



Newsletter



March news roundup - Pushing back at the pushback

We must resist the narrative that human rights are an obstacle to efficiency, to progress or to innovation. Human rights are the only universally agreed roadmap to honour human dignity.

Preserving the integrity of the European Court of Human Rights

I challenged National Human Rights Institutions and Ombudspersons to be ambassadors for the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights. They are in a unique position to assist their governments to ensure that the Chişinău Political Declaration expected in May will constitute a forceful affirmation of the importance of the Convention and of the Court.

Read my [speech at the ON Forum](#)

Ukraine: peace, reconstruction and recovery centred on people

Support for the human rights of the people of Ukraine remains a top priority, with a focus on ensuring that human dignity is at the centre of peace processes, recovery and reconstruction.

- The suffering of people in temporarily occupied territories should not be ignored in peace talks.

Read my [statement](#)

- When considering reconstruction and recovery, we don't just plan for the end of Russia's aggression, we plan for a future rooted in dignity. Addressing the Council of Europe Congress, I called for a "build back better" approach focused on participation, accountability, equality, empowerment and legality.

Read my [speech at the 50th Congress session](#)

Human rights risks in new returns framework

As the European Union moves toward adopting a new Regulation on the return of third-country nationals staying irregularly in the EU, I highlighted guardrails that states should put in place to fully adhere to international law and avoid exposing people to serious, irreparable harm. These include providing adequate procedures and remedies, ensuring mandatory risk assessments, prioritising voluntary returns and limiting the use of detention.

Read my [Observations on the EU returns framework](#)

Read my Shout Out [why Europe's return policies need human rights](#)

Read my [report on externalisation](#)

Bridging the gap between policy and people

- At the High-Level Conference on social rights in Chisinau, I highlighted the need to bridge the gap between policy and the lived experience of people. I invited states to consider three pledges: 1) Treat social needs and gaps as issues of human rights 2) Connect the dot between standards across the Council of Europe, the UN, and the EU frameworks 3) Go local to strengthen partnerships where they matter most.

Read my speech [Social rights: Bridging the gap from policy to people](#)

- Digitalisation of welfare systems is not just about speed and efficiency. It is about the delivery of human rights. I outlined 5 critical risk categories we must address to ensure technology empowers rather than marginalises.

Read my speech on [Protecting human rights in the digitalisation of social welfare systems](#)

Climate action and accountability

In my latest Shout Out, I urged member states to lead by example and support the UN resolution currently being negotiated in New York to translate the 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion on states' responsibilities regarding climate change into enhanced multilateral cooperation and action. International and regional courts have provided the legal blueprints, now it is up to states to show the political will.

Read my Shout Out [Climate action and accountability for survival](#)

Facing new threats to human rights

- AI & deregulation: following a consultation with civil society experts on AI, I warned that simplification of digital rules must not come at the expense of human rights safeguards. Oversight is a prerequisite for trust, not an obstacle to innovation.

Read my [Chair's notes](#)

- What would a human rights-based response to disinformation and information manipulation look like?

To build resilience against disinformation and FIMI, our approach should protect freedom of expression but also privacy, electoral integrity, and the safety of marginalised groups, including Roma and Travellers, LGBTI people, and many other rights. We must protect the normative safeguards already in place, such as the EU AI Act and the DSA, ensuring new legislation strengthens rather than compromises these instruments.

Read my [speech at the High-Level Conference on media literacy and information integrity](#)

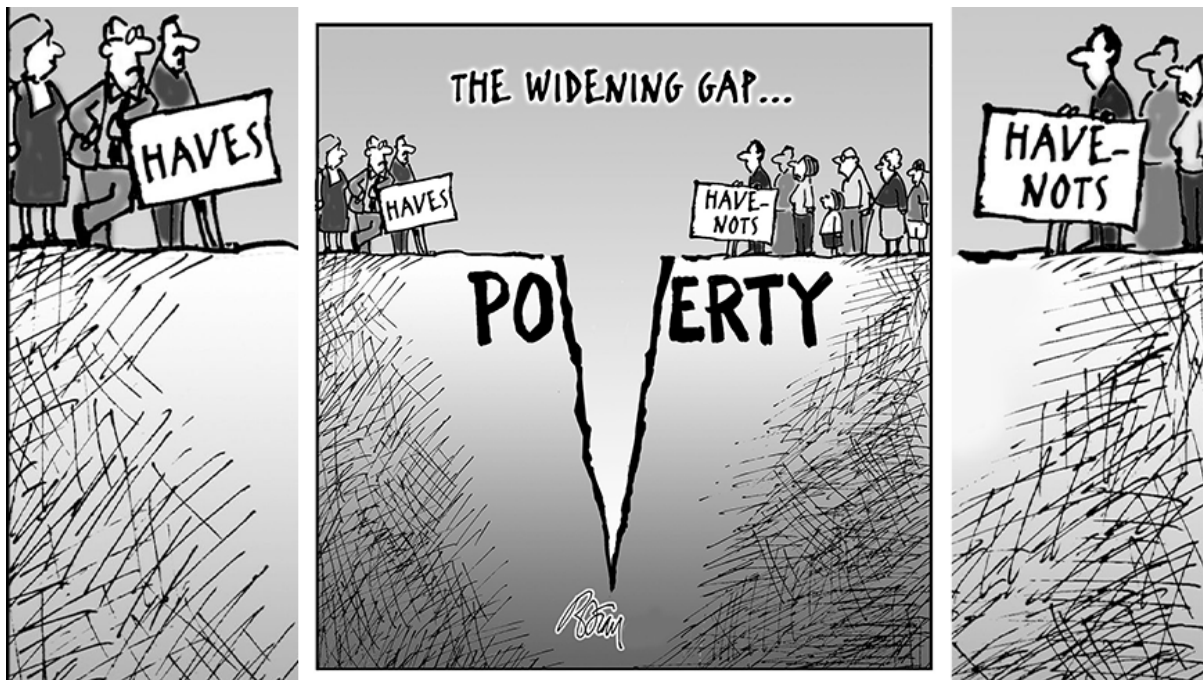
Country focus

- In my intervention in the case *Osman Kavala v. Türkiye (no.2)*, I provided insights into the ongoing structural challenges facing human rights defenders, and its relevance to the case.

*Read my [oral submission](#) to the ECHR at the [Hearing of the Grand Chamber](#)
Read my [written submission to the ECHR](#)*

- Following up on my visit in January, I asked Italy to establish a National Human Rights Institution, in line with the Paris Principles and to ensure its existing human rights bodies are independent and effective.

Read my [letter to the Italian Parliament](#)



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