

Global Campus on Human Rights Workshop on Democratisation and Human Rights, for Students from Belarus

Over the last year, Belarus has seen the emergence of an unprecedented mass protest movement against electoral fraud and authoritarianism in the country. Mobilisation has continued for months despite brutal repression, mass arrests and systematic human rights violations. With protests now transforming into a resilient pro-democracy movement, creative democracy support to Belarussian activists and civil society is of key importance.

In its resolutions, the European Parliament has called for support to the democratic aspirations of the people in Belarus, civil society, human rights defenders, independent unions and media, independent non-governmental organisations, journalists and students excluded from Belarussian universities for their pro-democratic stance. In this context, Parliament's Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group is deploying a variety of activities to support democratic forces in Belarus. Among the actions in support of democratic agents of change is **strengthening of active Belarussian students** involved in the long haul of democracy building.

In order to fulfil this goal, **a one-week online workshop** dedicated to ***Democratisation and Human Rights*** for students from Belarus is organised. Beneficiaries will be 25 to 50 **students expelled from Belarussian public universities** and encountering problems to continue their current education in retaliation for their involvement in pro-democracy protests. The workshop will allow them to continue learning and gain an in-depth knowledge on key issues concerning democracy building at a regional and international level. Participants will be identified via an open call for expression of interest disseminated through media channels and with the help of Belarussian civil society counterparts. The programme will be conducted in English.

The workshop would cover issues such as democratisation, international and European human rights protection systems, transitional justice, the role of women and youth in democracy building, EU External Human Rights Policy and Eastern Neighbourhood Policy. The programme will also address the link between democratic governance and human rights standards and mechanisms at national and international level. The workshop will have a practical, applied focus. Participants will be able to discuss among their peers and exchange experiences, including on current challenges to the protection of human rights.

The course is organised in collaboration with the **Global Campus of Human Rights (Venice)** and its network of researchers and practitioners. **The Global Campus** has a long experience in organizing seminars and workshops involving scholars, international partners and prominent human rights defenders and experts. Its academic programme already includes courses on transitional justice and democratisation.

Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, Deputy Director of ODIHR will serve as moderator of the programme. The preliminary schedule is follows:

	Day 1: 8 July 2021 <i>UN/EU human rights mechanism</i>	Day 2: 9 July 2021 <i>Democratisation</i>	Day 3: 12 July 2021 <i>Institutional Reform and Transitional Justice</i>	Day 4: 13 July 2021 <i>Women's political participation</i>	Day 5: 14 July 2021 <i>EU external policy and scope for action vis-à-vis the situation in Belarus</i>
10:00-11:00	9.30: Welcome & programme introduction 10.00 Global Campus lecture based on MOOC: <i>International and European human rights protection systems</i> (Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, ODIHR; Manfred Nowak, GCHR)	Global Campus lecture: <i>Introduction to Democracy and Democratic Transition</i> (Anja Mihr, OSCE Academy in Bishkek)	Global Campus lecture: <i>Transitional justice, truth commissions, reparations and institutional reform</i> (Anja Mihr)	Global Campus lecture: <i>The role of women in democracy-building</i> (Elina Pirjatanniemi, tbc)	MEP: <i>EU External Human Rights Policy and Eastern Neighbourhood Policy</i> (tbc)
11:15-12:30	Break-out groups and discussion: <i>Current challenges to the protection of human rights</i>	Break-out groups and discussion (Anja Mihr)	Break-out groups and discussion: <i>Strategies for transitional justice and criminal prosecutions</i>	Break-out groups and discussion: <i>Women and institutional participation: closing the power gap</i>	Break-out groups and discussion: <i>Human rights, civil society and digital space</i> (David Mark, ODIHR)
12:30-14:00	Lunch break				
14:00-15:30	Meet the expert: Anais Marin (UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, tbc); Wolfgang Benedek (OSCE Moscow Mechanism rapporteur on Belarus)	Meet the expert: Key-note speech: <i>Building a resilient global system for Human Rights and Democracy</i> (DEG representative, tbc)	Meet the experts roundtable discussion: Sakharov laureates (tbc);	Panel: Reporters Sans Frontiers, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Wiebke Lamer (GCHR, tbc)	Closing remarks: DEG, DROI, AFET?