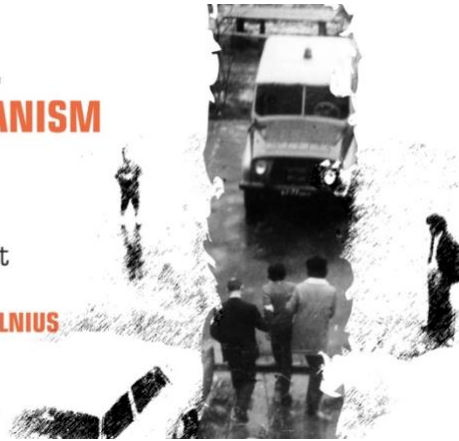


Sixteenth International Sakharov Conference

## **AUTHORITARIANISM ON THE RISE**

Fifty years after  
the founding of  
the Helsinki Movement

**21-22 MAY, 2026 | VILNIUS**



## **Conference Program** **May 21, 2026**

09.00-09.30 Registration

09.30-09.50 **Opening session**

09.30-09.40 **Audra Plepytė**, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

09.40-09.50 **Ineta Dabašinskiėnė**, Rector, Vytautas Magnus University

09.50-10.10 **Setting the stage:** Robert van Voren (Lithuania)

10.10-10.40 **In memoriam Semyon Gluzman**

Robert van Voren (Lithuania)

Video with Semyon Gluzman talking about his personal trauma

Julia Pievska (Ukraine)

Tatiana Yankelevich (USA)

10.40-11.15 **Celebrating the Helsinki groups in the former USSR**

Myroslav Marynovich (UA) – Ukrainian Helsinki Group

Tomas Venclova (LT) – Lithuanian Helsinki Group

Vyacheslav Bakhmin (RUS) – Moscow Helsinki Group (on line)

Tatiana Yankelevich (USA) – Moscow Helsinki Group

11.15-11.45 Coffee break

11.45-13.00 **Block 1. “Not one stone shall be left upon another ...”?**

11.45-12.05 **Keynote:** Robert Serry, retired senior Dutch and UN diplomat

12.05-13.30 **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** Janet Gunn

**Speakers:**

Maia Mazurkewicz (PL)

Nicolas Badalassi (F)

Andreas Persbo (S)

Thomas de Milo (NL)

13.30-14.45 Lunch buffet

**14.45-17.30 Block 2. The current political climate**

14.45-15.00 **Keynote:** Ukraine and the current global crisis  
Yaroslav Hrytsak (UA – on line)

**15.00-15.30 Keynote:** George Kent (USA) – former US diplomat

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

**16.00-17.30 Panel discussion**

**Moderator:** Janet Anderson

**Speakers:**

Dustin Byrd (USA)

George Kent (USA)

Margarita Šešelgytė (LT)

Hans Brask (DK)

Moritz Koerner (D - TBC)

## May 22, 2025

09.00-09.30 Registration and coffee

### **09.30-11.00 Block 3. Clamping down on civil society**

09.30-09.50 **Keynote:** Jana Javakhishvili (GEO)

#### **09.50-11.20 Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** Janet Anderson (UK)

**Speakers:**

Florian Irminger (CH)

Jonathan Cohen (UK)

Lukáš Zorád (SK)

Berit Lindeman (NO)

Michael Hall (USA)

11.20-11.50 Coffee break

### **11.50-13.00 Block 4: A resilient civil society**

#### **Panel discussion**

**Moderator:** Jana Javakhishvili (GEO)

**Speakers:**

Janet Anderson (UK)

Karolis Kaupinis (LT)

Gabija Grigaitė-Daugirdė (LT)

Maka Berulava (GEO)

13.00-13.15 **Closing of the conference**

## Organizers



ANDREI SAKHAROV  
RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR DEMOCRATIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
at Vytautas Magnus University



## Partners



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
UŽSIENIO REIKALŲ MINISTERIJA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



VYTAUTAS  
MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
M C M X X I I



## Sponsors



Embassy of the Czech Republic



Norway in Lithuania  
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius



Nordic Council of Ministers  
Office in Lithuania  
35  
YEARS IN LITHUANIA