



# Invitation to a seminar: "Human Rights and Political Persecution in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan"- OSCE HDIM 2017

The [Open Dialog Foundation](#) is pleased to invite you to an expert seminar "[Human Rights and Political Persecution in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan](#)", which will be held in **Warsaw** on **Thursday 21 2017, from 18:15\_19:45 pm**, at the premises of the **National Stadium** (PGE Narodowy), **Room 3**, on the occasion of the **OSCE HDIM 2017**.

At the seminar, human rights defenders and civil society experts will gather to discuss concrete cases of human rights violations and political persecution in the Post-Soviet region; as well as mechanisms and tools of OSCE to stop such practices. Particular attention will be given to Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kazakhstan. **The Russian Federation** is one of three 'leaders' among all Council of Europe member states when it comes to number of unexecuted rulings of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR); during the event speakers will introduce individual cases in which Russian authorities have ignored international obligations and failed to apply ECHR decisions. **In Kazakhstan**, we are witnessing a new wave of repressions aimed at silencing dissenting voices, independent media outlets, peaceful protesters and opposition activists. While in the last year, a sweeping crackdown on civil society has intensified **in Ukraine and Moldova**. Unprecedented criminal proceedings and episodes of harassment have targeted NGOs, journalists and pro-reform activists in the two countries.

The event will be co-hosted by '[Vzglyad](#)' newspaper, [Global Ukraine](#) and the **Open Dialog Foundation** with the participation of prominent lawyers and civil society activists from across different states. During the conference, **the Open Dialog Foundation will present and comment the aforementioned cases and its latest reports, which contain findings and recommendations covering international recognised individual, civil and political rights in [Russia](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Ukraine](#) and [Moldova](#).**

Among the confirmed speakers:

- [Mr Dmytry Sotnikov](#), Russian lawyer, protecting the rights of Ukrainians from the #LetMyPeopleGo list and cases with a violation of the decision of ECHR by the Russian Federation;
- [Ms Olga Gryb](#), sister of kidnapped Ukrainian citizen from Belarus by Russian special forces;
- [Mrs Lyudmyla Kozlovska](#), President of the Ukrainian-Polish NGO Open Dialog Foundation;
- [Mr Mykhailo Zhernakov](#), Director of the DeJuRe Foundation, a former judge and a member of the Public Integrity Council in Ukraine;
- [Mrs Dzhamilya Aimbetova-Tokmadi](#), wife of Mr Muratkhan Tokmadi, a Kazakh businessman held in the detention facility of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan, pressured to

provide forced testimonies against the dissidents;

- Mrs Angela Istrate, Chairwoman of the Committee for Protection Lawyers Rights in Moldova;
- [Ms Violeta Moskalu](#), Founder of the Global Ukraine Foundation;
- Mr Iliya Novikov, Russian lawyer, protecting the rights of Ukrainians from the #LetMyPeopleGo list.

More information on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of OSCE 2017, side events and agenda could be found here: [http://www.osce.org/odihr/hdim\\_2017](http://www.osce.org/odihr/hdim_2017).