

About the workshop

The Catalan Ombudsman, president of the European Chapter of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), organizes, within the frame of the IOI, an International Workshop, to be held in April 2016, on the contemporary challenges and threats that human rights are facing, and the task of Ombudsman institutions therewith.

Lately, security concerns have grown in Europe and the rest of the world, putting at risk fundamental human rights such as freedom of expression and privacy. Likewise, the refugee crisis, which adds to the continuing migratory movements, not only is a challenge for Europe's solidarity, but it also risks fuelling the ghost of racism and xenophobia in the continent.

All of this is taking place in the midst of a deep economic and financial crisis that represents a threat to social rights and puts large sectors of our societies at risk. Public policies at state and international levels need to address these phenomena with generosity and full respect of human rights, and the Ombudsman offices need to be particularly attentive to legislation and administrative practices that infringe rights.

At the same time, Ombudsman institutions themselves are in the midst of the debate on the guarantees for human rights. On the one hand, many of them are acquiring new functions and competences, in areas as diverse as the prevention of torture, alternative dispute resolution, transparency and access to information or LGBTI rights, among others. On the other, though, many of these institutions are threatened by attacks to their independence, lack of resources or their disappearance.

Registration & contact information

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

www.sindic.cat/hrchallengesnow

 @hrchallengesnow #OmbudsmanChallenges

Venue: Tinell's Hall (Saló del Tinell)

The Workshop will be held at the Main Hall of Barcelona's Royal Palace, located in the Gothic Quarter. **Address:** Plaça del Rei, s/n - 08002 Barcelona

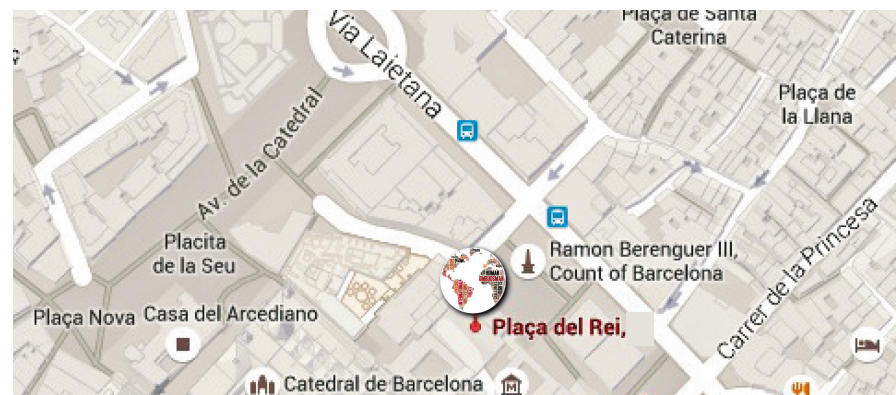


BARCELONA, TINELL'S HALL

26 - 27 APRIL 2016



HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES NOW: THE OMBUDSMAN FACING THREATS



SÍNDIC
EL DEFENSOR
DE LES
PERSONES

Within the frame of:



Supported by:



Tuesday, April 26 - 2016

8.45 h Registration

9.00 h Opening

Carles Puigdemont, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia
Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona
Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia and President of IOI Europe

9.30 h First session: The freedom-security dilemma

Chair: Catherine De Bruecker, Federal Ombudsman of Belgium, Director of IOI

Keynote Speakers:

Stephano Rodotà, Professor at La Sapienza University of Rome
Jacques Toubon, Ombudsman of France and General Secretary of AOMF

10.30 h Coffee Break

11.00 h Round Table

Nick Bennett, Ombudsman of Wales
Adam Bodnar, Ombudsman of Poland
Ben Buckland, NHRI Adviser at Association for the Prevention of Torture
Manuel Lezertua, Ombudsman of Basque Country
Ülle Madise, Ombudsman of Estonia and Director of IOI
Lora Vidovic, Ombudsman of Croatia and chair of ECC (ENNHRI)

Debate

13.00 h Lunch

14.15 h Second session: Migrants and refugees

Chair: Igli Totozani, Ombudsman of Albania, President of AOM and Director of IOI

Keynote Speakers:

Gero Storjohann, Vice-Chairman of the Petitions Committee of the German Bundestag
Luis Raúl González, President of the National Human Rights Commission, México

15.15 h Round Table

Otiende Amollo, Ombudsman of Kenya
Jonas Bering Liisberg, General Director of the Ombudsman of Denmark
Saša Janković, Ombudsman of Serbia
Vasilejos Karydis, Ombudsman of Greece
Edita Žiobienė, Ombudsperson for Children's Rights of Lithuania and Elected Chairperson of ENOC

Debate

17.15 h End of session

18.30 h Social event: cultural visit

20.30 h Official dinner

Wednesday, April 27 - 2016

9.30 h Third session: Social crisis and rights, new competences for 21st century Ombudsman: ADR, OPCAT, Transparency

Chair: Elisabet Fura, Ombudsman of Sweden and Director of IOI

Keynote Speakers:

Petros Stangos, Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights
Joan Vintró, Professor of Constitutional Law of University of Barcelona

10.30 h Coffee Break

11.00 h Round Table

Iñigo Lamarca, former Ombudsman of Euskadi and LGBTBI expert
Jesús Maetzu, Ombudsman of Andalusia
Anna Šabatová, Ombudsman of the Czech Republic
Lewis Shand Smith, Ombudsman for Public Services (UK),
President of NEON and Chair of OA
Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman of Ireland and Vice-president of IOI
Reinier Van Zutphen, Ombudsman of the Netherlands

Debate

13.00 h Lunch

14.15 h Fourth session: Ombudsmen under threat

Chair: Diane Welborn, Ombudsman of Dayton-Montgomery County and Vice-President of IOI

Keynote speakers:

Jordi Xuclà rapporteur at the COE Parliamentary Assembly
Günther Kräuter, Ombudsman of Austria and General Secretary of IOI

15.15 h Round Table

Nilda Arduin, Ombudsman of Saint Martin, Director of IOI and president of CAROA
María Bueyo, former Ombudsman of La Rioja
Jana Dubovcová, Ombudsman of the Slovak Republic
Lucia Franchini, Ombudsman of Tuscany and Director of IOI
Jim Martin, Ombudsman of Scotland

Debate

17.15 h Closing

Conclusions: Jaume Saura, General Deputy of the Ombudsman of Catalonia

Final speeches:

Soledad Becerril, Ombudsman of Spain
Jose Francisco de Faria Costa, Ombudsman of Portugal and President of FIO
John Walters, Ombudsman of Namibia and President of IOI
Rafael Ribó, Ombudsman of Catalonia and President of IOI Europe

18:00 h Social event: cultural visit