



Webstream media highlights Fundamental Rights Forum, 20-23 June



Forum opening extracts via [EBS](#);
21-23 June plenary sessions via [webstream](#);
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Monday 20 June

17:30

FORUM OPENING: Vienna City Hall



Moderated by [Michael O'Flaherty](#)
FRA Director and FRF Chair



[Frauke Seidensticker](#)
Chairperson of FRA Management Board

[H.E. Dr Heinz Fischer](#)

President of the Republic of Austria and FRF Patron



Keynote address



[Frans Timmermans](#)
First Vice President of the European Commission

Tuesday 21 June

09:00

Opening remarks and speech

[Michael O'Flaherty](#), FRA Director

"In this disturbing time for fundamental rights, we need real debate and the will to make a real change. The Fundamental Rights Forum 2016 will galvanise us to find new ways to protect the rights of Europe's most vulnerable people and to restore those rights to their proper place at the heart of our society."

10:15

Connect.Reflect.Act Talks



[Helga Stevens](#)

MEP and campaigner for the rights of people with disabilities.
"Disabled people have to come out of the closet and claim their place in society, like the female movement, the black movement and the gay & lesbian movement have done and are still doing."

11:30

[James C Hathaway](#)



Professor of International Law, campaigner for refugee rights
"Most refugees are not allowed to live independent lives. Most refugees are maintained by an international organization. And most refugees are emphatically not allowed to provide for their own needs."

16:30

[Morten Kjaerum](#)



Human rights expert
"European solidarity and humanism is now being tested. And let's face reality: fences and detention are no solutions."

[Stefan Hertmans](#)



Belgian author
"Exclusion politics won't work. We will have to think about inclusion – one of the first simple things could be, that journalists everywhere in Europe stop putting Muslim communities in a spiritual ghetto."

Wednesday 22 June

09:00

Opening speeches

[Michael O'Flaherty](#) is joined by

[Nils Muižnieks](#), Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights.

09:30

Connect.Reflect.Act Talks



[Benjamin R Barber](#)

Political theorist and Founder of the Global Parliament for Mayors Project
"We respond to this interdependent world without borders with a bordered 17th century sovereign independent state. It just doesn't work."

[Mary Lawlor](#)



Front Line defenders founder
"Autocratic regimes are increasingly learning from each other and supporting each other to protect their access to power and riches. This has included an ideological attack on human rights and international standards of accountability."

16:00

[Katarzyna Szymielewicz](#)



President of anti-surveillance NGO Panoptikon Foundation
"Society completely bought into the concept of the individual (as a customer or citizen) choosing the services he or she wants – as if no manipulation or power struggle or surveillance was taking place."

[Alberto Alemanno](#)



HEC Paris and NYU School of Law, and co-Founder, The Good Lobby
"The majority of people in Europe today possess socially and economically valuable skills of one kind or another: citizen lobbying can turn you from spectator to actor, from consumer to citizen."

Thursday 23 June

09:00

Opening remarks

[Michael O'Flaherty](#) is joined by:



[Hauwa Ibrahim](#), Nigerian human rights lawyer and winner of

European Parliament's Sakharov Prize.
"Irrespective of the colour of our skin, our creed, our religion, our sex, our gender, I always think there is a force that is very powerful, that unites us together. And that force is our humanity and our human dignity and the worth of our human presence."

09:15

Connect.Reflect.Act Talks



[Steve Howard](#)

IKEA's Chief Sustainability Officer
"Inclusion begins with each and every one of us - me, you, businesses, NGOs, policy makers. Inclusion is everyone's responsibility."

[Christine Souffrant](#)



Founder of Venedy social enterprise
"Entrepreneurship in America is about opportunity. Entrepreneurship in Haiti is survival."

11:30

Keynote address



[Emily O'Reilly](#)

European Ombudsman
"No one can deny that the EU has put human rights, the rule of law, and democracy to the forefront of the European project and has been met in many cases with stunning success. But the current pushback, from the rise of populism, growing anti EU sentiment, terror that has moved from far away and right into our own cities is challenging our human rights foundations as never before."

16:45



[Michael O'Flaherty](#), FRF Chair's statement

Forum closes.