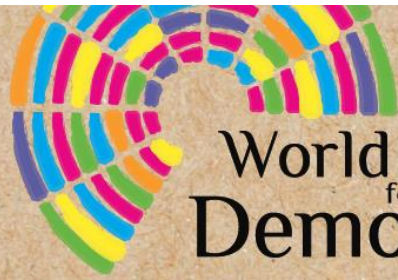


Updated : 03/11



World Forum  
for  
Democracy

DEMOCRACY  
=  
PEACE



Council of Europe, Strasbourg  
6-8 November 2023  
PROGRAMME

[www.wfdemocracy.org](http://www.wfdemocracy.org)

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## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### Monday 6 November

*Hemicycle of the European Parliament (access via the Palais de l'Europe) Interpretation: FR/EN/BEL*

10.00-11.00	Time for Facts	
11.00-11.30	Welcome Words	
11.30-11.35	Interlude	
11.35-13.00	Plenary Session 1	Democracy untended?
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30-16.00	Plenary Session 2	Peaceful Societies?
16.00-17.30	Plenary Session 3	International Community for a Democratic Security
18.00	Exhibit (Palais de l'Europe)	THE DREAM / LE RÊVE : 60 years of Martin Luther King's historic speech.
Followed by	Reception	

### Tuesday 7 November

*Meeting Rooms of the Palais de l'Europe*

*Interpretation: FR/EN*

09.00-11.00	<b>FIRST SERIES OF LABS</b>	
	Lab 1 The art of dialogue	Room 11
	Lab 2 New ways of conflict resolution	Room 7
	Lab 3 Social justice and equality	Room 6
	Lab 4 Knowledge is power	Room 8
	Lab 5 Women building peace	Room 9
11.15-13.00	<b>FIRST SERIES OF FORUM TALKS</b>	
	FT1 The truth of war crimes – Making Use of Electronic Evidence and Open-Source Intelligence	Room 11
	FT 2 Memory, Memorials and Teaching History	Room 6
	FT 3 Women, Democracy and Peace	Room 9
	FT 4 Building Peace and Democracy across Borders	Room 8
	FT 5 Economics of Peace	Room 7
	FT 6 Sudan's Democratic Transition De-railed	Room 10
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30-16.30	<b>SECOND SERIES OF LABS</b>	
	Lab 6 The age of global protest	Room 9
	Lab 7 Cross-cultural understanding	Room 8
	Lab 8 Freedom of expression and information	Room 6
	Lab 9 Social entrepreneurship	Room 7
	Lab10 Transparency and accountability	Room 10
	Story-telling – Mother and Daughter by Lana Gogoberidze	Room 11
16:45 – 18.30	<b>SECOND SERIES OF FORUM TALKS</b>	
	FT 7 International Community and Democratic Insecurity	Room 10
	FT 8 Learning to Wage Peace and Democracy	Room 9
	FT 9 Press cartoons: a profession in danger	Room 6
	FT 10 Inside Kabul	Room 8
	FT 11 7 winters in Teheran	Screening Room
	FT 12 4 <sup>th</sup> branch of government	Room 7
19.00	Reception	

### Wednesday 8 November

*Hemicycle of the European Parliament (access via the Palais de l'Europe)*

*Interpretation: FR/EN*

10.00-12.00	Plenary Session 4	Reporting from the Forum and Agenda for the Future
12.00-12.45	Closing Session	Ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award
12.45-13.15	Closing Performance	

## Democracy = Peace?

War has once again returned to the European continent. The shock has been such that a renewed appreciation for peace, and worry for the welfare of democracy, has risen within the European and international communities. Armed conflicts, however, had never ceased to be a recurring threat in the world. The post Second World War vision of peace and prosperity, underpinned by democracy, never fully delivered. In the twenty-first century, the question is still open whether this vision can fulfill its promise. At a time when violence rages, inequalities are widening, and politics is polarising—and when governments are struggling to cope with unforeseen events including climate change, pandemics and the rise of new technologies—now is the time to ask: can democracy deliver peace?

Key issues:

### Democracy untended?

The idea that democracy is a guarantee of peace is widely shared, but is today under threat. Have democracies adapted themselves to face the risks which are themselves evolving? While some of the most terrible aspects of war remain, the nature of conflict has also changed with the use of drones, cyber-warfare and the deployment of nearly imperceptible propaganda across social media. For peace to be a real force to be reckoned with, it must itself be waged with conviction. But how? Should we not cultivate democracy in our daily practices, in education, the workplace, our civic, sporting life, etc? Shouldn't the values of democracy, and the institutions which support them, be closely reflective of the real experiences and aspirations of the citizens who cherish them? Women and children are too often the tragic face of war's devastation, but their voices are rarely heard in the political debates, peace negotiations and peace-building processes. If democracy and peace are processes or a way of life, then there is surely a need to cultivate the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for people to actively engage, participate and contribute to its survival. But how? Can we teach peace?

### Peaceful Societies?

Injustice and inequality are themselves a perpetual source of conflict. Democracies have delivered the highest standards for human and civil rights in our history. The impressive rise in living standards in the last decades has meanwhile been accompanied by rapidly growing income and wealth disparities. Social and economic rights are therefore now at the centre of debates. In some democracies poverty is increasing, and many citizens feel that their societies are sliding backwards. Is this in and of itself, a threat to peace? Is the peaceful society not only a society without war, but also one where citizens live with the peace of mind that comes with security and opportunity? How do we get there? How to avoid that the wounds of the past become the source of injustice in the present; that remembrance serves not only to reduce conflict, but also to build durable peace? Can democracy's particular assets such as equality, citizen participation, the rule of law, freedom of expression, be put to better advantage in the waging of peace?

### International Communities for a Democratic Security?

Economic, political and rights-based partnerships such as the European Union and the Council of Europe have been instrumental to ensuring peace for their democratic member states. So too have defence alliances. But when conflict rages in so many parts of the world, why hasn't the multilateral model succeeded more broadly? Should international organisations be redesigned? Is there a model for multilateral association which is both deep in its mutual obligations and broad in its inclusiveness and scope of action? Might the rise of cross-border communities of other kinds, often citizen-led and facilitated by technology, be another route to preventing conflict? The fact remains that democratic security is today the most decisive factor of peace; how to define it, build it and defend it?

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The World Forum for Democracy is a unique platform for political decision-makers and activists to debate solutions to key challenges for democracies worldwide. By identifying and analysing experimental initiatives and practices, the Forum highlights and encourages democracy innovation at grassroots level and their potential transfer on a systemic level to strengthen the foundations of democratic societies.

## Monday, 6 November 2023

Hemicycle of the European Parliament– Interpretation FR/EN

### 10.00-11.00 Time for Facts

Moderator:

**Ms Claudia LUCIANI**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

Panel:

**Mr Roberto FOA**, Centre for the Future of Democracy, University of Cambridge

**Ms Joan HOEY**, Editor of the Democracy Index, Economist Intelligence Unit, United Kingdom

**Mr Serge STROOBANTS**, Director for Europe and MENA, Institute for Economics and Peace

**The Plenary Sessions will be moderated by:**

**Ms Annette GERLACH**, Journalist and TV Host, ARTE

**Mr Alex TAYLOR**, European journalist, France

### 11.00-11.30 Welcome Words

**Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Representative of France

**Mr Olivier BECHT**, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade, Economic Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France

**Mr Franck LEROY**, President of Grand Est Region

**Ms Pascale PFEIFFER**, Councillor of Alsace, delegate for strengthening democratic ties and European democracy, European Collectivity of Alsace

**Ms Véronique BERTHOLLE**, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, in charge of international and European relations (France)

**Mr Pap NDIAYE**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

### 11.30-11.35 Interlude

### 11.35-13.00 Plenary Session 1 – Democracy Untended?

Panel:

**Mr Steve KILLELEA**, Founder and Executive Chairman, Institute for Economics and Peace, Australia

**Mr Tiny KOX**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

**Ms Namatai KWEKWEZA**, WELEAD Director, winner of the Kofi Annan NexGen Democracy Prize

**Mr Taeho LEE**, Director of Center for Peace and Disarmament of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), Republic of Korea

**Ms Natallia PINCHUK**, wife of Ales Bialitski, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2022, The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize Winner 2013, Belarus

### 13.00-14.30 Lunch Break

### 14.30-16.00 Plenary Session 2 – Peaceful Societies?

Panel:

**Ms Estelle DEPRIS**, Activist and creator of *Sansblancderien*

**Mr Geoffrey ROBERTSON**, Human Rights Barrister, Clooney Foundation for Justice, United Kingdom

**Ms Zoey ZEPHYR**, Member of the Montana House of Representatives, United States of America

### 16.00-17.30 Plenary Session 3 – International Community for a Democratic Security?

Panel:

**Ms Kathryn BOMBERGER**, Director-General, International Commission for Missing Persons

**Ms Dita CHARANZOVÁ**, Vice President of the European Parliament

**Mr Kyosuke INADA**, Chief Representative for Europe, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

**Mr Adam LUPEL**, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, International Peace Institute

**Mr Jakob VON WEIZSÄCKER**, Minister of Finance and of Science, Saarland, Germany

18.00 "THE DREAM / LE RÊVE : 60 years of Martin Luther King's historic speech" exhibit followed by a Reception, Palais de l'Europe

## Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Meeting rooms in Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation FR/EN

### 09.00-11.00 **FIRST SERIES OF LABS**

- Lab 1** – The art of dialogue: can empathy deliver peace?
- Lab 2** – New ways of conflict resolution: how to tackle violence?
- Lab 3** – Social justice and equality: how to meet basic needs?
- Lab 4** – Knowledge is power: how can we make education more accessible and innovative?
- Lab 5** – Women building peace: are peace negotiations open to all the stakeholders?

### 11.15-13.00 **FIRST SERIES OF FORUM TALKS**

- Forum Talk 1** The Truth of War Crimes – Making Use of Electronic Evidence and Open-Source Intelligence
- Forum Talk 2** Memory, Memorials and Teaching History
- Forum Talk 3** Women, Democracy and Peace
- Forum Talk 4** Building Peace and Democracy Across Borders
- Forum Talk 5** Economics of Peace
- Forum Talk 6** Sudan's Democratic Transition De-Railed

### 13.00-14.30 **Lunch Break**

### 14.30-16.30 **SECOND SERIES OF LABS**

- Lab 6** – The age of global protest: how to get our voice heard?
- Lab 7** – Cross-cultural understanding: how well do we know our neighbours?
- Lab 8** – Freedom of expression and information: what is the role of new media?
- Lab 9** – Social entrepreneurship: is there an alternative to the pursuit of profit?
- Lab10** - Transparency and accountability: is technology an ally or an enemy?

14h30 Story telling "Mother and Daughter" with Lana Gogoberidze

### 16.45-18.30 **SECOND SERIES OF FORUM TALKS**

- Forum Talk 7** International Community and Democratic Insecurity
- Forum Talk 8** Learning to Wage Democracy and Peace
- Forum Talk 9** Press cartoonist: a profession in danger
- Forum Talk 10** Inside Kabul
- Forum Talk 11** 7 winters in Teheran: the death penalty as a tool of terror
- Forum Talk 12** 4<sup>th</sup> Branch of Government – Deliberative Democracy

19.00 **Reception**

## Wednesday, 8 November 2023

Hemicycle of the European Parliament– Interpretation FR/EN

### 10.00-12.00 **Plenary Session 4 – Reporting from the Forum and Agenda for the Future**

Moderators:

**Ms Annette GERLACH**, Journalist and TV-Host, ARTE

**Mr Alex TAYLOR**, European journalist, France

General Rapporteur:

**Mr Xavier ROMERO VIDAL**, Research Associate at the Centre for the Future of Democracy, Bennett Institute, University of Cambridge

Gender Rapporteur:

**Ms Parvana BAYRAMOVA**, Gender Equality Rapporteur, Office of Council of Europe, Baku

Youth Rapporteur:

**Representative of Youth Delegation**

11.00-11.30 Conversation of generations Ms Lana Gogoberidze, veteran of European democratisation movements, and a youth delegate discuss hopes for the future

### 12.00-12.45 **Closing Session and ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award**

Moderators:

**Ms Marja RUOTANEN**, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity

**Ms Nedeljka IVOŠEVIĆ**, Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth

Election of the winner of the Democracy Innovation Award

Presentation of the Democracy Innovation Award

Closing speech:

**Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

12.45-13.15 **Closing Performance by “Les Trois Barbus ou presque”**

## PROGRAMME OF FORUM TALKS

**Tuesday 7 November** - Meeting rooms at the Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation FR/EN

### 11.15-13.00 – FIRST SERIES OF FORUM TALKS

#### Forum Talk 1 – The Truth of War Crimes – Making Use of Electronic Evidence and Open Source Intelligence

*In Co-operation with Council of Europe's Division for Cybercrime*

**ROOM: 11**

Determining the truth and ensuring accountability for war crimes is essential for democracy and lasting peace. Much of the evidence needed to find the truth, attribute crimes and hold offenders accountable is evidence in electronic or digital form on computer systems ("electronic evidence") or is based on open-source intelligence (OSINT). The Russian aggression against Ukraine is accompanied by serious violations of human rights and of international law, including war crimes, by both state and non-state actors, and in an environment where disinformation and propaganda spread easily. Important efforts are underway by Ukrainian authorities and other partners to secure evidence for use in criminal proceedings. These efforts can draw on experience related to the downing of the flight MH17 by a Russia-controlled group over Eastern Ukraine in 2014 that killed almost 300 people and the decision of the European Court of Human Rights on the admissibility of "digital materials" connection with that case. The tools of the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention on Cybercrime also apply to evidence related to war crimes and can promote co-operation among criminal justice authorities and other stakeholders in the gathering of electronic evidence and intelligence. What lessons can we draw from Ukraine and other conflicts, such as those in the Balkans or on other continents? How can e-evidence and OSINT help determine the truth and thus to ensure accountability for war crimes and gross violations of human rights? What role for journalists, media and other private sector initiatives in this respect? How can we best counter disinformation around these crimes?

Moderator:

**Mr Alexander SEGER**, Head of the Cybercrime Division and the Executive Secretary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee

Panel:

**Mr Antoine BERNARD**, Director, Advocacy & Assistance, Reporters without Borders

**Mr Yuriy BIELOUSOV**, Head of the Department for Combating Crimes Committed in Conditions of Armed Conflict of the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office

**Ms Kathyne BOMBERGER**, Director General, International Commission for Missing Persons

**Mr Eliot HIGGINS**, Chairman and Creative Director, Bellingcat, United Kingdom

**Mr Vladimir VASAK**, Arte correspondent, France

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

#### Forum Talk 2 – Memory, Memorials and Teaching History

**ROOM: 6**

*In cooperation with Council of Europe's Observatory on History Teaching in Europe*

Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. Given how much human suffering has been, and still is, inflicted upon humanity by international conflicts, civil wars, authoritarian regimes, and systems of oppression, learning about the failures of the past can prevent conflicts to simmer or re-erupt. People are capable of reconciliation and willing to build a better common future when history education can provide the skills and tools to develop critical thinking. Some ways of memorialising and teaching history have the power to impact younger generations. How can we bring together stories and communities to empower us to examine our shared past? How should lessons from history be memorilised? How should history be taught? And more importantly, which stories from our past can contribute to successful democracies and peaceful societies today?

Moderator:

**Ms Inês Fialho BRANDÃO**, Member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, Museum Specialist, Portugal

Panel:

**Mr Taeho LEE**, Director of Center for Peace and Disarmament of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), Republic of Korea

**Ms Frédérique NEAU-DUFOUR**, historian of the Second World War and former director of Struthof

**Mr Ernest SAGAGA**, Secretary-General of the OACP Press Clubs Federation and President of Ibuka for survivors of the Tutsi genocide

**Prof. Almasa SALIHOVIC**, Public Relations Officer, Memorial Center Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

### Forum Talk 3 – Women, Democracy and Peace

**ROOM: 9**

*In co-operation with Council of Europe's Gender Equality Division*

Women often pay the full price of war, bearing the brunt of its miseries. In campaigns of ethnic cleansing, they are a particularly vulnerable target group. Many authoritarian regimes demonstrate power by imposing rules on women's behaviour, while decreasing the scope and quality of their rights. Women have played an invaluable role in promoting peace across the globe and were often among the main protagonists of democratisation efforts. From grassroots movements to high-level negotiations, women's agency has been demonstrated to be instrumental, if not crucial, for delivering a lasting peace. Whenever they have been absent, the sustainability of peace has certainly suffered. Acknowledgement of the already significant contribution of women to peace is important, but the even more significant potential for creating a world characterised by democracy and peace can only be realised with the participation of women. Gender equality is a facilitator of peace. The important question is – how do we get there? Can a gender-sensitive approach to history teaching empower women to assume their role as peacebuilders more often? Are democracies with more women on high-level decision-making posts more likely to promote peace, or less likely to stoke conflict?

Moderator:

**Ms Edita MIFTARI**, Governance and Leadership Expert, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panel:

**Ms Zarifa GHAFARI**, Former Mayor of Maidan Shahr, North South Prize Laureate 2021, Afghanistan

**Ms Susan MCCRORY**, Mothers of Peace, Peacemaker / Community relations worker at Falls Women's Centre, United Kingdom

**Ms Eileen WEIR** Mothers of Peace, Peacemaker / Community relations worker at Shankill Women's Centre, United Kingdom

**Ms Zoey ZEPHYR**, Member of the Montana House of Representatives, United States of America

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

### Forum Talk 4 – Building peace and democracy across borders

**ROOM 8**

*In co-operation with the Council of Europe's European Committee on Democracy and Governance, the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance and the French Grand Est Region*

Since the end of WWII, cooperation across borders has helped build peace, promote stability, and has contributed to unprecedented economic and social progress in Europe. The benefits of cross-border co-operation (CBC) are not confined to border areas but are essential to the fundamental and interdependent principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights. Interterritorial and cross-border co-operation addresses myriad issues such as infrastructure development, labour and social rights, transport, resource management, health, and economic and social development. New challenges related to the green and digital transitions, environmental degradation, resilience, and crisis management are increasingly being addressed by stakeholders working together on place-based or thematically connected solutions. How can the potential of new forms of international co-operation at local, regional or even virtual level be maximised? How can well-known successful examples, for example the networking and co-operation across the Franco-German border which contributed to remarkably sustained economic, cultural, social and even political co-development, be learned from or replicated throughout the world in relation to today's conflicts? What lessons can be learned, 25 years on from the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, about the impact of the contributions of a diversity of actors, stakeholders, and communities, at all levels, in the efforts to erode distrust and build peace in Ireland? Despite wider national and international trends towards democratic backsliding, the Pact of Free Cities is using global networking and co-operation among Cities to protect and promote freedom, democracy and equality, is this a new model for crossborder co-operation?

Moderator:

**Ms Annette GERLACH**, ARTE

Panel:

**Mr Bartłomiej CIAŻYŃSKI**, Deputy Mayor of Wrocław, Poland

**Mr Rory MONTGOMERY**, Mitchell Institute, Queen's University Belfast; RIA, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

**Mr Paul ROWSELL**, Chair of the Bureau of the CDDG, United Kingdom **Ms Brigitte TORLOTING**, Vice-President, Region Grand Est, France

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**



## Forum Talk 5 – Economics of Peace

ROOM: 7

*In co-operation with Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights*

Democracies world-wide promised many things, including a relatively equitable distribution of resources and an equality of opportunity. Disappointment and frustration over the failure to deliver on these promises is often a source of conflict both within and between societies. Wars are frequently perceived economic endeavours, since gaining other people's resources was a way to justify the immense price paid by the victors. Those who would lose a war, had to replenish the coffers of their conquerors in the times of peace as well. In creating the acute disbalance of wealth, such processes may create even more dangerous inequalities of access to power, resources, information and feedbacks. It is unfortunately no wonder that small cliques of the wealthy and powerful often start wars, while losing touch with the broader society. Democracy, with its emphasis on citizens' participation and the protection of individual rights, provides a framework for collective decision making, while limiting and distributing political power. Capitalism on the other hand is a system of resource allocation, which determines how the inputs, surplus value and prosperity are shared. In our day and age, we can clearly see that the ordinary citizens, or labouring class, are not the ones who profit from waging wars or sabotaging the efforts to reach peace.

Moderator:

**Ms Tatiana PUIU**, Vice-President of the European Committee on Social Rights, Moldova

Panel:

**Mr Matt GRUDNOFF**, Senior Economist at The Australia Institute, Australia

**Ms Joan HOEY**, Editor of the Democracy Index, Economist Intelligence Unit, United Kingdom

**Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE**, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development (2022-2023) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Ms Nataliia SHAPOVAL**, Chairperson, Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine

**Mr Serge STROOBANTS**, Director Europe and MENA, Institute for Economics and Peace, Belgium

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

## Forum Talk 6 – Sudan's Democratic Transition De-railed and How to Get It Back on Track?

ROOM: 10

The fall of Omar al-Bashir in 2019 opened an era of genuine hope in Sudan. After 30 years of harsh Islamist rule, Sudanese, including Sudanese women, experienced new liberties. The prospect of a transition to democracy, stability, and prosperity was real. To support that process, the European Union prepared an aid package of more than 400 million euros and the United States offered 700 million dollars. Those hopes were dashed in October 2021 by the military overthrow of the civilian prime minister, Abdallah Hamdok. Then in April 2021 civil war erupted between two military factions, and Sudan's transition now lays in tatters. The war destroyed the capital, Khartoum, and has displaced more than 4 million people. Nearly 8 million children are teetering on the edge of famine. Health clinics are closed or without supplies and humanitarian relief is blocked. Some are calling the international community's approach to Sudan "unapologetically racist." Meanwhile, "mediation efforts are in disarray." This Forum Talk examines what went so wrong. But its primary focus is squarely on what can be done now to end the fighting? What is needed to re-build the foundations of a transition to democracy? What can and should neighboring countries do? What can young Sudanese – who drove the overthrow of al-Bashir and now are providing grassroots humanitarian aid – contribute? And what role can Europeans and others play?

Moderator:

**Dr. John GOODMAN**, Director, Syracuse University – Strasbourg, France

Panel:

**Dr./Mrs. Buthaina ELNAIEM**, Activist and Independent Writer, Sudan

**Dr./Mr. Guma Kunda KOMEY**, former Peace Advisor to former Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, Sudan

**Mr. David KORPELA**, Chief of Staff of the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, EU

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

## 16.45-18.30 – SECOND SERIES OF FORUM TALKS

### Forum Talk 7 – International Community and Democratic Insecurity

**ROOM: 10**

In the aftermath of the First World War, a promise was made by the international community, that it will establish a new order among the nations, based on legally binding rules. The same promise was reiterated and reinforced after the Second World war, when preservation of peace was firmly linked to protection of human rights. In the meantime, many societies have received a significant assistance in order to recover from the horrors of the previous wars. However, it often seems that the large promises made when the guns turned silent are hardly ever fulfilled. Why is this the case? What can we learn from the international community's failure to rebuild the torn societies, restore them on the path to prosperity and solve the underlying issues which caused the conflict in the first place? How responsible is the international community for the worst crimes against humanity, which took place after the Second World War? Why do some international community sponsored peace talks and negotiations succeed, while others do not?

Moderator:

**Mr Alex TAYLOR**, European journalist, France

Panel:

**Mr Kurt BASSUENER**, Democratisation Policy Council, Germany

**Mr Bruce Bueno DE MESQUITA**, Political scientist, professor at New York University, and senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, United States of America

**Mr Jasmin MUJANOVIĆ**, Member of the Advisory Board of the Kulin Initiative, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Mr Richard WIKE**, Pew Research Center, Director of Global Attitudes Research

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

### Forum Talk 8 – Learning to Wage Democracy and Peace

**ROOM: 9**

*In co-operation with the Council of Europe Education Department*

In ancient Republics, statespeople were expected to lead, and in doing so, educate citizens by example. Democracy and peace are "habits of the heart", and do not come as natural to humans as we might wish. No one is born knowing what human rights and democracy are – they need to be learned and above all experienced. Democracies are nurtured through discussions/debates, deliberations, and the ability to assess critically an opponent's position, engage with underlying concerns and initiate a constructive dialogue open to diverse cultural perspectives. Yet we see that democratic values and principles are under threat and in some cases, democracy is even backsliding. Results include the inability to find common ground, partisanship, extremism and in the most extreme case, war. Democracy and peace need to be cultivated to address issues faced today and in the future. What are the best ways to teach and learn competences for building peaceful and competent societies? This Forum Talk will explore the values, attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary to create a democratic culture. It will identify the competences needed – such as critical thinking and empathy – to promote dialogue, respect, tolerance, and inclusivity, the role of educators and perspectives from around the globe. Lastly, what will competences for peace and democracy look like in the future, given the impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence, social media and online subversion campaigns by non-democratic actors.

Moderator:

**Ms Natia NATSVLISHVILI**, Member of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Education

Panel:

**Ms Alessandra CARDACI**, Debating Europe

**Ms Mona LAROUSSI**, Director, Institute of the Francophone World for Education and Training

**Dr Patricia O'LYNN**, CEO of The Institute for Disruption, United Kingdom

**Mr Angelos VALLIANATOS**, School Advisor and Teacher Trainer, Ministry of Education, Greece

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

### Forum Talk 9 – Press cartoons: a profession in danger

**ROOM: 6**

*In co-operation with Council of Europe's Platform for the protection of journalism and the safety of journalists*

By offering a critical reading of the society and its excesses, and by provoking a democratic debate, press cartoons contribute fully to the culture of dialogue and, consequently, to peace. Yet all over the world, press cartoonists are often censored or subjected to verbal, physical or institutional violence. These attacks are indicative of the

erosion of democracy and must be denounced and fought. This is what Cartooning for Peace and its partners are doing to enable these soldiers of democracy to continue to work in peace, for peace. Cartooning for Peace will discuss the role of press cartoons in democracy and the pressures on their authors to inform, alert or denounce, through the presentation of a report on the situation of press cartoonists around the world, in partnership with Cartoonists Rights and presented for the first time at the World Forum for Democracy.

Moderator:

**M. Vladimir VASAK**, Senior Reporter, Arte

Panel:

**Mr Terry ANDERSON**, Director of Cartoonists Rights

**KAK**, Cartoonist, President of Cartooning for Peace, France

**Mr Jean-Paul MARTHOZ**, Coordinator for Publishing of the Annual Report of the Committee to Protect Journalists

**Ms Rachita TANEJA**, Cartoonist, India

Discussant:

**Ms Tanja GONGGRIJP**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe

### Forum Talk 10 – Inside Kabul

**ROOM: 8**

'Inside Kabul' is an animated audio diary about two Afghan women's very different choices and reactions when the Taliban reentered Afghanistan and ruled the country and its people – told by the two women themselves. In short messages, "Marwa" and "Raha" report the brutal takeover of the country by the Taliban in August 2021. Over a year, they send hundreds of sound recordings about their day to day life to journalist Caroline Gillet. Very soon, one of the women flees her homeland.

Moderator:

**Ms Caroline GILLET**, Journalist Radio France

Panel:

"Marwa" and "Raha"

Discussant:

**Dr Rony BRAUMAN**, Former President of Doctors Without Borders

### Forum Talk 11 – 7 Winters in Teheran: the death penalty as a tool of terror

**SCREENING ROOM**

The number of countries that have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice is constantly growing, but executions have unfortunately increased recently throughout the world. This inhuman and degrading punishment is still upheld and used in various countries. Some states use it as a tool of terror or as a means of political repression. The film "Seven winters in Teheran" shows the fight of the family and supporters of Reyhaneh Jabbari, who was 19 in 2007 when she was sentenced to death in Iran for the murder of a man who tried to rape her. Reyhaneh's mother, Shole, will speak about the film and the situation in Iran together with the Director of the film, Steffi Niederzoll. Global trends regarding the abolition of the death penalty and its impact on society will be debated with the Director of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

Moderator:

**Mr Sebastien POTAUFEU**, Senior Adviser for Human Rights, Co-ordinator for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, Council of Europe

Panel:

**Ms Steffi NIEDERZOLL**, Director of the film

**Ms Shole PAKRAVAN**, Mother of Reyhaneh, a victim of the death penalty

**Ms Aurélie PLAÇAIS**, Director of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

### Forum Talk 12 – The 4<sup>th</sup> Branch of Government:

**ROOM 7**

Unrestricted, unaccountable power leads to tyranny. Throughout the ages, the most successful democracies have

separated governance into three distinct branches of power, executive, legislative and judicial branches, each having some form of checks and balances over the others. To many citizens, governments appear more distant and trust has been shaken in the effectiveness of the democratic process to ensure the best interests of citizens. The classical separation of power in these three branches, however, is a product of evolution, trial and error, which, quite legitimately, is still ongoing. Democracy, to date the best mechanism known to humankind for maintaining peaceful societies, requires active stewardship in order to ensure that future generations may inherit it in an effective and healthy state. In this session we will examine the proposal to establish a fourth body of government, composed of ordinary citizens, possibly chosen by sortition, to serve alongside policy experts and to deliberate issues locked in political stalemates or requiring additional review. Deliberative process brings democracy to its essential roots, by asking citizens directly to propose policy ideas. Should the introduction of deliberative democracy as a standard method of proposing new policies be encouraged? Can citizens use deliberative processes to overcome internal polarization within our societies or to prevent the breakdown of peaceful relations internationally?

Moderator:

**Dr Anthony KEFALAS**, Vice-Chair, Democracy & Culture Foundation, United Kingdom

Panel:

**Mr Byong-jin AHN**, Professor of the Global Academy for Future Civilisations, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

**Mr George PAPANDREOU**, Former Prime Minister of Greece, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Mr Alexis PROKOPIEV**, Director, Governance & Democratic Innovation, Make.org, France

**Mr Stefan SINDELAR**, CEO of the European Capital of Democracy Non-Profit Organisation, Austria

Discussant:

**Youth Delegation**

## DETAILED PROGRAMME OF LABS – Tuesday 7 November

Meeting rooms at the Palais de l'Europe – Interpretation FR/EN

### 09.00–11.00 FIRST SERIES OF LABS

#### **LAB 1: The art of dialogue: can empathy deliver peace?**

**ROOM: 11**

*Sponsored by the North - South Centre*

Whereas conflicts often arise out of competition for resources, they become aggravated by our inability to understand the position of the other party. This in turn limits our capacity to find a compromise solution and can contribute to the vicious circle of escalation. In earlier ages, the face-to-face contact and honest conversation were often enough to help parties of the conflict understand each other better. Our age brought a new set of challenges in communication, which became increasingly depersonalised by our interactions through social media. How can we foster empathy skills? Is active listening the missing piece of the puzzle we need to bring about a positive change? Which innovative ways for teaching these skills are at our disposal?

#### Moderator:

**Ms Francesca CAMILLERI VETTIGER**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe

#### Discussants:

**Ms Nondumiso HLOPHE**, North-South Centre Trainer in the University of Youth and Development Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland)

**Ms Byrony RUDKIN**, Chair of the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

#### **Global Youth Stories Initiative – EPIX Venezuela**

Epix is a social venture aiming to advance more empathetic and inclusive societies. They uncover, produce, and publish life stories through film, photography, and testimonies to create a more humane world connected through empathy. Their unique storytelling methodology combines an interview (Epix experience) and the publishing of a life story. They have published over 400 stories from 49 communities within Venezuela and 53 nationalities abroad. Trained with their storytelling methodology, 74 young artists (filmmakers, photographers, writers, and designers) are the creators of the stories. The purpose is to uncover the life stories of hundreds of young social entrepreneurs, activists, and researchers and give voice to those who will be in charge of sustaining international peace for the coming decades.

Presenter: Mr Ignacio RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ, Co-Founder and Director, EPIX

#### **GNATIRA (SAGES DEBATEURS) - SUD SOLIDARITE Togo**

The aim of the organisation is to encourage people to cultivate a spirit of solidarity and mutual aid, to promote the resilience of the poor and disadvantaged, and to help strengthen justice and democracy in Togo and Africa. The "Gnatira" cultural, civic and citizenship project is a public speaking competition in the local language (Tém) on the themes of democracy, peace, inclusion, tolerance and living together. The project includes 2 major mass activities: the "peace jogging" and the "Grande assise" debate evening. The exercise promotes the ascendancy of the debate of ideas over physical and violent confrontation through community debates on problems and possible solutions, in order to demonstrate that discussion and dialogue, in our sensitive and polarised socio-political context, can bring us to the harmonious functioning of society rather than violence.

Presenter: Mr Méyerh SENYIKEY, Executive Secretary, GNATIRA (SAGES DEBATEURS)

#### **Democracy Fitness: train your democracy muscles - The Democracy Fitness Movement Denmark**

Democracy is something we must train, practice, and evaluate – also, in our day-to-day living. That is why Democracy Fitness has currently identified ten crucial 'democracy muscles' and developed training programs, that will make us more fit to take part in the everyday democracy and to live in a democratic society.

Democracy Fitness offers a language and experience of the values and competences of democratic participation and the method and design of 30-minutes trainings are tried, tested in qualified in various contexts. The movement has educated more than 400 Democracy fitness trainers from 12 countries since 2018 (Denmark, Estonia, Sweden, Latvia, Japan, Switzerland and South Korea). Since 2021 more than 10.000 has participated in a 30-minutes trainings program of one of the 10 democracy muscles – mainly young people but also board members, politicians and participants in democracy festivals of all ages.

Presenters: Ms Trine DEMANT, Chief Consultant, The Democracy Fitness Movement and Ms Kathrine KRONE LAURENT, Co-founder, The Democracy Fitness Movement

**Pathways to Peace: Transforming Lives through NGO Initiatives - Chetana Empowerment Foundation India**

The Mission of CEF is to empower youth and every class of the society through higher education, counselling, and training for children. CEF conducts various awareness & training programs for students, youth, teachers, women, parents. They already impacted students through the de-addiction and digital awareness programs, and the Mental Wellness programs. They are creating an awareness of the Mental Health in education sector through the Life Management Skills and Value Education training program designed for children. They also created a retreat center for mental wellness with the main purpose of growth and development which include physical, intellectual, moral and social enrichment and lasting peace and happiness.

Presenters: Mr Vivek RANDAD, Founder and President of Chetana Empowerment Foundation and Ms Mitali LATHI, Vice-President, Chetana Empowerment Foundation

**LAB 2: New ways of conflict resolution: how to tackle violence?****ROOM: 7**

It is sometimes asserted that one of the shortcomings in many of the global peace-building initiatives by the international community is its top-to-bottom approach. The real stakeholders are usually to be found at the grass-roots level. Members of local communities, civil society, public-private partnerships, public authorities can create the environment within which dialogue and understating are fostered, thus leading to a resilient peace. How can we prevent violence among communities by using the bottom-up approach? What are the advantages of the grass-roots level organisations in building the sustainable peace? How to bring all the stakeholders on the local level in order to prevent violence and build long-lasting peace?

Moderator:**Mr Emmanuel DECAUX**, President of the René Cassin FoundationDiscussants:**Ms Anna GLAZEWSKI**, Lecturer in public law at the University of Strasbourg**Youth delegate****Programme de l'Université citoyenne en République Démocratique du Congo - JAMAA Grands Lacs  
Democratic Republic of Congo**

JAMAA was founded with the aim of mobilising the potential of local communities to promote good living together, constructive conflict management, participatory governance and the economic empowerment of women and young people in vulnerable situations. The organisation focuses on reducing community violence through a process of inter-community dialogue, internal mediation, reintegration, and strategic, participatory advocacy. Through its Citizens' University programme, which aims to integrate young people into civic life, the organisation works with civil society players on the promotion of democracy, peace and civic commitment, with an emphasis on public-private partnerships with socio-political leaders (ministers, MPs, NGO directors, etc.), who come to facilitate the weekly seminars for citizen participation.

Presenter: Mr Héritier MUMBERE SIVIHWA, Executive Director, JAMAA Grands Lacs

**Asseyons-nous et discutons - Maison de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme  
Guinea**

The Maison de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme (M2DH) is a space for information, training, education, awareness-raising and citizen mobilisation for the promotion of democracy and human rights. The "Asseyons-nous et Discutons" project was carried out in 32 at-risk neighbourhoods in Conakry and Dubréka. The overall aim of the project was to promote dialogue and social consultation through traditional conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms. The players involved in the project were neighbourhood chiefs, community leaders, religious leaders, women and young people from the localities concerned. A number of activities were carried out, including community meetings, awareness-raising sessions and educational talks, all of which helped to prevent and resolve social and political conflicts between citizens.

Presenter: Mr Moussa SOUMAORO, Executive Director, Maison de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme

**Building Inter-communal Bridges - Interfaith Encounter Association  
Israel and Palestine\***

The Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA) is an Israeli-Palestinian non-profit NGO that works to promote genuine coexistence and sustainable peace, through joint community building on the grassroots level, using interactive interfaith dialogue as its vehicle. The objective of the project is to advance inter-communal equality-based peaceful relations by developing and sustaining seed-groups of Jews, Muslims and Christians, religious, secular and traditional, who regularly meet and bond through conversations on issues that have deep existential meaning for participants – learning to appreciate similarities, accommodate differences and building and maintaining friendships with people they disagree with. Participants are empowered with tools to initiate and lead future encounter groups and other activities and encourage others to join the IEA groups as a means of promoting peacebuilding processes.

Presenter: Mr Yehuda STOLOV, Executive Director, Interfaith Encounter Association

**International Trustbuilding Program - Initiatives of Change International  
Switzerland**

Initiatives of Change International (IofCI) is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures dedicated to building long-term peace and trust across the world's divides. The Trustbuilding Program (TBP) helps divided communities to reconcile and create lasting peace from the ground up. It aims to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and toward cooperation. Key actions include trustbuilding workshops, dialogues, using sport to bring polarized groups together and community outreach activities. The

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\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

Program is the flagship programme of the IofC movement. It focuses on reconciliation, healing, peacebuilding and fostering democracy in Kenya, France, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, India, Nepal, South Africa, Nigeria, Burundi, Ukraine and Cameroon. Participants are those that are divided in the community and diverse stakeholders who wish to build trust, particularly faith and community leaders, youth and in some countries, government officials.

Presenter: Mr John BOND, Strategic Consultant, Initiatives of Change International

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**LAB 3: Social justice and equality: how to meet basic needs?****ROOM: 6***Sponsored by the City of Strasbourg*

Peaceful societies are those that can secure that the basic needs of everybody are met. With the emergence of new technologies, we are increasingly capable of meeting these needs more rationally and efficiently, if there is enough political will to do so. For many societies, economic growth is a necessary precondition for securing the basic needs of the population – yet this often brings its own challenges, as different groups see the potential of community's resources differently. How can we best secure social inclusion? Can different modalities of direct democracy ensure that the basic needs of all are met? What can citizens do when the distribution of resources is increasingly unequal?

Moderator:

**Ms Carole ZIELINSKI**, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of local democracy, citizens' initiatives and participation

Discussants:

**Ms Meoïn HAGEGE**, sociologist at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research and the University Paris Est Créteil

**M Romain GAUDRON**, Communal Councillor of Arlon, Member of the Governance Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe  
Belgium

**Digital Health for Epidemic Control of TB/ HIV-SmartCare Plus ZAMBIA - Institute for Health Measurement Southern Africa  
Zambia**

The organization works to strengthen health systems for public health programs in Southern Africa. SmartCare Plus is a digital health application that is developed, scaled-up and maintained by IHM on behalf of the Zambian Ministry of Health and funded by the Centers for Diseases Control (CDC). It is an Electronic Health Record which supports all aspects of the Zambian Public Health Services, providing the Zambian Ministry of Health with access to the population's health data for health management. The initiative started in 2003 as a solution to the challenges with monitoring child birth for pregnant women in rural Zambia and only supported Maternal and Child Health, but now it covers the entire spectrum of primary and secondary health care in Zambia. It helps improve healthcare access, enhance collaboration and coordination among healthcare providers, support public health initiatives, and strengthen healthcare systems.

Presenter: Ms Jedidah MILLAPO, Capacity Building Officer, SmartCare Plus

**The Mine Site Assessment Tool as a Capacity Building Instrument: a Case Study of Mining Communities in Ghana - Center for Social Impact Studies  
Ghana**

Center for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS) was formed as a research and advocacy non-governmental organization primarily focused on providing research backbone to Ghana's extractive industry, to support organizations and other institutions working in marginalized communities across the country. In 2018, following requests from mining-affected stakeholders for a simple-to-use tool to assess local mining operations, RMF produced the Mine Site Assessment Tool (MSAT). The survey-type Tool is designed to be used as an entry point for constructive company-community dialogue with a view to seeking resolution of issues of direct importance to local people. The Tool covers 15 topics on a range of economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues, including questions such as air quality, water quality and quantity, rehabilitation, and tailings management. In undertaking their operations, mining companies are required to incorporate a social inclusion policy in their work. In this case, concerns of gender, youth, unions and persons with disability must feature prominently in their operations. For instance, company can respect local communities and help keep them safe by publicly disclosing the number and circumstances of any deaths that happen. Based on wide-ranging testing and consultation, this set of questions is intended as a starting point to constructive engagement at any mine site, big or small, and for local communities, civil society, workers, local government and others wishing to engage in a constructive way on what one can reasonably expect from mine sites.

Presenter: Mr Robert TANTI ALI, Executive Director, the Mine Site Assessment Tool as a Capacity Building Instrument

**Local Democracies Agencies: a tool of peace for democratic societies – ALDA: European Association for Local Democracy  
France**

ALDA was established to promote local democracy and citizens participation in the EU and to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs), which are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs acting as promoters of good governance and local self-government. It promotes citizen participation and good governance at the local level by fostering the connection and cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations. The Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) are locally based organisations, funded and supported by both local partners and international associates with a long-term joint program, providing financial and political support to fulfil their

mandate and to accompany local democracy and civil society empowerment. Partnership-building is a crucial aspect for each LDA, as their work is based on the innovative method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. Each LDA is locally registered and works with local staff supported by ALDA in the field of project development and management, as well as in international networking. Currently, LDAs are located in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo\*, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

Presenters: Ms Dzenana DEDIC and Ms Anzhelika PYLYPENKO

### **Right to water – Polekol Serbia**

The organization for political ecology Polekol promotes the idea of a community that meets social needs without damaging the environment. The Right to Water initiative is an open membership platform that advocates for the protection of water as a common good and also for the human right to water. Its main goal is to raise awareness and mobilize people against pollution, overuse, and privatization of water. In the last five years, this initiative gathered, supported, and founded more than 100 local environmental groups fighting for rivers and nature protection, lakes, access to drinking water, for wastewater treatment, but also for more democratic processes, greater citizens participation and right of local communities to have their say in matters of environment and just transition to a greener economy. It is a leading initiative in Serbia for the campaign Save the Blue Heart of Europe, founder and a member of a regional initiative Lets Defend the Rivers of Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, Serbia), a member of the European Water Movement and global network People`s Water Movement.

Presenter: Ms Žaklina ŽIVKOVIĆ, Executive Director, Polekol

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\* All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

**LAB 4: Knowledge is power: how can we make education more accessible and innovative? ROOM: 8**  
 Sponsored by the Collectivité Européenne d'Alsace

Learning about the conflicts is often the first step towards their resolution and prevention. However, in the age of social media, our attention spans are decreasing, thus requiring innovative ways of keeping us engaged with the important subjects. If we want education for peace and democracy to be successful, it has to become more comprehensive, inclusive and interactive. Which approaches to raising awareness about difficult subjects in our societies work the best? Can we effectively use games to teach serious subjects? Can games and comprehensive programmes help us rekindle our passion for peace and democracy?

Moderator:

**M. Pap NDIAYE**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

Discussants:

**Youth delegate**

**Kids Lives Matter - Kids Lives Matter  
Colombia**

The Kids Lives Matter Colombia initiative is a comprehensive program designed to promote peace, democracy, and social inclusion for young people in conflict-affected areas. The initiative has several goals, including increasing access to higher education, providing psychosocial support, and empowering young people to become active citizens and agents of positive change in their communities. The program provides educational support, including tutoring and scholarships, to help young people achieve their academic goals. It also offers psychosocial support and counselling to help children deal with the effects of conflict in their communities. In addition, the initiative focuses on social inclusion and community building, providing opportunities for young people to participate in leadership events, cultural activities, and community service projects.

Presenter: Mr Miguel Angel ROMERO ROSAS, CEO, Kids Lives Matter Colombia

**MEMORÍZATE - FUNDACIÓN INTERNACIONAL BALTASAR GARZÓN  
Spain**

The Baltasar Garzón International Foundation -FIBGAR- organization acts globally in defense of Human Rights and Universal Jurisdiction, it is based in Spain, Colombia, Mexico, and Argentina. Memorízate is a master project that aims at rebuilding a collective memory of the Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship. Specifically, the project has a threefold purpose: to collect individual stories and data of victims, witnesses, survivors, etc., under the premise that dialogue can be a collective healing process. (*Memorízate*); to raise awareness on democratic memory and foster engagement through social media (YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter) (*iMemorízate!* - *iActivemos nuestra memoria democrática!*); to promote the intergenerational exchange of knowledge and experiences (*iMemorízate!* - *iComprometámonos con la memoria!*). On the premise that young people are the main conductors of the transmission of memory, the project's primary beneficiaries are young Spaniards.

Presenter: Ms Alessia SCHIAVON, Executive Director, MEMORÍZATE

**Level Up - multi-institutions (KU Leuven, Universiteit Leiden, University of St Andrews, University of Oxford, Universidad Complutense Madrid, University of Tartu, University of Luxembourg, The Europaeum)  
European Union**

Level Up is a project led by a multi-disciplinary and international team of doctoral researchers in the framework of the Europaeum Network, an alliance of 19 European universities founded by Oxford University. They offer a flexible gamified method of participatory democracy that can be used for joint decision-making (initiated by communities and/or the general public), and public consultation (initiated by stakeholders such as policy-makers) at various levels of governance (from local to global). Their model based on gamification increases perceptions of togetherness, connection with other communities, enhances legitimacy and trust across social groups, promotes civic action, and improves general understanding of democratic processes and relevant policies to tackle the most pressing challenges.

Presenter: Ms Sophie Laurence VERITER, Co-Founder and Director of Operations, Level Up

**Educuality Board Games Hub – Educuality  
Egypt**

Educuality is the first entity in Egypt that works on creating innovative peace building educational solutions through gamification of peace values and peace alternatives, also by using art and dialogue in peace building. Educuality Board Games Hub aims to solve the problem of lack of access to engaging informal peace educational solutions. It works on the gamification of peace issues education by making it easier for thousands of youths to access information and build their consciousness on the world emerging issues. Moreover, the board games

develop youth skills and values in order to empower their existence afterwards by ensuring their participation in community initiatives.

Presenter: Mr Ahmed Abdullah SAAD MOHAMED, CEO, educuality – Education with quality

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**LAB 5: Women building peace: are peace negotiations open to all the stakeholders?****ROOM: 9***Sponsored by the Grand Est Region*

Traditionally, war is perceived as a patriarchal affair. The huge price paid by women is often neglected. Peace-building efforts are often focused on bringing together male actors, resulting in overrepresentation of certain groups. Quite often, this resulted in the implementation of a culture of violence rather than a culture of peace. As long as all stakeholders, and especially women, are not included in preventing conflicts and building and sustaining peace, we shall remain far from achieving inclusive and sustainable post-conflict societies. How can we empower women in their role as the guardians of peace? How does peace become more sustainable when women gain better access to social resources? Are women leading the way to political, social, and cultural shifts we need in order to create more peaceful societies?

Moderator:

**Mr Jean-Baptiste CUZIN**, Director of cross-border, European and international cooperation for the Grand Est Region

Discussant:

**Ms Sylvie D'ALGUERRE**, Elected member of the Grand Est Regional Council, responsible for gender equality

**Nosotras Women Connecting - Nosotras Women Connecting  
Costa Rica**

The organization works with teenagers and women throughout Central America, key countries in South America and the Caribbean, and in Kenya, Africa. They inspire adolescents and women to change the world through their leadership, entrepreneurship and political participation. It works to ensure that women can have accessible, safe, and community-based economic, personal, and political development. Through their program "Soy Valentía," they ensure that adolescents and young women can develop their civic participation safely and inform. Through the "Nosotras Lideresas" LAB, they have accompanied the development of women in various social, political, and economic areas.

Presenter: Ms Amanda ARROYO-CABEZAS, Director of Programmes, Nosotras Women Connecting

**Inter-Religious Nexus for Women as Peace Builders and Politicians - Equity and Empowerment  
Syria**

Equity and Empowerment (EE) is a feminist, civil society organization which works on the thematic civic empowerment of Sunni and Durzi women in Northwest Syria in the areas of democracy, citizenship, civil laws, elections, political participation and representation, women rights/gender equality/ digital knowledge and peace building. In the project, EE worked with 40 women by integrating and empowering them through dialogues about democracy, political transition, civil laws, gender-based violence and peacebuilding, and by connecting them to political decision makers. The 40 women initiated the "Shan feminist network for peace building", which is considered the only network in northwest Syria that works on peace building.

Presenter: Ms Heba EZZIDEEN SAMOGLU, CEO, Inter-Religious Nexus for Women as Peace Builders and Politicians

**South Sudanese Women Leveraging the use of Social Media and Media to foster Sustainable Peace and Development - South Sudan Women Intellectuals Forum  
South Sudan**

The South Sudanese Women Intellectuals Forum (SSWI) is network of South Sudanese women drawn from all ages, public life and sectors including health, education, politics, legal, justice, agriculture, security, business, governance, civil society, Non-Governmental Organizations, UN, faith-based groups amongst others. The Forum was initiated to provide a platform for South Sudanese women to gain/share knowledge, provide mentorship and have access to information and connections that will enable them to participate in the post-conflict reconstruction of South Sudan. It provides opportunities for women to connect with and support each other by facilitating meaningful approaches to networking; embrace new ways of enriching connections and raising awareness of the members.

Presenter: Ms Anne PITA LOMOLE, Member of the South Sudan Women Intellectuals Forum

**Women Talking Peace: Leadership Programme - elbarlament e.V.  
Iraq/Germany**

Elbarlament is a peacebuilding and democracy support organisation, with a special focus on empowering women and youth. The elbarlament leadership programme in Iraq consisted of a modular workshop programme that aimed at equipping a group of Iraqi women with relevant knowledge and skills to take on leadership tasks at all state and social levels as well as in organisations and promote women's participation in the peace and rehabilitation process. The leadership programme was followed by a regional networking event and a "Building Peace Initiatives ToT Programme", aimed at equipping the leadership women with basic knowledge and skills to become trainers and multiply knowledge on how to build and run local peace initiatives in Iraq.

Presenters: Ms Michaela ECKART, Programme Director, Women Talking Peace - Leadership Programme

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## 14.30–16.30 SECOND SERIES OF LABS

### LAB 6: The age of global protest: how to get our voice heard?

ROOM: 9

Sponsored by the Conference of the INGOs

As global inequalities are widening, so is global discontent. In many societies, politicians prey on these, by scapegoating certain groups for their electoral gains. Many once stable democracies suffer from decline of quality of public discourse, coupled with normalisation of the hate speech, thus paving the way for human rights abuses. Activists, countering attacks on very foundations of our democracies, human rights, and the rule of law, are usually among the prime targets of both new and old forms of repression. How to louden the voices which are currently not heard? Which mechanisms can best ensure protection of the activists? If inequalities are global, can globalisation of struggles for peace make them more effective?

#### Moderator:

**Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER**, President of the Conference of INGOs

#### Discussants:

**Mr Marko LONČAR**, Member of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth

#### **Ubuntu Hub Cities - African Defenders Uganda**

African Defenders (also known as the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network) is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) across the African continent. Launched in 2019, the Ubuntu Hub Cities Initiative is an African-based temporary relocation mechanism for HRDs at risk, including writers, scholars, lawyers, journalists, trade union workers, artists and activists. The initiative enables HRDs who have been subject to threats, violence, and extreme pressure as a consequence of their human rights work to temporarily relocate. Relocation allows them to be safe while enabling them to continue their work. Through their diverse local partnerships, relocation also provides an opportunity for HRDs at risk to learn and share experiences, so that they can have a positive impact on the host community and return home with enhanced capacities to protect and promote human rights. The initiative tackles issues of cultural displacement, stigmatisation, language-barriers, and integration, providing a durable option that combines safety, rest and respite, and opportunities for continued activism.

Presenter: Ms Lallmon NANDINI TANYA, Management Committee Member, Ubuntu Hub Cities

#### **Gen-Z for Change - Gen-Z for Change USA**

Gen-Z for Change (GZ4C) is a collective of Gen-Z activists that leverage the power of social media to educate their generation, encourage and mobilize civic participation, shift the political debate, and enact change. They're the place where the creator economy and progressive politics intersect on social media. Since their launch in 2020, they have become the dominant force targeted towards young people for organizing online the progressive movement. With over 1.7+ million followers on their social media platforms, over 153 million+ views, and a coalition of creators with hundreds of millions of combined followers, they know that their content is reaching the widest audience possible AND driving young people to take action. They've supported a variety of progressive campaigns, from union solidarity and fighting abortion bans to holding social media companies accountable for their role in spreading disinformation. Their leaders have been on the forefront of digital organizing, raising over \$2m+ for abortion funds around the country and discussing the future of democracy with President Obama. Through our 2022 electoral work, they launched effective creator activations that generated a total of over 26 million+ views and supported many crucial campaigns with various celebrities and lawmakers.

Presenter: Mr Aidan KOHN-MURPHY, Founder, Gen-Z for Change

#### **CERITA Caravan - The Caravanserai Collective United Kingdom**

The organisation works on a project-to-project basis in the field of social cohesion, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation and prevention. CERITA Caravan is a social cohesion and anti-polarization project powered through social media to amplify citizen voices through storytelling. Its main goal is to inspire influencers, stakeholders, and community members with a passion for building positive intercultural and intercommunity relations and equip them with storytelling and dialogue skills to do so. The CERITA Caravan method engages and empowers political, civic, social, religious, and cultural spheres by creating opportunities to engage and explore the ways in which different cultures, religious beliefs, worldviews, and identities interact. Their participants are mostly 18-40 year old urban influencers, but they have also worked with youth, CSOs and foundations, as well as the public and private sectors.

Presenter: Mr Abdul REHMAN MALIK, Co-Director, CERITA Caravan

**Advocating for inclusive governance of refugees and asylum seekers in the greater Durban metropolitan, Kwazulu natal province, South Africa - DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (DDP) South Africa**

The organization supports the meaningful participation of all citizens, civil society, marginalized populations (asylum seekers, refugees, women, people living with disabilities, and youth, etc), and political parties in consolidating democracy in South Africa. The project seeks to advocate for inclusive governance where refugees and asylum seekers are recognized and included in the local governance structures in the various communities where they live in the greater Durban Metropolitan. The goal of the project is to facilitate African migrants' participation in local governance processes in the selected townships in the greater Durban Metropolitan, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. The project targets refugees and asylum seekers living in the greater Durban metropolitan, where there are several local governance structures known as ward committees whose main objective is to provide community members to engage with their elected political representative about their challenges and aspirations.

Presenter: Mr Samuel Paul KINYUA KARIUKI, Executive Director, The Democracy Development Program

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**LAB 7: Cross-cultural understanding: how well do we know our neighbours?****ROOM: 8***Sponsored by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*

In the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. "The good neighbour looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers". Many conflicts emerge when people forget this simple truth. Fear from the one which is less known, coupled with the lack of interest to get to know better those who live next to us, often fuels prejudice and conflicts. What is the best way to create trustful relationships between different groups? Can we make respectful and constructive dialogue a norm among the people with different backgrounds? Can traumas of the past be overcome through human creativity?

**Moderator:**

**Ms Véronique BERTHOLLE**, Deputy Spokesperson on Youth of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, in charge of international and European relations (France)

**Discussant:**

**Mr Cemal BAS**, Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Türkiye)

**Mr Željko VUKŠA-FEJZIĆ**, Congress youth delegate (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**'Sadbhaav' project - Centre for Social Change (CSC)dufi Nepal**

The organization works in addressing the various aspects of the changing socio-political dynamics of Nepal through active involvement of youth, women, Civil Society Organizations and civic groups representing all segments of the society. The initiative is named "Creating a congruent space among youth and students for trust building and social cohesion in Nepal", in local language "Sadbhaav" project, which means harmony. The project started with the main aim of creating social cohesion and trustful relationships among youth groups from diverse religious, cultural, ethnic, geographical and political backgrounds. To achieve this objective, the existing societal conflicts were first identified, in order to develop meaningful artistic creations, interactive workshops and dialogue initiatives valuing art as the core component. The core of the initiative is that 'art' was used as a tool to address the major conflicts and to initiate conversations around them through 'art-based dialogue.' All the art-based dialogue workshops demonstrated that art products provide a platform to envision a common understanding of social issues.

Presenter: Mr Prakash BHATTARAI, Executive Director, CSC, 'Sadbhaav' project

**The People Dialogue Festival (PDF) - The Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD-Kenya) Kenya**

The Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD Kenya) is a political party's membership-based organization that exists to promote, strengthen, and defend multiparty democracy in Kenya. PDF is a multi-actor civic engagement forum that leverages on the power of Artivism to bring Kenyans together to dialogue on national issues. It provides a platform for participants to jointly understand and manage the tensions and paradoxes by breaking down the power imbalances. In a country where interparty strife and polarized relations between political factions have served to block development, dialogue has the untapped potential to foster peace, stability, and sustainable growth. PDF ensures that this dialogue goes beyond Kenya's political elite and accommodates gender equality.

Presenter: Ms Tracey OSOGO, Co-ordinator of The People Dialogue Festival (PDF)

**Better side of Srebrenica - House of good tones Srebrenica Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The organisation implements projects aimed at supporting the processes of reconciliation and the creation of better social environment for children and youth in Srebrenica. The main objective of the project is to enhance the development of sustainable peace in B&H and affirm intercultural values at the level of the local community and society through educational, cultural and activist activities for children and young people. The activities help children and young people develop social and individual identities, teaching how to be a part of a group and function individually.

Presenter: Ismar PORIC, Director, Better side of Srebrenica

There is no good life without freedom, and no freedom without access to trustworthy information. This is why independent journalists are one of the prime targets of authoritarian regimes and why one of the first casualties of war is the truth itself. Documenting human rights abuses can be of immense importance for the healing and reconciliation process after the authoritarian regime is gone. Advanced technological tools can significantly enhance our ability to understand our blind spots, improve insights about our communities and help us make better, fact-based decisions. What are the best ways to counter suppression of independent journalism? How effective documenting of human rights abuses can prevent history from repeating itself?

**Moderator:**

**Mr Gilberto JERÓNIMO**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe

**Discussants:**

**Youth delegate**

**Data-based approach to conflict prevention and management in Rakhine State - Knowledge Hub Myanmar (KHM) Myanmar**

Knowledge Hub Myanmar (KHM) is a non-profit research institute dedicated to promoting peacebuilding, stability, and democracy in Myanmar, focusing on doing research and policy advocacy in areas prone to conflict. The project seeks to be able to produce more robust situation analyses that are also informed by community perception. The specific focus on violent incidents in Rakhine State and the inclusion of community perception into the analyses distinguish KHM Violence Monitoring from similar projects by other organizations. Through this Violence Monitoring project, KHM established sustainable data collection and developed a well-structured and coded database of violent incidents in Rakhine State. It has worked to track the incidents, compile village demographic profiles, and lead spatial mapping and population data collection to better understand the dynamics.

Presenter: Ms Abellia ANGGI, Research Director, Data-based approach to conflict prevention and management in Rakhine State

**Freedom of Expression is a must! - Press House – Palestine\* Palestine\***

Press House-Palestine\* is an independent, non-profit Palestinian media institution, established through an initiative by a group of independent journalists to promote freedom of opinion and expression, support independent media and provide legal protection for journalists in Palestine\*. "Freedom of Expression is a Must" initiative, aimed to strengthen freedom of expression in Palestine\* by empowering journalists, promoting independent media, and fostering open dialogue. The project's goals include enhancing journalist safety, providing capacity-building programs, supporting independent media outlets, promoting freedom of expression, and advocating for media freedom and legal reforms. To ensure journalist safety, the initiative had conducted safety training workshops, establish a support network and helpline, and document violations against journalists while advocating for their protection. Capacity building programs offered training on investigative reporting, digital skills, ethics, and responsible reporting. To promote freedom of expression and dialogue, public events, seminars, and conferences have encouraged open discussions, diverse opinions, and collaboration with educational institutions for media literacy programs.

Presenters: Mr Mohammed GHANEM AL JAJA, Fundraising Advisor, Press House Palestine and Mr Belal JADALLAH SALEM, General Director, Press House – Palestine

**DDLD Living Archive - Defensores de la Democracia (DDLD) Mexico**

The main goal of the organisation is to prevent violence against journalists in Mexico, one of the most lethal countries for reporters. The DDLD Living Archive is the first online, public, searchable archive that preserves, catalogues and aggregates the work of killed journalists in Mexico. Before they created the archive, the work produced by slain local journalists in Mexico was wither scattered in basements across the country or was quickly disappearing; most of this work was published by journalists who founded their own media outlet and published precariously. Some merely posted on social media, others had a blog or a website and some more printed and photocopied their own makeshift newspapers to offer around town. Their archive aims to preserve the work as a means to honor their legacy, while becoming a tool that we can analyze in order to find trends to better understand patterns of violence against reporters.

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\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

Presenter: Ms Alejandra IBARRA CHAOUL, Founder and Director, DDLD Living Archive

**Diversity Atlas - Cultural Infusion  
Australia**

Cultural Infusion produces and delivers a range of innovative digital products and interactive education experiences that reach an annual audience of more than 350,000 school students across the globe, working closely with a diverse talent pool of artists and cultural educators. Launched in 2009, Diversity Atlas is the world's first and only holistic approach to diversity data collection and analysis, and the only approach likely to lead to fully inclusive outcomes for any organisation creating strategies, policies and plans in their communities. It relies on a voluntary, anonymised, customisable short (4- to 5-minute) online survey that is instantly processed to produce a profile of an organisation's collective culture. It has been implemented in at least 32 countries worldwide, with more than 400,000 participants to date. Its database includes every known culture, secular and non-secular tradition and language, amounting to more than 42,000 identity markers. It also measures variety, disparity and balance within organisations. Diversity Atlas's methodology and definition of cultural diversity were based on more than 300 literature reviews. Its data structure allows analysis of key metrics of diversity, including variety, balance, disparity and mutuality (the degree to which an organisation reflects a community), all concepts underpinned by algorithms. We continually improve and update our datasets in consultation with communities and subject experts.

Presenter: Mr Peter MOUSAFERIADIS, CEO, Diversity Atlas

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**LAB 9: Social entrepreneurship: is there an alternative to the pursuit of profit?****ROOM: 7***Sponsored by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

By putting one's money where one's mouth is, i.e., by turning to social entrepreneurship, many people assured the sustainability of their cause. It is also true that many conflicts emerge over distribution of the profits made by working with only the individual goals in mind. By fulfilling our civic duties, we should be entitled to demand accountability for allocation of public funds. Economics of positive social change can also be studied through the optics of the North-South divide, within which there are still power structures that stand in the way of a more equitable collaboration. Which models of social entrepreneurship can best assure sustainability of activism? How can civil society reverse the trend of rising inequalities and keep those in charge of public funds accountable? Bearing in mind that the old power structures still exist in the field of international co-operation, how can we make those more diverse, more equitable and more responsive to the needs of the locals?

**Moderator:****Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE**, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development**Discussants:****M. Simon MOUTQUIN**, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Belgium**So'Stare Project - BOTTEGART ASSOCIATION****Italy**

The association BottegArt has opened So'Stare, an independent micro-library mainly aimed at children and young people from 0 to 16 years. The goal is to tackle social issues related to integration and sharing, and at the same time the recovery and dissemination of culture. It seeks to serve as a liaison service between the comprehensive institutes of different towns in the Umbria region for training courses, teaching workshops, and for the presentation of new educational strategies suggested and developed within the national and international publishing panorama. Another objective is to promote and foster reading among children and young people and support the right to education of disadvantaged ones by providing them with school supplies with the proceeds from the sale of micro-library books and with crowdfunding ad-hoc initiatives.

Presenter: Mr Paolo Antonio MANETTI, President, So'Stare Project

**The Citizens Watch - The Reformers Initiative for Development in Africa (Reformers of Africa)****Nigeria**

The Reformers' Initiative for Development in Africa (Reformers of Africa) is a non-profit, pan-African civic-tech organization dedicated to promote and support ideals, principles and practices of participatory governance, digital social innovation, peace and government accountability in Africa. The Citizens' Watch is a promise tracker that is designed to enable citizens, civil-societies, journalists, scholars and public policy analysts to track and rate the most significant campaign promises of elected government officials, in a bid to promote transparency, accountability and participatory governance. It is a digital social innovation that fosters greater accountability of elected government officials, enhances participatory government and increases a sense of civic responsibility. The project is aimed at developing a culture of constructive dialogue between the government and the governed, in a bid to enhance the quality of basic public services delivery in education, health, agriculture, infrastructures etc. The innovation uses offline and mobile tracking tools to track, rate and publish the most significant promises at campaigns and rallies and the manifestoes of the elected officers. This innovation bridges the gulf between the governed and the governors by holding elected officers to their trackable promises and informing the citizens of the progress of the government.

Presenter: Mr Oluwasegun AJETUNMOBI, Head of Programmes, The Citizens Watch

**"I am a worker, I have rights" - Institute for Labor Rights Advocacy (ILRA)****Azerbaijan**

The mission of the organisation is to promote equal access to labour rights in Azerbaijan, guided by principles of social justice. They organize awareness-raising events and campaigns, provide free legal aid to citizens, and closely monitor the activities of relevant state agencies. The initiative's primary goal is to promote equal access to labour rights in Azerbaijan based on principles of social justice. It takes various actions to achieve its goals, including organizing awareness-raising events, conducting public discussions and free training sessions on labour rights, providing free legal aid to citizens, monitoring the activities of relevant state agencies, and running public advocacy campaigns. The initiative primarily targets workers from disadvantaged groups who are unable to afford legal services. Additionally, it engages law students interested in social activism, CSOs/initiative groups, local activists, lawyers, media outlets, trade unions, relevant governmental institutions, and relevant MPs. ILRA collaborates with various partners and stakeholders such as local initiative groups, media outlets, trade unions, governmental institutions, and MPs to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of its activities.

Presenter: Mr Farid RUSTAMZADA, Co-Founder and Director, Institute for Labor Rights AdvInstitute for Labor Rights Advocacy (ILRA)

**Decolonise IVS - The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)  
France**

CCIVS works for the development and coordination of voluntary service worldwide, it supports and develops projects based on the idea that working together on a concrete task is the most effective way of creating international friendship and understanding. The Decolonise IVS project seeks to go to the heart of the debate around decolonisation with the aim to improve the quality of transnational cooperation by jointly developing tools, policies, and guidelines to transform power structures, processes, and mindsets among 6 of the most prominent networks in the field of international volunteering. CCIVS cooperates in with independent grassroots organisations youth-oriented and mostly youth-led, working in the field of international voluntary service and implementing activities on a local level. The project wants to have an impact on: power structures that stand in the way of global collaboration and environmental sustainability; dismantling of supremacy ideology in the minds, hearts, and practices of the volunteers and the IVS organisations contributing to global solidarity and toward equity; transformation of IVS organisations' internal structures and procedures towards equity, diversity, and environmental sustainability; wider institutional and social change; strengthening and deepening of collaboration among Programme countries and Partner countries.

Presenter: Ms Daniela Lucia CORBALAN, CCIVS Youth Committee Member, Decolonise IVS

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**LAB 10: Transparency and accountability: is technology an ally or an enemy?****ROOM: 10**

We live in an increasingly connected world, in which information and misinformation can reach millions in an instant. We also grew accustomed to getting the information we want quickly and without spending much time on research. As our pace of life is becoming faster, the way we live democracy has to adapt as well. Rapid access to information is a double-edged sword. It can facilitate our decisions, but it can also spread panic and amplify conflicts. Can IT technology help democracy adapt to the faster pace of life in real time? Which approaches best serve planning better strategies and communicating efficiently and counter misinformation? Which innovative approaches can be used to translate the language of bureaucracy to the ordinary citizens, thus increasing government's accountability?

**Moderator:**

**Ms Svetlana GELEVA**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

**Discussants:**

Youth delegate

**PolitScanner - NGO Institute of Political Information  
Ukraine**

The organization's mission is to promote the transformation of state, public, and political institutions, as well as the information space, in accordance with democratic values and human rights. In Ukraine, people have a proven ability to change situation for better through elections. The infrastructure for elections in Ukraine appears to be well-developed, with one of its key elements being the tools and projects created by civil society. The project PolitScanner.app, is a mobile application designed to provide users with quick and easy access to information about politicians' activities, biographies, electoral programs, and tax statements. By simply pointing their camera at an image of a politician they are interested in, users can swiftly receive a comprehensive profile. PolitScanner gained rapid popularity, achieving the 3rd position in the Ukrainian segment of the AppStore within its first week of launch. The Ukrainian Parliament and major media outlets recognized the project as an innovative tool that assists voters in gaining a better understanding of their candidates for future elections. The primary target audience for PolitScanner is the youth, who benefit from receiving complex and potentially dull information in a fast and comprehensible manner. In addition to its user-friendly features, PolitScanner also plays a crucial role in making the electoral ecosystem more visible. The application integrates information from other trustful non-governmental organizations, contributing to the dynamic democratization of society by providing a wider range of data and perspectives.

Presenter: Mr Yevhen POPOV, Co-founder and CEO, NGO Institute of Political Information

**Fixing politics and restoring the relationship with citizens: a hope for our democracies - Génération  
Politique  
France**

The mission of the organisation is to help politicians find solutions to the most pressing political problems of our time, using political strategy, community organizing and new technologies. Its vision is to develop innovative solutions to help fix and transform politics. The project aims to contribute to the necessary reconstruction of modern democracies: with political strategy, they develop projects and ideas that fit in the political cycle, while offering a vision and a direction that people can resonate with; with community organizing and citizen engagement methods, the goal is to build a national and international web of connected and informed citizens; with new technologies, by spreading their actions and promote a more citizen-oriented vision of democracy. Since 2018, they have been working on several elections, with local townhalls, non-profits and individuals to engage more people in democracy. They are currently developing a digital tool that will help elected officials explain their political program and achievements, have a better understanding of their district, and communicate with their constituents on a factual basis.

Presenter: Ms Hind ZIANE, Founder and CEO, Génération Politique

**Una Hakika: Countering Harmful Misinformation to Support Democracy - The Sentinel Project  
Canada/Kenya**

The Sentinel Project (SP) is a Canadian non-profit organization that assists communities threatened by mass atrocities worldwide through direct cooperation with the people in harm's way and the innovative use of technology. SP's mission was inspired by the lessons of the Rwandan genocide and the frustration of seeing mass murder unfold once again less than a decade later in Darfur. The goal of Una Hakika is to prevent violence by increasing citizens' access to accurate information. Una Hakika is a mobile phone-based information service that monitors and counters the spread of incendiary rumours and misinformation across 13 counties in Kenya. The team crowdsources reports from citizens through SMS, voice calls, and social media. Reports are then verified so that accurate, neutral information can be provided back to the community through the same channels and through a network of volunteers (community ambassadors) who help to dispel misinformation before it can create hostility and lead to violence. Participants engage with this information system that operates according to a three-stage process: rumour reporting – verification – countermessaging.

Presenter: Mr John OTUNGA, Programme Manager, the Sentinel Project

**Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) - Center for Research and Policy Making  
North Macedonia**

The organisation engages in policy analysis, seeking to open the policy making process to citizens, improve laws., assess institutional capacities for their implementation as well as monitor and evaluate how much these policies are creating public value or are directed towards the "Europeanisation" of Macedonia. The GBWN program aims at strengthening the role of civil-society organizations as stakeholders who contribute to increasing accountability and transparency and improving public money management by monitoring and assessing the impact of gender policies and budgets on gender equality. The goals are to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to use GRB tools to evaluate the correspondence of policies and budgets with the needs of men and women; to develop a network for effective policy advocacy, knowledge and information sharing and strengthened government accountability; to engage citizens and contribute to policy change leading to gendered reform of public finances.

Presenter: Ms Marija RISTESKA, Founder and CEO, Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN)

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