



Fundamental Rights
Forum
connect.reflect.act



FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FORUM

Rights, Respect, Reality:
the Europe of Values in Today's World

connect.reflect.act

VIENNA, 20-23 JUNE 2016



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights convenes the Fundamental Rights Forum in order to:

● connect

The Forum connects practitioners, grassroots workers, thinkers and high-level decision makers in an inclusive and open platform.

● reflect

The Forum looks at existing challenges and good practices as well as future challenges and opportunities. We provide space to enable dynamic and respectful dialogue, and knowledge sharing where different views can stimulate innovative ways forward.

● act

The Forum aims at having a tangible impact for the benefit of everyone in the EU. We encourage actors to apply the knowledge and ideas gained, and work together to strengthen fundamental rights for all.

What will the Forum offer?

- Strategic dialogue and the exchange of cutting-edge knowledge, out-of-the-box thinking and good practice
- New partnerships between decision makers, experts and practitioners
- Commitments to fundamental rights
- Support networks and knowledge hubs to tap into
- Lasting impact as FRA will support the follow-up and aims to reconvene the Forum periodically

Key facts

- Three burning themes: **inclusion, refugee protection, the digital age**
- Four clusters: **innovation for fundamental rights, rights-based governance, empowering rights holders, fundamental rights-compliant sustainable growth**
- Three and a half days of engaging discussions and inspiring debates (also web streamed) on the contemporary situation of fundamental and human rights
- Up to 27 workshops, 6 panel debates, 10 '**connect.reflect.act** - Talks' about good practices, pressing challenges and innovative solutions
- Networking with over 400 contributors from over 28 countries
- Over 130 visionary speakers and international experts
- One human rights competition for school children
- Many concrete ideas to strengthen future protection and awareness of fundamental rights

Partners

The Forum is under the patronage of the Austrian President, Heinz Fischer and is organised in cooperation with the:

- Netherlands and incoming Slovak & Maltese Presidencies of the EU
- Council of Europe
- European Parliament
- EEA & Norway Grants
- European Commission
- City of Vienna
- Austrian Government
- Institute for Human Sciences
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ASHOKA foundation



Building a strong fundamental rights culture

The Fundamental Rights Forum 2016 comes at a critical moment when our human rights resolve is being tested. Europe is being challenged to find urgent responses to the continuing refugee crisis, persistent discrimination and exclusion, as well as mass intrusion into the privacy and personal data of everyday people throughout Europe. This is why we have chosen these three themes for the Forum 2016.

Rights, respect, reality: the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Europe of values in today's world, provides the bedrock for addressing contemporary challenges and a source of promising practices to better protect and promote human and fundamental rights across Europe and beyond.

Awareness of human rights is growing, thanks in part to the EU's very own bill of rights, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Such momentum needs capturing. For example, policy makers should reinforce the implementation of our strong policy and legislative human rights framework; business should stimulate the growing interest in corporate social responsibility, and inclusive sustainable growth; and rights holders should be empowered to participate fully in life.

The Forum was created as an inclusive and innovative platform to draw in contributors including leading experts, policy makers and practitioners from all walks of life. The Forum will be engaging and interactive to involve and capture the views of all contributors. This includes the use of **connect.reflect.act** - Talks, panel debates, participant voting, participatory workshops, lively debates from speakers with opposing views, and a market place of ideas where organisations can come and display their work.

Based on the principle that a multi-stakeholder, systematic and future-oriented approach is vital to ensure everyone in the EU can enjoy their fundamental rights, the Forum encourages all actors to strengthen the protection and promotion of fundamental rights across the EU.

Themes

The Forum will focus on how the three themes of **inclusion, refugee protection, the digital age** are connected, taking the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as the starting point. For example, those building an inclusive society need to involve those working to protect migrants and refugees. Similarly digital policies can have an impact on migration and inclusion policies, and vice versa.

Clusters

Each day will look at the themes from a different perspective:

20/6 INNOVATION FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: How can we find practical solutions to raising awareness of fundamental rights in the EU, using digital technology, and human rights expertise? How can we enhance culture of human rights in our cities, schools and communities? How can we maintain cohesive and human rights empowering societies as cities evolve?

21/6 RIGHTS-BASED GOVERNANCE: What are the policies, structures and laws that are working well, or are still needed, to help promote and protect fundamental rights? How can the process of governance respect rights more?

22/6 EMPOWERING RIGHTS HOLDERS: What can be done to help raise awareness of fundamental rights as a means to empowering rights holders and young people? How can we enable disadvantaged groups to participate fully in economic, social, civil and political life?

23/6 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS-COMPLIANT SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: Sustainable growth can only happen when rights are promoted. What does this mean for Europe? What role should fundamental rights play in the European Semester? What do the sustainable development goals mean for the EU? What role can, and should, business, and others, play in making fundamental rights a reality for all?

Key outcomes

The principle output of the Forum will be a set of conclusions, to be issued in the form of a Chair's Statement. It will summarise milestones of the Forum such as keynote speeches and panel discussions, and will then chiefly focus on the key findings of the discussions. The findings will be accompanied by action points for international organisations, EU institutions, national governments, regional authorities, business leaders, and civil society. These are steps that need to be taken in order to improve respect for fundamental rights in the areas of **inclusion, refugee protection** and **the digital age** until the next Fundamental Rights Forum.



Overview of the Forum 20-23 June 2016

Monday 20 June	Tuesday 21 June
Opening of the forum	Rights-based governance
Organised by the city of Vienna, at Vienna's Town Hall	Welcome, Opening speech
	connect.reflect.act - Talk
	Panel debate and voting
	Plenary – Wrap-up
	Closing

GLOSSARY

connect.reflect.act – TALK:
speakers are given a limited amount of time to present their ideas in the most innovative and engaging way

VOTING:
live polling on specific questions amongst participants via an app

MARKET PLACE OF IDEAS:
diverse organisations present their ideas and work at information stands

Wednesday 22 June

Thursday 23 June

Empowering rights holders

Fundamental rights-compliant sustainable growth

RE-CAP, Opening speech

RE-CAP, Opening speech

connect.reflect.act - Talk

connect.reflect.act - Talk

Competition award and panel debate (Youth)

Panel debate and voting

Parallel working groups:
INCLUSION, REFUGEE PROTECTION, THE DIGITAL AGE

MARKET PLACE OF IDEAS

Parallel working groups:
INCLUSION, REFUGEE PROTECTION, THE DIGITAL AGE

connect.reflect.act - Talk

Plenary – Wrap-up

Plenary – Wrap-up and debate

Closing



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Inclusion

Policy initiatives have strived to address the lack of inclusion in society, combat inequality, increase participation and embrace diversity. Whereas lack of inclusion and cohesion in society is most shown by a lack of social acceptance and discrimination towards migrants, minorities and vulnerable groups, inclusion, or the lack of it, has an impact on everybody in the EU. At the same time, indicators suggest that Europeans are better off socially and economically. While showcasing the many models of corporate social responsibility, social entrepreneurship and diversity management, the Forum will debate such questions as:

- How can we reduce inequality and increase economic, social and political participation to support inclusive and sustainable growth?
- How can teachers, the media and other professionals help overcome prejudice, and foster a culture of fundamental rights and respect among the young and the public at large?
- How can we measure inclusion, tackle discrimination and protect those at risk?
- What role can inclusion policies play in addressing the causes of violent radicalisation?



Refugee protection

Europe is experiencing the greatest movement of people to and across the continent since the Second World War. People in need of international protection are risking their lives across the Mediterranean and the Balkan routes to get to the EU. They flee from fear, war, persecution and poverty, mostly resorting to smuggling networks due to the limited ways to reach the EU legally. There is, therefore, a need to enhance such legal pathways for people in need of international protection and to ensure migrant workers do not have to resort to smuggling or are not exploited nor abused. To ensure migrants and refugees can enjoy their rights to life, dignity, freedom from slavery, the Forum will debate such questions as:

- How can we put human rights at the heart of future EU asylum policies and make best use of new technologies?
- How can corporate social responsibility and industry help end smuggling and labour exploitation, protect women and children, and also capture the talent of refugees for the labour market?
- How can civil society, trade unions and National Human Rights Bodies promote the rights of migrants and refugees, and monitor and enhance the reporting of rights abuses?
- How can opening legal avenues to international protection help safeguard fundamental rights and contribute to inclusion?



The digital age

The growing use of digital technologies creates many and new opportunities for society, individuals and business. People are becoming increasingly interconnected in their professional and private lives, and are finding new ways of interacting digitally. Industry is responding with new services and innovative products tailored to new clients, which rely upon the use of large amounts of data. Public authorities are turning to technology to provide efficient and reliable services to citizens (such as eHealth), to help handle burning issues such as the refugee crisis, or the fight against crime and terrorism. Nevertheless, the risks from large-scale data collection which is transferred around the world, as well as the non-transparent or arbitrary use of technology should be effectively addressed. Respect, promotion and fulfilment of fundamental rights is key for a vibrant and all-inclusive society. As a result the Forum will debate such questions as:

- How can technology and the data-driven economy contribute to a flourishing democratic, pluralistic and participatory society, and genuinely empower individuals?
- How can dignity, private life and personal data, non-discrimination by means of profiling, and freedom of expression be protected in the digital age?
- Are new rights and laws needed to guarantee equal and unhampered access to the internet, particularly for children, and to guard against cyber hate?
- What can be done to balance privacy and security in the digital age?

Contributors

The Forum will bring together leaders, change agents, duty bearers and rights holders from all walks of life, including:

- Professional groups – such as teachers, police officers, psychologists, social workers
- People from groups at risk such as Roma, people with disabilities, migrants, LGBTI people as well as the young and the old
- Survivors and victims
- High profile individuals working on human rights
- Academics from different disciplines (e.g. law, history, economics, sociology)
- National governments
- National parliaments
- Local authorities - Human Rights cities
- EU institutions
- Equality Bodies, National Human Rights Institutions and Ombudsman institutions
- International organisations, including, notably, the Council of Europe and the UN
- Civil society, grassroots organisations, churches and religious groups, citizens' initiatives
- Trade unions and employers associations
- Business and industry leaders
- Media
- Opinion leaders and thinkers
- Academic, policy and research networks
- Students and pupils

To follow up the Forum, FRA aims to create and sustain a network of different groups who will contribute to informal and in-depth interactions on fundamental rights challenges and concerns.

For more information, please contact: FRF@fra.europa.eu

The **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** is one of the EU's specialist agencies, set up to provide expert advice to the EU institutions and its Member States on a range of issues.

FRA provides assistance and expertise in tackling the challenges of safeguarding the fundamental rights of everyone in the EU. It does this by collecting and analysing information and data through socio-legal research which it uses to provide evidence-based advice, spanning a wide range of fundamental rights. These include discrimination, access to justice, racism and xenophobia, data protection, victims' rights and rights of the child. This advice is then actively communicated and forms the basis of its efforts to raise rights awareness.

The Agency works in consultation and cooperation with its partners in the EU institutions, Member States and with other organisations at the international, European and national levels. In doing so, FRA plays an important role in helping to make fundamental rights a reality for all by enhancing the promotion and protection of fundamental rights across the EU.



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Vienna, 20-23 June 2016

#rightsforum16

<http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/>



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