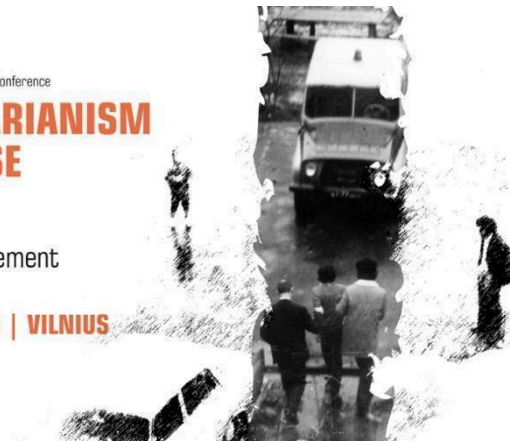


Sixteenth International Sakharov Conference

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)

10.50-11.45 **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

12.00-12.15 Coffee break

12.15-14.00 **Block 1. Witnessing the collapse of the international order**

12.15-12.35 **Keynote:** George Kent (USA) – former US diplomat

12.35-14.00 Panel Discussion

Moderator: Janet Gunn

Speakers:

Maia Mazurkewicz (PL)

Nicolas Badalassi (F)

Andreas Persbo (S)

Thomas de Milo (NL)

14.00-15.15 Midday break

15.15-18.00 Block 2. The current political climate

15.15-15.30 **Keynote:** Ukraine and the current global crisis

Yaroslav Hrytsak (UA – on line)

15.30-16.00 Keynote: Robert Serry, retired senior Dutch and UN diplomat

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-18.00 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