in addressing access to healthcare and situations of evictions  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is mandated to assist OSCE participating States in implementing the commitments relating to Roma and Sinti, stemming from the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area (Action Plan) and the three subsequent Ministerial Council Decisions. In this respect, chapter four of the Action Plan elaborates on “addressing socio-economic issues”. It provides a plethora of recommended actions by OSCE participating States and OSCE institutions and structures, including in the realms of housing and health care. The Action Plan has committed participating States to ensuring non-discriminatory access to healthcare for Roma and Sinti, and to ensuring inclusive housing policies free of segregation. In view of its mandate, ODIHR produced Guidelines for Activists Addressing Roma and Sinti Evictions, as well as Guidelines for Activists Addressing Access to Health Care and Vaccination for Roma and Sinti.

## **Thursday, 12 October**

Time: **16:00-17:00**  
Venue: **Meeting Room 1 - Belweder**  
Title: Addressing Trafficking of Women and Children as a Result of Armed Conflicts  
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Working language: English

Summary: The side event “Addressing Trafficking of Women and Children as a Result of Armed Conflicts” will provide an overview of the current challenges in addressing risks of trafficking in women and children fleeing conflict and the protection of identified victims of trafficking. The side event will provide a platform for discussion of ways to ensure a victim and survivor-centred, gender-sensitive,

child friendly and trauma-informed approach in addressing risks to and trafficking of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in context of armed conflicts, including in Ukraine. It seeks to examine effective approaches to reduce the vulnerability to trafficking of women and children fleeing armed conflicts within and outside a country, and enable sharing promising practices with regard to protection measures for victims of trafficking within this vulnerable population. It will focus on the gender dimension and the necessity to include the voices of victims and survivors in the design and implementation of protection systems.

Opening Remarks: ODIHR

Keynote Address: Dmytro Lubinets, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

Jeanne Celestine Lakin, Chair of the 2nd ISTAC

Panelists:

Fawzia Koofi, Former Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament in Afghanistan and women's rights activist

Kevin Hyland, Strategic Director of Santa Marta Group and former UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner

Ioana Bauer, Chairwoman of the Board of eLiberare, Romania

Moderator:

Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE ODIHR

## **Special Event: Women's Power Breakfast: Challenges for Women, peace and security in Central Asia and across the OSCE**

Thursday 5 October, 8.30 to 9.50 CET, Belvedere Meeting Room

The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality recognizes that “equal rights of women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development, and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region”.

Within the OSCE concept of comprehensive security and recognizing the importance of the realization of human rights to ensure peace and stability, ODIHR promotes gender-responsive and human rights compliant security throughout the OSCE. This year ODIHR's annual Women's Power Breakfast, on the margins of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (WHDC), will gather representatives of women's groups, civil society organizations and representatives from institutions working to protect women's rights in Central Asia.

The breakfast meeting will seek to provide participants with a platform to discuss the current state of affairs related to the women, peace and security agenda and the human rights of women. Challenges faced by women human rights activists will also be discussed, seeking to raise awareness among OSCE participating States on such issues.

Speakers and participants will exchange on and identify challenges related to:

- o Women's rights, security and gender equality;
- o Gender-based violence, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence;
- o Challenges faced by women human rights defenders; and
- o Women's activism in the context of the shrinking space for civil society.

These topics will be covered primarily in the Central Asian context, with an opportunity to reflect on how these challenges manifest across the OSCE region, as well.

### **Introductory remarks:**

- Mr. Matteo Mecacci, ODIHR Director
- Ms. Fatmire Isaki, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, North Macedonia

**Moderator:** Dr. Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR First Deputy Director

### **Provisional list of speakers:**

- Ms. Tolekan Ismailova, Director of “Human Rights Movement: Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan”
- Ms. Aiman Umarova, Defence attorney from Almaty City Bar Association
- Dr. Zhanar Sekerbayeva, Co-founder of the organization “Feminita”
- Ms. Nargis Azizova, Women Peace and Security Regional Policy Advisor, UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office

**Closing remarks:** Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

### **Format:**

The event will be held in English/Russian with simultaneous interpretation into Russian/English. Coffee, tea and light breakfast will be provided from 8.00 AM.