

# European Regional Forum on Education, Language and the Human Rights of Minorities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 6 – 7 MAY 2019



## Program of Work

### MONDAY 6 MAY

#### 09:00-09:50 Opening Remarks

1. **Fernand de Varennes**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
2. **Livia Járóka**, Vice-President of European Parliament
3. **Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
4. **Szabolcs Horváth**, Member of Cabinet of the EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
5. **Vesna Crnić-Grotić**, Chair, Committee of Experts European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
6. **Birgit Van Hout**, Regional Representative for Europe, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
7. **Louise Haxthausen**, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

The session is chaired by **Anna-Mária Bíró**, Director, Tom Lantos Institute

#### 09.50-13:00 Panel 1: Human rights and minority language education

Is there a right to education in, or teaching of, a minority language, and if so to what extent and under what conditions? This is one of the central issues for many minority communities around the world. While some European instruments address this, these tend to still be fairly general, open to interpretation, or even misunderstood, particularly in relation to the relationship between human rights obligations and the use of (minority) languages in education.

The session will discuss the interaction between existing human rights standards and education in minority languages, considering the extent and/or conditions for such rights claims. The session will also look at what minorities actually want when it comes to the teaching of and in their languages, as well as what States can provide when considering the principles of proportionality and reasonableness.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Ingvill Thorson Plesner**, Researcher and Network Coordinator, Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies

- **Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark**, Director and Head of Research, Åland Islands Peace Institute
- **Robert Dunbar**, Chair of Celtic Languages, Literature, History and Antiquities, University of Edinburgh



- **Aliona Grossu**, Advisory Committee Member, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- **Antonija Petričušić**, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb
- **Balázs Vízi**, Associate Professor and Head of Department, Department of International Law, Faculty of International and European Studies, National University of Public Service, and Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Interactive Dialogue

**13:00-14:30 Lunch break**

**14:30-17:50 Panel 2: Public policy objectives and practices for education in minority languages**

The implementation of human rights resulting in education in, or teaching of, minority languages can take many forms.

This session will consider how public policies should address the effective implementation of the human rights for minorities in the use of their languages in education. The session will also discuss minority language institutions including the various types of schooling (integrated, separated, bilingual, multilingual), as well as minority language education's relationship to economic and social development and the acquisition of the majority/official language.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Neil Clarke**, Managing Director & Head of Europe and Central Asia Programmes, Minority Rights Group Europe

- **Timofey Agarin**, Senior Lecturer in Politics and Ethnic Conflict, Queen's University
- **Davyth Hicks**, Secretary General, European Language Equality Network
- **Roberta Medda-Windischer**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Minority Rights, EURAC
- **Petra Roter**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- **Lajos Szilágyi**, Transcarpathian Hungarian Pedagogical Association

Interactive Dialogue

### **TUESDAY 7 MAY**

**09:00-12:20 Panel 3: Effective practices in teaching of and education in minority languages**

Beyond purely human rights or public policy considerations, it is essential to keep in mind the pedagogical value and significance of teaching in minority languages, and the impact this may have in learning outcomes for minority children, as well as on their interaction with other members of society.

The session will address the various methods to teaching minority language education, together with the approaches to majority language teaching. The session will also discuss the minority language education and multilingualism, as well as intercultural exchanges between different language groups.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Ralph Bunche**, General-Secretary, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

- **Pia Lane**, Professor of Multilingualism, Centre for Multilingualism in Society Across the Lifespan, University of Oslo



- **Anneli Sarhimaa**, Professor of Northern European and Baltic languages and cultures, University of Mainz
- **Roland Ferkovics**, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Roma Education Fund
- **Tove Skutnabb-Kangas**, Former Associate Professor, Åbo Akademi University
- **Paul Videsott**, Dean, Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

Interactive Dialogue

**12:20-14:00** Lunch break

**14:00-17:20** Panel 4: Resources and management for the effective implementation of human rights obligations

Having a right to education in a minority language is meaningless if appropriate resources and effective approaches are not in place. There can be a variety of obstacles of a practical nature to the effective implementation of human rights in education for minorities. Widespread misunderstandings need to be dispelled, particularly on the cost-effectiveness of education in minority languages.

The session will discuss how to guarantee equality in quality education for minority languages in education, addressing a number of areas such as the cost effectiveness of education in minority language, funding issues, management structures, and teaching training and textbooks requirements.

The panel discussion is moderated by **Tawhida Ahmed**, Reader & Associate Dean (Research), The City Law School, University of London

- **Michele Gazzola**, Lecturer in Public Policy and Administration, School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, Ulster University
- **Robert Phillipson**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Management, Society and Communication, Copenhagen Business School
- **Ali Hüseyinoğlu**, Assistant Professor, Balkan Research Institute, Trakya University
- **Tamás Kiss**, Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities
- **Elżbieta Kuzborska**, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- **Bengt-Arne Wickström**, Professor, Andrásy-University

Interactive Dialogue

**17:30-18:00** Concluding remarks

**Fernand de Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Working languages: English and French*