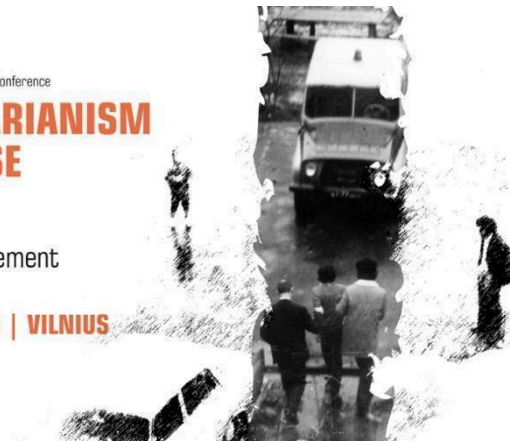


Sixteenth International Sakharov Conference

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 Dabašinskienė**, Rector, Vytautas Magnus University

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

10.10-10.50 **In memoriam Semyon Gluzman**

Robert van Voren (Lithuania)

Julia Pievska (Ukraine)

Video with Semyon Gluzman talking about his personal trauma

Tatiana Yankelevich (USA)

10.50-11.20 **Celebrating the Helsinki groups in the former USSR**

Moderator: Robert van Voren

Speakers:

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

11.20-11.45 coffee break

11.45-13.30 **Block 1. Witnessing the collapse of the international order**

11.45-12.05 **Keynote:** George Kent (USA) – former US 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 Midday break

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: Robert Serry, retired senior Dutch and UN 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)
Helmer Krane (D)

May 22, 2025

09.00-09.30 Registration

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:
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: Janet Gunn (UK)

Speakers:

Janet Anderson (UK)

Karolis Kaupinis (LT)

Gabija Grigaitė-Daugirdė (LT)

Maka Berulava (GEO)

13.00-13.15 Closing of the conference