



OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

OSCE-Wide Event on Countering Hate Speech
12 December 2022, Vienna
BIOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF SPEAKERS



Dr. **Fernand de Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. Dr de Varennes is Extraordinary Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Pretoria (South Africa), Adjunct Professor at the National University of Ireland-Galway (Ireland), and Cheng Yu Tung Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (China). He is a Knight of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and was awarded for his work and devotion to the protection of minorities the 2021 FUEN Prize (Flensburg, Germany), the 2004 Linguapax Award (Barcelona, Spain), and the Tip O'Neill Peace Fellowship (Northern Ireland, United Kingdom).



Jake Bowers is a Romani journalist, producer, media teacher and film maker with over 20 years' experience. He trained as a journalist with Johnston Press and the BBC before starting his own successful production company the **Gypsy Media Company Ltd** in 2007. The company has made high impact media productions for the world's biggest broadcasters and media producers. From its 2020 remake of the George Michael's iconic Freedom music video championing LGBTQ+ rights, to its depiction of Native American culture in Virgin Music's Alive music video for Chase Status, the Gypsy Media Company specializes in amplifying marginalized voices in mainstream spaces.



Ksenia Iliuk is a Head of Research at **Detector Media**, Ukraine. She specialises in leveraging the power of artificial intelligence to identify and expose hostile information influence. Among the key topics, she studies are malign information campaigns and computational communication. Currently, Ksenia is leading international research projects and outreach activities and acting as an adviser to various governmental stakeholders on strategic communication from the standpoint of narrative warfare.



Inga Sikorskaia has been working as a director of the School of Peacemaking and Media Technology in Central Asia since 2015. Her areas of expertise include freedom of expression, hate speech analysis, extremist propaganda, conflict sensitive reporting, peace journalism and training on media issues.

She led trainings on the role of media in covering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (supported by the OSCE offices in Dushanbe and Bishkek), on countering online hate speech, and peace journalism and communications.



Jennifer Jackson-Preece is Associate Professor of Nationalism at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is an expert on problems and practices of nationalism, minorities and migration, and has published extensively on these topics in books, journals and blogs. She also has an established track record as a policy advisor to governments, international organizations and NGOs, and previously cooperated with the OSCE HCNM on the *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies* (2012), the *Graz Recommendations on*

Access to Justice for National Minorities (2017) and the *Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age* (2019).



Louisa Klingvall has been Team Leader at Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers Unit C.2 Fundamental Rights Policy since 2012. Her work focuses on fundamental rights aspects of the Commission's digital policies. She has thus been closely involved in the Commission's work on illegal content and disinformation, including the Digital Service Act as well as artificial intelligence. She also ensures the overall coordination of the anti-racism team and the work under the voluntary Code of Conduct on tackling illegal hate speech online with major IT Platforms.



Giulia Lucchese is a lawyer, currently Administrator at the Media and Internet Governance Division, Information Society Department of the Council of Europe. Giulia carries out standard-setting activities in the field of freedom of expression, with a particular focus on hate speech and the safety of journalists. Giulia was the co-Secretary to the Expert Group on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS), which drafted the then adopted Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers CM/Rec(2022)16. She also acts as Secretary to the Expert Committee on strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs). Previously, Lucchese worked in the field of counterterrorism and for the

Research Division of the European Court of Human Rights.



Adela Katchaounova discovered her passion for human rights and joined the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee in 2012. Since 2017, she has led the Legal Defense Programme of the BHC, where she is responsible for strategic litigation of violations of human rights in Bulgaria and provides legal representation of victims before national jurisdictions and the European Court of Human Rights. Some of her successful cases are *Behar and Gutman v. Bulgaria*, *Budinova and Chaprazov v. Bulgaria*, *Y and others v. Bulgaria*, *Aneva and others v. Bulgaria*, *etc.*

Katchaounova engages in advocacy of the rule of law and is a frequent speaker at seminars and other fora on anti-discrimination issues, hate speech, equal rights for LGBTI+ couples. She is a fellow of Open Society Justice Initiative.



Dr. Tarlach McGonagle is Professor of Media Law & Information Society at Leiden Law School and an associate professor at the Institute for Information Law (IViR) at Amsterdam Law School. He is a senior researcher at the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research and co-chairs its Working Group on human rights in the digital age. He recently served as co-rapporteur of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on combating hate speech.

McGonagle serves as a Co-rapporteur of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs). He was principal drafter of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities' Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age.



Ruslanas Iržikevičius is founder and editor-in-chief of the Lithuania Tribune news portal, which he founded in 2009 after a stint with several embassies. Between 2014 and 2019 he started and edited the EN.DELFI news portal, followed by the EN.15min news portal until 2021. From 2021 onwards he has been editor-in-chief of the en.lrytas.lt portal. He also publishes the LT Daily and LT Weekly newsletters.

Iržikevičius is an associate of Visegrad Insight think tank (Poland) and a member of the International Advisory Board of Centrum Balticum (Finland).



Lela Savic is a Kalderash Roma from Vojvodina, Serbia, living in Canada. She is the founding editor of La Converse, a non-profit digital media serving marginalized communities through dialogue journalism and teaching reporters from marginalized communities how to produce stories through the Converse School. She also launched a Roma pop-up media project during the pandemic called Svato, where Roma journalists debunked fake news about the pandemic in Romani language. She has worked at Journal Métro in Montreal, covering politics and human rights, CBC's investigative show Enquête, La Presse and regularly presents lectures on media representation, community-powered

approaches to journalism in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. She is a chapter leader of the collective Canadian Journalists of Colour.



Eva Savvopoulou is a lawyer specialised in Public International Law. Since 2012 she has been a member of the Communications Unit of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Greece, mainly working on public information and awareness raising activities, social media and youth engagement. Previously, she worked for the NGO Human Rights Defence Centre in Athens focusing on issues of human rights and non-formal education.



Brankica Janković is a lawyer, she has been Commissioner for Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia by the National Assembly since May 2015. She teaches as a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science of Belgrade University on multicultural social work and anti-discrimination policy and practice and at the School of National Defense of the Army on security studies. Janković's previous position included State

Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy (2012 - 2014) and Director of the Gerontology Center Belgrade (2006 – 2012).

Janković received the “2018 Contribution of the Year to Europe“ and OSCE “2017 Person of the Year“ awards.