About the workshop

2016 has witnessed a surge of populism in the political debate in Europe and the World. The outcome of the British, Italian and Colombian referenda, the results of the presidential elections in the USA, and the rising electoral expectations of parties openly xenophobic and ultra-nationalistic in Europe, show that western political democratic systems are in crisis.

This political and values crisis interacts with a growing climate of fear for the terrorist attacks that have shaken our continent in the last year, and with a partisan manipulation of the refugee crisis. These phenomena are jeopardizing the advances in the field of rights and liberties reached in Europe since the end of WWII. Regressive legislative reforms are already a reality in some countries, while in others there is an open questioning by governments or opposition parties of international human rights standards and institutions.

With this international panorama, the Ombudsman institution is questioned: Should it only look after best administrative practices? Or must it be a guarantor of human rights and fundamental freedoms? In the framework of a Europe where populism grows and rights and liberties cannot be taken for granted, we invite the European Ombudsmen to share their experiences on good administration and human rights, to analyze means of intervention, including reports and own initiatives, and to search effective channels of mutual support and coordination at an international level.

Registration & contact information

To register and for further information: +34 93 301 80 75 ioieurope@sindic.cat www.humanrightschallenges.cat Working languages: English, French, Spanish and Catalan

@hrchallengesnow **#OmbudsmanChallenges**

- Hotel Catalonia Born 1
- Hotel Banys Orientals 2^H
- 31 Hotel del Mar
- **4H** Hotel Colonial
- 5^H Hotel Ciutadella
- 6<mark>H</mark> Hotel Catalonia Port
- 7 Picasso Museum
- 8 Catalan Parliament
- 9 Catalan Ombudsman headquarters



Barcelona April 3-4 2017



HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN EUROPE II POPULISM? REGRESSION OF RIGHTS AND THE ROLE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

@hrchallengesnow Venue: Catalan Parliament

> SINDIC **EL DEFENSOR** DE LES PERSONES





#OmbudsmanChallenges





Monday April 3 - 2017

8.30 h Registration

9.00 h **Opening Ceremony**

Carme Forcadell, President of the Parliament of Catalonia Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman of Ireland, President of the IOI Soledad Becerril, Ombudsman of Spain Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia, President of IOI Europe

10.00 h First session: Political populism and its impact on human rights: European Treaties, Human Rights Codes and patterns to be considered

Chairperson: Soledad Becerril, Ombudsman of Spain

Presentation: Nils Muižnieks, European Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

10.45 h Coffee Break

11.15 h Discussants

Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman of Ireland, President of the IOI Lora Vidović, Ombudsman of Croatia, Chair of ENNHRI's Bruno Stagno Ugarte, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy of Human Rights Watch

General discussion

13.30 h Lunch

14.30 h Second session: Case studies I. Legislation, public policies and human rights regressions: Ombudsman reports and own initiatives

Chairperson: Javier Amoedo, Ombudsman of Castile-Leon

Presentation:

Adam Bodnar, Ombudsman of Poland Jacques Toubon, Ombudsman of France, Secretary-General of AOM and AOMF

Discussants

Catherine de Bruecker, Federal Ombudsman of Belgium, Vice President of IOI Europe Günther Krauter, Ombudsman of Austria, Secretary-General of the IOI Elisabeth Sándor-Szalay, Deputy Comissioner for Fundamental Rights of the Ombudsman of Hungary Marie Anderson, Ombudsman of Northern Ireland

General discussion

- 17.30 h End of first day
- **18.30 h** Visit to the Picasso Museum and reception Reserved to IOI members and speakers only

Tuesday April 4 - 2017

8.30 h Third session: Case studies II. Regression of rights in situations of emergency and migration crisis: Ombudsman monitoring tools

Chairperson: Jerónimo Saavedra, Ombudsman of the Canary Islands

Presentation: Emily O'Reilly, Ombudsman of the EU

Discussants:

Seref Malkoç, Ombudsman of Turkey Gero Storjohann, Petition Commission of the Bundestag, FRG Manuel Lezertua, Ombudsman of the Basque Country Andreas Pottakis, Ombudsman of Greece

General discussion

11.00 h Coffee Break

11.30 h Fourth session: Best practices, human rights, networks and the models of the Ombudsman: panel debate

Chairperson: Milagros Otero, Ombudsman of Galicia

Discussants:

Petri Jääskeläinen, Ombudsman of Finland Anna Šabatová, Ombudsman of the Czech Republic Marc Bertrand, Ombudsman of Wallonia and of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, President of AOMF Reinier Van Zutphen, Ombudsman of the Netherlands Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia, President of IOI Europe

General discussion

13.30 h Barcelona Declaration

Jaume Saura, Deputy Ombudsman of Catalonia

13.45 h Closing Ceremony

Carles Puigdemont, President of the Government of Catalonia

14.00 h End of workshop