



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Representative on Freedom of the Media
Dunja Mijatović**

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION
18 DECEMBER 2014
Bibliotheksaal
Hofburg**

Annotated Agenda

In recent years, tolerance and non-discrimination has become an area of important concern among OSCE participating States. Numerous commitments address this particular matter and past Chairmanships have appointed three Personal Representatives specifically tasked with the job of combatting different forms of intolerance.

The need to protect freedom of expression together with implementing good and effective policies in the area of the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination is becoming a major and complex political discussion within the OSCE area. Adequate integration, respect and protection of different communities and groups have become important political and social challenges. This is a debate which involves international standards, OSCE commitments as well as national policies and regulations. A proper understanding of the implications and possible consequences of the adoption of certain policies or rules needs to be properly guaranteed as this is an issue which directly relates to the effective implementation of human rights.

The Joint Declaration on Universality and the Right to Freedom of Expression (see <http://www.osce.org/fom/118298>) was adopted in May 2014 by the different regional mandates on freedom of expression and opinion and freedom of the media, including the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. The Declaration underlines that states have some limited flexibility under international law in deciding whether or not, and if so how, to restrict freedom of expression to protect legitimate aims set out by international norms (mainly article 19 ICCPR), including to reflect their own traditions, cultures and values; however, these variations may not undermine the principle of universality of freedom of expression and restrictions on freedom of expression, and should never represent an imposition by certain groups of their traditions, culture and values on others.

To raise awareness of this important issue, the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will host a one-day event for discussions, analyses and sharing of good practices regarding the relationship between protecting freedom of expression and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. International experts, academia, representatives of OSCE participating States and OSCE Institutions will be among the panelists.

OSCE delegations are kindly invited to attend and participate in the meeting to raise questions of their concern and interest.

All information related to the event, including documents and information about the speakers, is available at <https://www.osce.org/fom/127110>.

The expert meeting can be followed via Twitter. Please use the hashtag #RFoMTolerance to follow the event and also to pose questions to the moderator and experts.

9:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Remarks

- **Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**

10:15 – 11:00 Keynote Speech “Freedom of expression as a tool to promote tolerance and non-discrimination”

- **Susan Benesch, Faculty Associate, Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University; Founder and Director, Dangerous Speech Project**

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:45 Session 2 – Freedom of expression and tolerance and non-discrimination from a human rights perspective

- **What is the role of freedom of expression in the discussion and dissemination of different views about beliefs, thoughts and creeds?**
- **How can international organizations promote and improve the mutual knowledge and dialogue among different groups within the society?**
- **When does speech become intolerant and discriminatory? What are the consequences and social implications? What are the best measures and practices to deal with intolerant speech?**

Moderator: Susan Benesch

Speakers:

- **Sylvie Coudray**, Chief of Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO
- **Agnès Callamard**, Director, Global Freedom of Expression & Information Project, Columbia University
- **Sejal Parmar**, Assistant Professor, Central European University, Budapest
- **Stephanos Stavros**, Executive Secretary to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Council of Europe

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:15 Session 3 – Promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination through communication and media policies

- **What role can media policies play to promote tolerance and non-discrimination?**
- **How can traditional and new media be used to better disseminate and discuss different beliefs, thoughts and creeds?**
- **What is the role of public diplomacy and international organizations in this area?**

Moderator: Susan Benesch

Speakers:

- **Cristina M. Finch**, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR
- **Dainius Radzevičius**, Chairman of the Union of Journalists of Lithuania
- **Robert Kvile**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE
- **Bashy Quraishi**, Secretary General, European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 16:45 Discussion

16:45 – 17:00 Closing Remarks

- **Dunja Mijatović**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media