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**Sharing experiences and providing input
to the World Congress against Enforced Disappearances**

**Online regional consultations with stakeholders from Europe
Friday 14 June**

London	09:00-12:00 BST
Madrid, Sarajevo	10:00-13:00 CEST
Istanbul, Kyiv	11:00-14:00 EEST

Languages: English/Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian

One of the objectives of the multi-actor [World Congress on Enforced Disappearances to be held on 15-16 January 2025 in Geneva](#) is to put families back at the centre of the global fight against enforced disappearances, including the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

To facilitate their contribution to the World Congress, CEDI, in partnership with OHCHR, is organising a series of online regional consultations with family members, organizations who support them and other stakeholders, in May and June 2024. A questionnaire has been shared through networks in the regions prior to the consultations. The responses inform the consultations.

In parallel, preparatory regional consultations will be held amongst States parties and non-parties to the Convention with the similar objective of informing the preparation of the World Congress.

[Online consultations](#) are being organised in the following regions:

Asia on 3 May 2024, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Africa on 16 May 2024, 12:00-15:00 CEST

Middle East and North Africa on 31 May 2024, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Europe on 14 June 2024, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Latin America and Caribbean on 27 June, 16:00-19:00 CEST

Objectives

- Provide a space for victims, their families, organizations who support them, and other stakeholders, to share stories and challenges in the fight against enforced disappearances, including ratification and implementation of the Convention;
- Identify the key priorities they would like to be addressed at the World Congress;
- Discuss the way these actors could be further involved in the campaign for the ratification and implementation of the Convention;
- Discuss their contribution to the World Congress and gather concrete proposals for way forward (how to encourage their participation, how their work could be better supported and strengthened, which thematic issues should be addressed as a matter of priority, through which activities, etc.)

Results

- CEDI will prepare a report on the consultations that will be shared with participants and actors involved in the World Congress and published on the WCED website (www.edworldcongress.org)
- The ideas and priorities shared by participants will inform the organisation of the World Congress.

How to contribute

All actors, including victims, family members, organizations who support them, and NHRIs from the region are invited to [register](#) to attend online.

All actors who wish to provide their input are invited to **send written contributions by 1st July 2024** via the [website](#) or at wced@cedi193.org. Contributions will be reflected in the report on the regional consultation.

Written contributions should address the objectives of the regional consultations: share practices, stories and challenges in the fight against enforced disappearances, including ratification and implementation of the Convention. Please send us your suggestions about:

- issues to address, lessons learned and practices that could be shared,
- topics for roundtables and workshops that could be organized during the World Congress
- activities that should be included in the action plan

Programme

Welcome and introduction

Ms. Claire Callejon, CEDI Project Manager

Presentation of the World Congress

Prof. Olivier de Frouville, Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Advisory Board Member of CEDI

Presentation of ratification and implementation status of the Convention in the region

Ms. Elena Kountouri Tapiero, Regional Representative for Europe, OHCHR Regional Office for Europe

Session 1: Ratification and implementation of the Convention: best practices and challenges

Facilitator: Ms. Milica Kolaković-Bojović, Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances

- Bosnia and Herzegovina

The role of families of the missing in the West Balkans

Ms. Elma Majstorić Ninković, Senior Programme Officer, International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)

Ms. Semina Alekić, President of the Coordination of Associations of Families of the Missing in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH Coordination)

- Spain

Exhumations and historical memory: promoting families' rights to truth and justice

Mr. Emilio Silva, President of the Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory

“Stolen babies”: the fight for the legal recognition, investigation and prosecution of enforced disappearance cases

Dr. Aránzazu Borrachero, professor (City University of New York), member of All the stolen children are also my children (Todos los niños robados son también mis niños)

- Europe

Enforced disappearances in the context of migration: Europe and the use of pushbacks

Mr. Joseph Cripps, UN Advocacy Coordinator, Border Violence Monitoring Network

Session 2: Perspectives from other countries: main challenges, lessons learned and why ratification of the Convention is necessary

Facilitator: Prof. Olivier de Frouville, Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances

- Russia/Caucasus

How CSOs and victims work together to ensure accountability

The impact of ED on families: what support is needed?

Ms. Violetta Fitsner, lawyer, Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre (FIDH member organisation)

Ms. Elba Bendo, lawyer, European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC)

- Ukraine

Documentation of cases of enforced disappearance and providing legal support to families: lessons learned and challenges

Ms. Yelyzaveta Sokurenko, Human Rights Centre ZMINA

Ms. Anastasiia Pantelieieva, Head of Documenting, Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR)

- Türkiye

Promoting families' right to know the truth: lessons learned and challenges

Ms. Özlem Zıngıl, Saturday Mothers

Mr. Osman İsci, Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD)

Conclusions

Prof. Gabriella Citroni, Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances