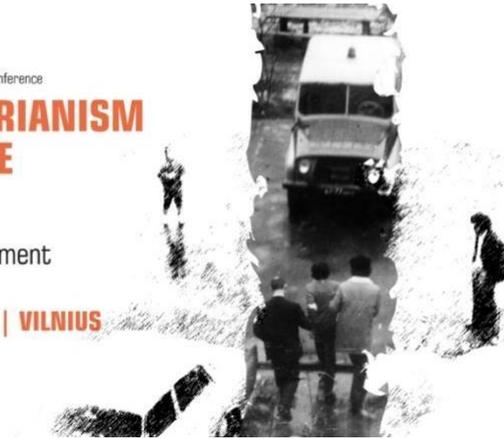


Sixteenth International Sakharov Conference

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 Audrė Pėpytė, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

09.40-09.50 Ineta Dabařinkienė, 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)

Julia Pievska (Ukraine)

Tatiana Yankelevich (USA)

Video with Semyon Gluzman talking about his personal trauma

10.40-11.10 **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)

11.10-11.40 Coffee break

11.40-13.00 **Block 1. The mistaken sense of peace**

11.40-12.00 **Keynote:** Robert Serry, retired senior Dutch and UN diplomat

12.00-13.30 **Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Janet Anderson

Speakers:

Yaroslav Hrytsak (UA)

Maia Mazurkewicz (PL)

Nicolas Badalassi (F)
Andreas Persbo (S)
Egdunas Raciūnas (LT - TBC)

13.30-14.45 Midday break

14.45-15.15 **Celebrating: Solidarnosc and Charter '77**

15.15-17.30 Block 2. The current political climate

15.15-15.40 Keynote: George Kent (USA) – former US diplomat

15.40-16.10 Coffee break

16.10-17.30 Panel discussion

Moderator: Janet Gunn

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 session**

Organizers



Partners



Sponsors

