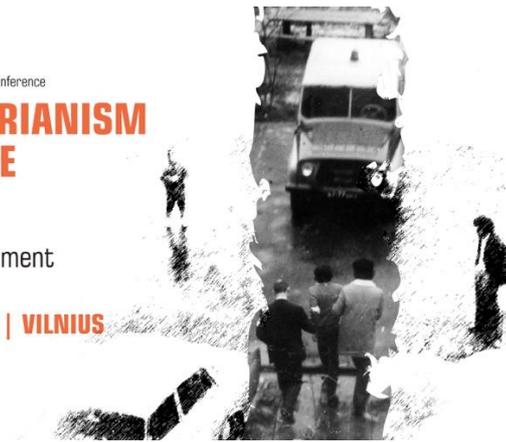


Sixteenth International Sakharov Conference

## **AUTHORITARIANISM ON THE RISE**

Fifty years after  
the founding of  
the Helsinki Movement

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



**Vilnius, Palace of the Grand Dukes**

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

09.00–09.30 Registration

09.30–10.00 **Opening Session**

09.30–09.40 Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

09.40–09.45 **Ineta Dabasinkiene**, Rector, Vytautas Magnus University

09.45–09.50 TBC

09.50–09.55 TBC

09.50–10.10 **Setting the stage: Robert van Voren (LT)**

10.10–10.40 **In Memoriam: Semyon Gluzman**

**Robert van Voren (LT)**

**Tatiana Yankelevich (USA)**

10.40–11.10 **Celebrating the Helsinki groups in the USSR**

**Myroslav Marynovich (UA)** – Ukrainian Helsinki Group

**Tomas Venclova (LT)** – Lithuanian Helsinki Group

**Vyacheslav Bakhmin (RUS)** – Moscow Helsinki Group

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 Dutch and UN diplomat

**12.00–13.15 Panel Discussion**  
**Moderator: Janet Anderson**  
**Speakers:**  
**Yaroslav Hrytsak (UA)**  
**Maia Mazurkewicz (PL)**  
**Nicolas Badalassi (FR)**  
**Andreas Persbo (NL)**

13.15–14.30 Midday Break

14.30–15.00 **Celebrating: Solidarność**

**15.00–17.00 Block 2. The Current Political Climate**

**15.00–15.20 Keynote: George Kent (USA)** – former US diplomat

15.20–15.50 Coffee Break

**15.50–17.00 Panel Discussion**  
**Moderator: Janet Gunn**  
**Speakers:**  
**Dustin Byrd (USA)**  
**George Kent (USA)**  
**Margarita Šešelgytė (TBC)**

17.00–17.30 **Celebrating: Charter '77 and the Hungarian Democratic Opposition Movement**  
**Jan Palous** – Charter '77 (TBC)  
**Miklos Haraszti (H)**

## **May 22, 2026**

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)**

**09.50–11.00 Panel Discussion**  
**Moderator: Janet Anderson (UK)**  
**Speakers:**  
**Florian Irminger (CH)**  
**Jonathan Cohen (UK)**  
**Jana Javakhishvili (GEO)**  
**Tyyne Karjalainen (FIN)**

11.00–11.30 Coffee Break

## 11.30–12.45 **Block 4. A Resilient Civil Society**

### Panel Discussion

**Moderator: Jana Javakhishvili (GEO)**

### Speakers:

**Janet Anderson (UK)**

**Karolis Kaupinis (LT)**

**Gabija Grigaite-Daugirde (LT)**

**Maka Berulava (GEO)**

## 12.45–13.00 **Closing Session**

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