



## **PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS**

### **OPENING SESSION**



**Harlem Désir**

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Harlem Désir is the fourth OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media since the establishment of the Institution in 1997. He was appointed in July 2017 for a period of three years. Previously, he was the French Secretary of State for European Affairs. Before joining the government, he was a Member of the European Parliament for 15 years. The Representative on Freedom of the Media has a mandate to intervene on all media freedom issues in the 57 OSCE participating States, including on individual cases, safety of journalists, imprisonment, but also on legislation and promotion of media pluralism.

*[@OSCE RFoM](#)*



**Tamar Chugoshvili**

**The First Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia**

Tamar Chugoshvili is specialist in law and public administration. In 2010-2012 she was the Chairperson of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, the Chairperson of the Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary composed of 32 NGOs and the Member of the managing board of the Civil Society National Platform composed of more than 100 NGOs. In 2013-2014 she was appointed the Assistant to the Prime Minister of Georgia on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues and the Government's focal point for the EU Special Representative to Georgia on Legal and Constitutional Reforms and Human Rights. In 2016 Tamar Chugoshvili was the Head of International Relations Department of the Party "Georgian Dream – for Democratic Georgia" and was appointed First Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament up-today.

*[@ChugoshviliMP](#)*



**Kristin Olson**

Principal Adviser, OSCE RFoM Office

Kristin Olson has a background as a journalist, writer, media manager, and TV and radio producer in Sweden. Since 2004, she has managed the co-operation with numerous international organisations that promote freedom of expression and media freedom, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as influenced the agency's policies. In 2019, she was appointed as Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

## SESSION I



### **Dominik K. Cagara**

Co-founder of Open Caucasus Media portal

Dominik K. Cagara is a co-founder of award-winning OC Media, a digital platform focused on social issues in North and South Caucasus. He works with a vast network of correspondents and partners to produce highly contextualized in-depth reports and to set the agenda for regional debates. He has a background in peace and conflict studies.

[@dkcagara](#)  
[@OCMediaorg](#)



### **Tore Bergsaker,**

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Faktisk.no fact-checking platform

Faktisk.no was established in 2017 by six leading Norwegian digital media outlets (VG, Dagbladet, NRK and TV2) and media owners (Amedia and Polaris) intended to counteract misinformation. Faktisk.no is a member of the International Fact-Checking Network, a unit of the Poynter Institute dedicated to bringing together fact-checkers worldwide. Faktisk.no is also a partner with Facebook to counter disinformation in its newsfeed. Tore Bergsaker has worked for over 11 years for Dagbladet (The Daily Paper), Norway's third largest news outlet, where he was mainly doing investigative projects, as well as covering national and international politics, including wars and conflicts. He is a member of the board of the newspaper Dagbladet AS and the media company Aller Media AS.

[@Bergsaker](#)  
[@faktisk\\_no](#)



### **Adil Jalilov**

Director of MediaNet International Centre for Journalism / Factcheck.kz

Adil Jalilov is the head and founder of the first fact-checking project in Central Asia, Factcheck.kz. He is a media trainer and consultant, as well as proponent and developer of several educational projects, such as Practical Journalism for the Media School, a special course on journalism ethics for students, and free courses in computer and Internet literacy Internet4U. He also worked as Editor-in-Chief of vlast.kz, editor for Kazakhstan of the Central Asian online journal Oasis, Central Asia Editor at Institute for War and Peace Reporting, and a columnist for Panorama newspaper.

[@adiusd](#)  
[@factcheckkz](#)



### **Maria Titizian**

Founder and Editor-in-Chief of EVN Report media platform, Armenia

A writer and journalist, Maria Titizian has over a decade of experience reporting the news from Armenia. She was Associate Editor of the Armenian Reporter, Managing Editor at CivilNet, lectures at the American University of Armenia, and is the Editor-in-Chief of EVN Report.

[@MariaTitizian](#)  
[@evn\\_report](#)



### **Daniel Ioannisyán**

Co-founder of Fip.am Fact Investigating Platform, Armenia

Daniel Ioannisyán has been working in the opposition political field since 2007 and at the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia as a Deputy Assistant from 2010 to 2011. During this period, he prepared different packages of legislative reforms for the law enforcement sector. Since 2011 he has worked as a law enforcement sector analyst for various local media resources and later founded the Union of Informed Citizens NGO and Fact Investigating Platform.

[@FIPArmenia](#)



### **Nino Narimanishvili**

Editor-in-Chief of MediaChecker.ge, Georgia

Nino Narimanishvili has 13 years of experience in the media field. She has worked as a journalist and editor for print and online media outlets, such as Samkhretis Karibche, JAMnews.net, newspaper 24 hours and others. She has carried out several research projects on Georgian media. Nino monitored pre- and post-election coverage in the regional media during the parliamentary elections of 2012, as part of a study on the challenges of regional media in Georgia. She has been a beneficiary of the U.S. Embassy Media Education Program for which she visited San Jose State University School of Journalism & Mass Communications in 2017. For years, she has served as a panel member for the IREX Media Sustainability Index project representing the Samtskhe-Javakheti region in the capacity of an editor for Samkhretis Karibche, and contributed to the report on the state of the Georgian media. Currently, she serves as an Editor-in-Chief of the Mediachecker.ge fact-checking platform.

[@Media Checker](#)



### **Anina Tepadze**

CEO of On.ge news portal, Georgia

Anina Tepadze is a CEO of On.ge, an innovative media organization based in Tbilisi. She started as a blogger and developed social media strategies for different organizations, including the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia. She has more than 10 years of experience in digital marketing and communications, among others, creating viral videos for Adjaranet.com, working as community manager at m2 Real Estate, and web engagement manager at Bank of Georgia. Anina is also a writer, translator, winner of the Tsinandali Prize, and a nominee for the Saba Literary Award. Her first book, published in 2012, was translated into German, Russian, English, Spanish, and Lithuanian, and was included in the anthology of Georgian writing in German translation Bittere Bonbons (editionfünf).

[@OnGeLive](#)



### **Leyla Mustafayeva**

Editor-in-Chief of FaktYoxla.info fact-checking platform, Azerbaijan

Leyla Mustafayeva is a journalist from Azerbaijan and wife of jailed journalist Afgan Mukhtarli, who was sentenced to 6 years in prison in Azerbaijan in 2017. FaktYoxla.info is an initiative, aiming to prevent the partial presentation of information. It fact-checks articles in the areas of society, politics, law, human rights and economy, in line with the International Fact-Checking Network code of principles but also taking into account specificities of the country.

[@LeylaMustafaeva](#)

[@FaktYoxla](#)





### **Giorgi Gvimradze**

Director of news and current affairs, Georgian Public Broadcaster

Giorgi Gvimradze has been working for the GPB since 2014 and has been a head of news and current affairs since 2015. Currently, he presents three weekly programs on the First Channel of Georgian Public Broadcaster.

[@ggvimra](#)

## **SESSION II**



### **Nadezhda Azhgikhina**

Executive Director of PEN Moscow

Nadezhda Azhgikhina is a long time journalist, member of the Russian Writers Union and member of the Global Alliance for Media and Gender. She has co-ordinated international projects on journalists' rights and freedom of the media, as well as culture and gender, under the auspices of UNESCO, UN WOMEN, ILO, WHO, OSCE, and other institutions. Nadezhda Azhgikhina holds a PhD in Philology and is a professor of the Department of Periodicals, Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University. Over the course of her career she has published 18 books and other collections on journalism, culture, gender and human rights.



### **George Tsereteli**

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Previously, George Tsereteli was Vice-President of the Assembly, first elected during the 2012 Annual Session in Monaco and subsequently re-elected during the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki. Following a career in business and as a practicing neurologist, Tsereteli came to politics in 1995. He served in the Tbilisi municipality before being elected to parliament in 1999. In the Georgian parliament, Tsereteli served as Deputy Chairman between 2000 and 2004, and from 2008 to 2012. In 2004, he was Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labor, Health, and Social Protection. He currently sits on the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee on Healthcare and Social Issues. He also serves as Chairman of the "European Georgia – Movement for Liberty" parliamentary faction.

[@GTsereteli](#)

[@oscepa](#)



### **Johann Bihr**

Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia Division, Reporters Without Borders

After two years working for humanitarian and development agencies in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Johann Bihr joined Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in 2011 as the head of its Eastern Europe & Central Asia desk. He has conducted many fact-finding and advocacy visits across the region and maintains close co-operation with local journalists and human rights defenders. He is the author of numerous reports, articles and analyses on press freedom issues.

[@JohannBihr](#)

[@RSF\\_EECA](#)



### **Arzu Geybulla**

Freelance Journalist, Azerbaijan/Turkey

Arzu Geybulla is an Azerbaijani columnist and journalist, with a special focus on human rights and press freedom in Azerbaijan. Arzu has written for Al Jazeera, OpenDemocracy, Eurasianet, Foreign Policy Democracy Lab, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty as well as Meydan TV, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso and Global Voices. She was a Central Asia Azerbaijan Program Fellow at George Washington University in 2016. She currently lives in Istanbul from where she continues to cover Azerbaijan.

[@arzugeybulla](#)



### **Ashot Melikyan**

Chairman of Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression, Armenia

Ashot Melikyan began his professional career working as correspondent for a youth newspaper. From 1990 to 1993 worked at “Respublica Armenia” daily as an executive editor, deputy editor-in-chief, editor-in-chief. From 1994 to 2001 was the correspondent in Armenia for the “Sankt-Peterbourgskie Vedomosti” daily. From 1999 to 2009 worked at Yerevan Press Club as a media expert. In 2003 Ashot Melikyan, with like-minded colleagues, founded the “Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression” NGO, which he currently leads. Under his leadership, with the support of international donor organizations, over 40 projects were carried out which were aimed at monitoring the situation on freedom of expression in Armenia and preparation of periodic reports, protecting the rights of journalists and the media, including in the courts, improving the media legislation of the country, etc. Ashot Melikyan is a member of Media Ethics Observatory of Armenian media.



### **Nino Robakidze**

Eurasia Center Manager of SAFE Initiative, IREX Georgia

Nino Robakidze facilitates the Eurasia Center’s activities to enable media practitioners and human rights defenders to work as safely as possible in Eurasia. She has over ten years of experience in journalism, media management, media relations, research and advocacy, civic activism, and project management. Prior to joining the SAFE Eurasia Center, Nino managed media programs at Transparency International – Georgia working on comprehensive research and assessments of the media environment in Georgia and in Europe’s Eastern Partnership countries.

[@NUKA21](#)

[@IREXintl](#)



### **Mehman Huseynov**

Blogger and Chair of Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijan

Mehman Huseynov is an Azerbaijani journalist and human rights activist who documents the extensive corrupt practices and violations of human rights in Azerbaijan. In 2018 he was sentenced to 2 years in prison for “slander”. He chairs the Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety (IRFS) which is an Azerbaijani human rights organisation that campaigns for freedom of expression and freedom of information.

[@Mehman\\_Huseynov](#)

[@IRFS\\_ORG](#)

## SESSION III



**Andrey Rikhter**  
Senior Adviser, OSCE RFoM Office

Andrey Rikhter holds university degrees in law, journalism and foreign languages, a doctorate in Russia and a professorship in media studies from Slovakia. He sits on the editorial board of a number of international journals on communications and media policy, and authored more than 200 publications on media law in Russian, English, Armenian, Azeri, Bosnian, Croat, German, French, Serbian, Slovak, Tajik and Ukrainian, including the standard media law textbook for journalism students in the Russian Federation, a textbook on international standards of media regulation and a textbook on online media law. He was a professor at the School of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, where he chaired a department in media law and history. Rikhter was a commissioner at the International Commission of Jurists and the Chair of the Law Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research.

*[@BoogieWoogieKha](#)*



**Joanna Szymanska**  
Programme Officer for Europe and Central Asia, Article 19

Joanna joined ARTICLE 19 in 2016 as Europe and Central Asia Programme Officer, working on a number of issues related to freedom of expression and information across the region, including access to information, countering hate speech and media self-regulation. She previously worked at Freedom House, supporting investigative journalists in Eastern Europe. She has a particular interest in freedom of expression online and how to protect it. She regularly publishes and provides training on a variety of freedom of expression issues. Joanna also worked as an adviser to the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

*[@joa\\_szy](#)*  
*[@article19org](#)*



**Ara Ghazaryan**  
Head of Rule of Law NGO, Armenia

Ara Ghazaryan is a lawyer practicing in Armenia. He litigates public interest cases involving media disputes between private and state bodies, as well as media outlets and journalists. He consults journalists, media entities and professional media organizations on media law issues. He is the author of several manuals and research works. He is a professional human rights trainer and teaches at the Justice Academy of Armenia and in the School of Advocates. Since 2013, he is the international consultant of the Council of Europe on human rights issues.



**Samed Rahimli**  
Media lawyer, Azerbaijan

Samed Rahimli is a lawyer with a long track record of advocacy for detainees in Azerbaijan's jails. In 2017 Rahimli co-founded Praktik Hüquqşünaslar Qrupu, an advocacy initiative determined to oppose new changes to Azerbaijan's legal profession.

*[@samedrahimli](#)*





### **Giorgi Gotsiridze**

Head of the legal team for constitutional litigation, Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Georgia

Giorgi Gotsiridze was working as the constitutional litigation lawyer of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) from 2009 to 2019. Giorgi Gotsiridze is the head of the legal team for constitutional litigation at GYLA since March 2019. He also worked as a human rights expert for the UN Development Program, chief specialist at the Public Defender's Office of Georgia and chief specialist at the Supervision Service of the Tbilisi City Hall. Giorgi was a regional co-ordinator of the Liberty Institute for the Shida Kartli region, and served as a trainer on electoral issues for the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), as well as the organization's co-ordinator for the Liakhvi valley.

[@GYLA CSO](#)



### **Aflatun Amashov**

Chairman of Azerbaijan Press Council, member of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

In 1984 Aflatun Amashov graduated from the Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University. In 1985-1994 he worked as a correspondent, chief of department, editor, Editor-in-Chief and first deputy general director of "AzerTAC" State News Agency. In 1998, Aflatun Amashov was elected chairman of the Defence Committee of Azerbaijani Journalists (RUH). In 2003, he was elected chairman of the Press Council of Azerbaijan at the first congress of Azerbaijani journalists. In 2015, he was elected as member of Milli Majlis (Azerbaijani Parliament) of the 5th convocation.

[@Amashov](#)



### **Narek Minasyan**

Head of the Foreign Relations Department, "Public Relations and Information Center" State Non-Commercial Organization of Staff of the Prime Minister of Armenia

Narek Minasyan is a PhD candidate in Political Science at Yerevan State University. Since 2018 he is the head of Foreign Relations Department of "Information and Public Relations Center" of the Administration of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. From 2013-2018 he worked as an expert at the same Center. Since March 2019, Narek Minasyan is coordinating "Orbeli" Analytical Center, which is specialized in the analysis of Armenia's domestic and foreign politics. His professional interests are regional security issues, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its settlement process, EU-Armenia relations, etc.

[@narek\\_minas](#)  
[@OrbeliCenter](#)



### **Sozar Subari**

Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia on topics of regional development

Sozar Subari is a politician, journalist, and human rights activist. In 2004 he was elected Public Defender of Georgia by the Parliament of Georgia for five years term, from 2012 to 2014 he served as Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance and in 2018 was appointed Georgia's Minister for Internally Displaced Persons, Accommodation and Refugees.

## SESSION IV



**Aidar Botagarov**  
Adviser, OSCE RFoM Office

Aidar Botagarov works as an Adviser with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM). He has been with the RFoM since 2013 and, prior to this, worked as a National Political and Media Officer with the OSCE Centre in Kazakhstan. Aidar holds a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the Kazakhstan's Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research. In his current position, Aidar acts as the geographical focal point for media freedom issues in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and the Russian Federation; and has a thematic focus on the safety of journalists.

[@abotagarov](#)



**Shushan Doydoyan**  
Founder of Freedom of Information Center of Armenia, media lawyer and journalism professor at Yerevan State University, Armenia

Shushan Doydoyan founded the Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOI) in 2001, and initiated and promoted the adoption of the Law on Freedom of Information in 2003. She used to be the first head of the Personal Data Protection Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Armenia in 2015-2017. Shushan Doydoyan is an Associate Professor of Yerevan State University where she has been teaching Media Ethics, Media Law and Media Self-Regulation Systems for the past 22 years. Shushan is also the country representative of Reporters Without Borders since 2003; a Steering Committee Member of the FOI Advocates Network and one of the founding members of Access Info Europe. She is also the founding member of the Information Disputes Council of Armenia. As a journalist, she has worked at Armenian Public Radio, Association of Investigative Journalists and Internews.



**Ekaterine Basilaia**  
Lecturer and researcher at Tbilisi State University, co-author of Media Sustainability Index for Georgia and country research consultant for Media Influence Matrix

Ekaterine Basilaia has worked as a reporter, focusing on conflict and political reporting, cooperation with the UN Observer Mission in Georgia and the OSCE field office in Tbilisi. For the past eight years, she has been a moderator with International Research and Exchange Board, IREX (USA), and the Media Sustainability Index, authoring the Media Sustainability Index Georgia reports from 2014 onwards. She was a senior researcher in Georgia for the EU-funded Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding project. She is the author of several research articles and has co-authored a book titled "The Role and Limitations of Non-Governmental Policy Advocacy in Georgia: Groups and Media in Agenda-Setting", financed by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Network.



**Elchin Shikhlinskiy**  
Director and Editor-in-Chief of Zerkalo.az

Elchin Shikhlinskiy is chairman of the Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan. He worked at the Ministry of Education, the Children's Fund and Communist of Azerbaijan journal. He has been a member of the Writers' Union since 1989 and founded the independent Zerkalo newspaper in 1990.

[@zerkalo\\_az](#)



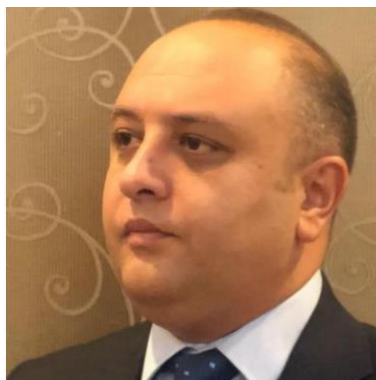


### **Serob Bejanyan**

Head of the Media and Public Diplomacy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Serob Bejanyan started his career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia in 1997, starting from Third Secretary of the Diplomatic Staff Division to the Acting Executive Secretary in the Secretariat till 2003. Between 2003 and 2014, Serob Bejanyan served as Counselor to the Head of Information Division of the Press and Information Department, to the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Hellenic Republic, and the Secretariat of Staff. Until his appointment as Head of the Media and Public Diplomacy Department, he worked as Envoy to the Deputy Chief of Mission of Armenia to NATO, and Counselor in Arms Control and International Security Department. Serob Bejanyan obtained his Master's degree in History and International Relations from Yerevan State University in 1996.

*[@MFAofArmenia](#)*



### **Kamran Hasanov**

Head Adviser of the Public and Political Affairs Department, Administration of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

From 1997 to 2003 he worked in various media, including as the editor of the news department of the ATV channel. Since 2005 he has been working in the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Kamran Hasanov graduated from the Department of Political Science of the Baku Institute of Social Management and Political Science in 1997, and in 1999 he obtained his master's degree in socio-political processes from the Academy of Public Administration.

*[@AzerbaijanPA](#)*



### **Ivane Makharadze**

Head of the Audiovisual Media Service Regulation Department. Georgian National Communications Commission

Ivane Makharadze is a lawyer, with a Master's Degree in Media Law from the Europa Institute in Saarbrücken. He has been working at the Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC) since 2008 as a project co-ordinator in the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Georgian Broadcasters, and as a representative of the Commission in the European Audiovisual Observatory and European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA). He is currently leading the harmonization of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) in the National legislation and, starting from 2012, is supervising the monitoring team of GNCC during the pre-election campaigns. Ivane Makharadze has been working on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership, and has represented GNCC on various occasions during international conferences on media regulation. Under the supervision of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society, he was part of the media experts group on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership (MSI-MED), which worked on Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership.

*[@GNCCgeo](#)*