

# **People, Power & Politics: Protecting & Promoting Human Rights in Belarus**

**3 September 2020 via Zoom**

## ***Speaker Information***

### **Chair**

*Baroness Helena Kennedy QC*

Helena Kennedy is a barrister, journalist and member of the House of Lords, where she has spoken out on issues of human rights and civil liberties. She has acted in many prominent cases including the Brighton Bombing Trial and the Guildford Four Appeal. She is the director of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute and chairs the Human Genetics Commission.

### **Panellists**

*Natallia Satsunkevich*

Natallia Satsunkevich is based at the 'Viasna' human rights centre in Minsk, Belarus. Viasna is the main human rights organisation in Belarus. Natallia is a human rights defender and was arrested for being an observer at a peaceful protest in 2015. She is also a "Bring International Standards Home" participant - a programme which educates lawyers and defenders in international human rights standards.

*Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou*

Originally from Belarus, Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou is a professor in human rights law at the University of Liverpool. His research areas include the European Convention of Human Rights and the administration of international justice. He has worked as an expert in human rights law for international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

*Elena Korosteleva*

Originally from Belarus, Elena Korosteleva is Professor of International Politics at the University of Kent and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics. Her research focuses on democratisation, the politics of Europe and EU relations with Russia and Eastern Europe. She is the Principal Investigator of the COMPASS project, which aims to open up communication with academics in former Soviet states.

*Miriam Lexmann*

Miriam Lexmann is a Slovakian MEP and member of the Christian Democratic Movement. She is the former director of the International Republican Institute, which advances freedom and democracy worldwide.

*Sergey Dikman*

Sergey Dikman is from Russia and is the programme co-ordinator for the Human Rights National Implementation division of the Council of Europe. He has advocated against the death penalty as part of the Council of Europe's 'death is not justice' campaign.

### *Laurynas Jonavicius*

Laurynas Jonavicius teaches Belarusian, Russian and international politics at the University of Vilnius, where he is a professor. He previously worked as an advisor to the President of Lithuania on foreign policy issues. His research interests include integration and disintegration in post-Soviet countries and international relations.

### **Discussants**

#### *Bill Bowring*

Bill Bowring is a professor of law and human rights at Birkbeck College. He is a co-founder of European Human Rights Advocacy Centre and of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, as well as being President of European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights. He has represented clients before the European Court of Human Rights and has worked as a consultant for numerous organisations, including the UN and Council of Europe.

#### *Boriss Cilevics*

Boriss Cilevics is a Latvian politician for the Social Democratic Party 'Harmony'. He is a deputy of the parliament of Latvia and is a member of the Latvian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He is a member of several committees there, including chairperson of the committee on the election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights.