



Anti-Semitism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism Conference

List of Speakers



Faina KUKLIANSKY was born in Vilnius, in the Lithuanian Jewish family, survivors of the Holocaust. She has graduated from Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, as well as from Criminology Research Institute in Moscow. She has published more than 20 scientific articles and publications.

Since 2013, Faina Kukliansky acts as a chairperson of the Jewish Community of Lithuania. She is also a member of Vilnius International and National Commercial Arbitration, and of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. She is a partner at a law firm, mostly practicing in the field of restoration of ownership rights.

In 2013, Faina Kukliansky was awarded by the Lithuanian President with Order of Merit to Lithuania.



Natalija BITIUKOVA is a deputy director at the Human Rights Monitoring Institute. After graduating from law studies in Lithuania, Natalija Bitiukova deepened her knowledge of international human rights law and European Union law at the Central European University.

The thematic areas of her interest and activities include anti-discrimination law, the protection of women from domestic violence, the new technology and the law.

Natalija Bitiukova has worked for Public Interest Law Institute (PILnet) and the Open Society Justice Initiative in Budapest.



Jūratė GUZEVIČIŪTĖ works as a Legal Director at the Human Rights Monitoring Institute where she is responsible for strategic litigation, legal research, law initiatives, alternative reporting. The main fields of her interests include discrimination cases, hate speech and hate crime, radicalization, refugee law, human trafficking.

Jurate Guzevičiūtė has graduated from Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, as well as from Leiden University where she studies Public International Law (LL.M.). She has also worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (Defence Counsel) and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DG ECHO).



Saulius SUŽIEDĖLIS is a professor emeritus of history at the Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

Saulius Sužiedėlis has graduated from the Catholic University of America (Washington DC) where he studied European history. He has acquired a PhD in history at the University of Kansas (USA). In 2013, he received an honorary doctorate from Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas for his work in Holocaust studies and the humanities.

Saulius Sužiedėlis has worked for the US Justice Department; hosted talk shows on political and historic topics on “Voice of America”; worked as a chief editor of the Journal of Baltic Studies. In 2007-2010, he worked as the director of the annual Millersville University's Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide.

Since 1998, Saulius Sužiedėlis is a member of the International Commission on Assessing the Crimes of Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes, in Lithuania. The focus of his research is the history of Russia, East Europe, Lithuania, Holocaust and Genocide. Professor has published several books, which include „*Historical Dictionary of Lithuania*“, awarded with *Choice* magazine award for the best academic book; „*The Persecution and Mass Murder of Lithuanian Jews during Summer and Fall of 1941*“ (together with Christoph Dieckmann). Saulius Sužiedėlis is the author of more than 60 research articles, reports and reviews.



Leonidas DONSKIS is a former Member of the European Parliament, philosopher, political theorist, historian of ideas, social analyst, and political commentator.

Currently he serves as a Vice-President for research at ISM University of Management and Economics, professor at Vytautas Magnus University, as well as the chair of the board of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute.

Leonidas Donskis has graduated from Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, majoring in philology and theatre, and then pursued his

graduate studies in philosophy at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania. Having received his first doctorate in philosophy from the University of Vilnius, he later earned his second doctorate in social and moral philosophy from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Bradford University in Great Britain and Valahia University of Târgoviște in Romania awarded Leonidas Donskis with an honorary doctorate.

As a public figure in Lithuania, he acts as a defender of human rights and civil liberties. Leonidas Donskis has been published widely in international refereed journals, and is the author or editor of more than forty books.



John OHMAN is a Swedish journalist, human rights activist, writer, film producer, cinematographer. Since 1993, Jonas Ohman lives in Baltic states, mostly in Lithuania.

In 1996, Jonas Ohman completed theological studies at Uppsala University. He is interested in Lithuanian history as well as contemporary issues; his opinions are widely followed on social media.

In 2013, Jonas Ohman was awarded with a *Global Lithuanian Award* in the *Friend of Lithuania* category. As a cinematographer, he has also been awarded numerous times for his films such as „Invisible Front“, “The Red Years”, “Freedom’s Course”, “A Conversation with Nationalists” and many others.



Marit BJØRSNØS is currently working as an adviser at the Police Department in the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security.

Over the last years, Marit Bjørnsnøs has been working with the Norwegian Government's Action Plan against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. She has been involved in the making of the plan as well as the follow-up and further development of measures.

Marit Bjørnsnøs also works with issues related to the Norwegian Police Security Service. She has a background from the field of immigration, both at a directoral and ministerial level.



Samia HATHROUBI is an award winning journalist and human rights activist with a strong interest and personal involvement in Muslim-Jewish relations.

She is very active in anti-racism campaigning with a focus on issues relating to Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. She is currently working on different projects to promote the rights of minorities and inter-faith dialogue with a number of European, French and US-based institutions, including the New York-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

She graduated from the University of Lyon 2 with an MA in Islamic Studies and is currently studying Muslim-Jewish relations throughout history at the Woolf institute in Cambridge, a leading institute in the academic study of relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

She has herself founded a group of young leaders working together to struggle against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism and trying to create bridges between the two communities.

As a social activist, Samia Hathroubi has done extensive field-work in Palestine, Israel and in the Middle-East on the issue of youth and development. Samia Hathroubi is currently working on a documentary about the identity process in the aftermath of the Arab revolutions in Tunisia, Lebanon and Palestine for the youths who can be refugees, stateless or displaced.



Moussa al-Hassan DIAW is an expert on extremism, de-radicalisation and jihadism, working directly with the people at risk of radicalisation.

Moussa al-Hassan Diaw is member of a Network of European Union of Independent Students & Academics (EUISA Network), Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN Europe). He is the co-founder of the Network Social Cohesion. He also works as an expert at Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and European Muslim Jewish

Dialogue.

Moussa al-Hassan DIAW teaches at the University College of Education Linz. He is also a visiting lecturer at Universities of Education and co-director of a training course at the Danube University Krems.

Moussa al-Hassan Diaw is dedicated to promoting Muslim-Jewish dialogue, mutual understanding, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, social cohesion and de-radicalisation. In his publications and research work, he has discussed such topics as political ideology of religion, migration and identity, racism, anti-Muslim racism and anti-Semitism.



Vilana PILINKAITĖ-SOTIROVIČ is a research fellow at the Institute for Ethnic Studies, Lithuanian Social Research Centre. The main fields of her scientific interests include gender and equality policies, social and political intersectionality, gender based violence.

Vilana Pilinkaitė-Sotirovič has graduated from Central European University in Hungary where she obtained a PhD in History. She has also studied social history at the University of Essex, UK; and history at Vilnius University.

Vilana Pilinkaitė-Sotirovič has published a number of publications, such as *“Gender in migration: third country nationals in Lithuania”*, *“Limits of Europeanization: Policy Discourses on Minority rights in Lithuania”*, *“European Norms, Local Interpretations: Minority Rights Issues and Related Discourses in Lithuania after EU Expansion”*, *“Paradoxes of Gender Equality in Lithuania: Violence against Women and Equal Opportunities”*, etc.

Vilana Pilinkaitė-Sotirovič is an active human rights defender, gender equality and diversity advocate.



Šarūnas LIEKIS is a Lithuanian historian, political scientist, expert of inter-ethnic relations and conflicts, and a board member of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute.

Currently he teaches at the faculty of political science and diplomacy at Vytautas Magnus University. In the past he was teaching politics at the Mykolas Romeris University and Vilnius Yiddish Institute at Vilnius University.

Šarūnas Liekis has studied history and political science at Vilnius University, University of Oxford, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Brandeis University in the US, where he has acquired a PhD. In 2005, he acquired a postdoctoral academic degree at Vilnius University.

In his career, he has also worked research and teaching assistant at Brandeis University, director of programs at the Open Society Fund Lithuania, deputy director of the Center for Stateless Cultures at Vilnius University, assistant professor of history at Vilnius University, and, finally, as a Miles Lerman research fellow of the Center for the Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. He has also served as an expert for the Lithuanian government, Department for Minorities.

Since 2013, Šarūnas Liekis is a member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (Council of Europe).



Dainius JUNEVIČIUS is a Lithuanian Ambassador-at-Large. Dainius Junevičius has been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania since 1991.

As a diplomat, Dainius Junevičius was appointed Lithuanian Ambassador to Poland, Lithuanian Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic (as well as the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania and Albania), Lithuanian Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt (as well as Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon) as well as Lithuanian envoy to the Arab League.

In 2008-2010, Dainius Junevičius served as Ambassador at Large and the head of the Lithuanian Special Mission in Islamic Afghanistan.

In 2015 Dainius Junevičius has received Hungarian award *Pro Cultura Hungarica*, which is usually given to the foreigners for their merit of the Hungarian culture and promotion abroad.



Lauras SABONIS is a project manager at the Lithuanian Jewish Community and a volunteer at the *Bagel Shop* tolerance campaign run by the Community.

His main fields of interest are Jewish-Lithuanian relations, foreign policy, European security and defence. He is currently doing his military service at the Junior Officer Command Training section at The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania. Lauras Sabonis is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy at Vilnius University.



Bulcsú HUNYADI is political analyst at the Budapest-based think-tank Political Capital. His main fields of interest are right-wing extremism, foreign policy, political communications and citizenship education.

Bulcsú Hunyadi has studied history, sociology and international relations at the Pázmány University and the Andrásy University in Hungary and took part in various scholarship and internship programmes (e.g. International Parliamentary Scholarships of the German Bundestag, Civic Education in Action by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany).