

# ABOUT

During the 13th European Remembrance Symposium and International Conference we will reflect on the Helsinki Final Act, signed on 1 August 1975, to honour the diplomatic achievement of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe CSCE in Helsinki and contemplate the current state of security in Europe and the World. Fifty years ago, the Conference brought together representatives of 33 countries, including western and eastern European states, the USA, Canada and the Soviet Union, to develop a framework for Détente in Europe. This strongly influenced the development of social and dissident movements in some of the Eastern Bloc countries and, in the long term, influenced the end of the Cold War.

On the 50th anniversary of this good faith dialogue, the European Network of Remembrance and Solidarity ENRS, in collaboration with Historians without Borders in Finland HWB, the University of Helsinki, the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany, the Leibniz-Institute of European History IEG, Religion and Cold War Network ReCoNet and the Aue Foundation, will explore what became known as the 'Spirit of Helsinki'.

Venue

FINLANDIA HALL AND UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

HELSINKI, FINLAND

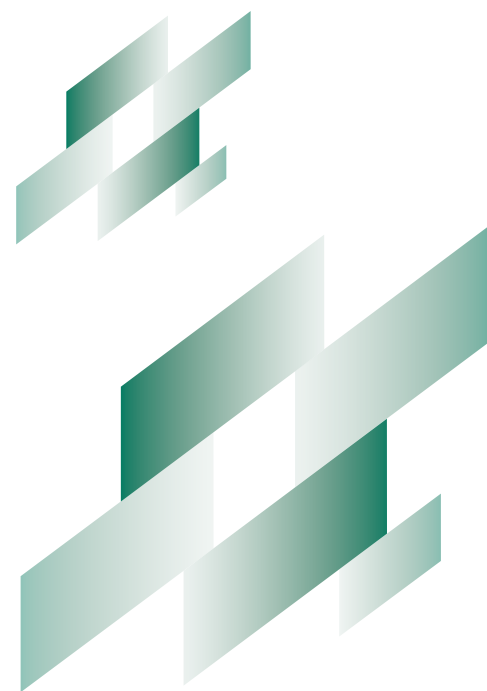
## 13th European Remembrance Symposium and International Conference on the 50th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act

### The Spirit of Helsinki Then and Now

E N G

HELSINKI  
10-13 JUNE 2025

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



### DAY 1 TUESDAY 10 JUNE Finlandia Hall Helsinki Hall + Foyer

- 17:00-18:00 REGISTRATION
- 18:00-18:05 WELCOME ADDRESS
- 18:05-19:00 PANEL DISCUSSION  
**THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI – THEN AND NOW**  
A discussion between  
**Markus Meckel** and **Michael Žantovský**  
Moderation: **Laura Kolbe**, University of Helsinki
- 19:00-21:00 Reception Dinner

### DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE Finlandia Hall Helsinki Hall + Foyer

- 09:00-10:00 REGISTRATION
- 10:00-10:20 WELCOME SPEECHES
- 10:20-10:25 **Johannes Paulmann**, Leibniz Institute of European History, Germany introducing keynote speaker  
**Michael Cotey Morgan**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 10:25-10:45 KEYNOTE SPEECH  
**Michael Cotey Morgan**
- 10:45-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-13:00 **OPENING PANEL Helsinki and Diplomacy: Power and Limitations**  
What role did diplomacy play during the Cold War? What significance did the Helsinki Final Act have for diplomatic actors as well as activists and dissidents East and West? This panel will also discuss the possibilities and constraints of diplomacy in current conflicts.  
**Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark**, Åbo Akademi, Turku  
**Jaakko Laajava**, Ambassador and former Under-Secretary of State, Helsinki  
**Monika MacDonagh-Pajerová**, Anglo-American University, Prague  
**Michael Cotey Morgan**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Henryka Mościcka-Dendys**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Warsaw  
**Kristina Spohr**, London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of International History  
Chair: **Johannes Paulmann**, Leibniz Institute of European History, Germany

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Religion and the Helsinki Process

**Massimo Faggioli**, Villanova University  
**Réka Kiss**, Committee of National Remembrance of Hungary  
**Katharina Kunter**, Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki  
**Katharina McLarren**, Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg  
**Erik Sidenvall**, University of Lund

Keynote: **Sarah B. Snyder**, American University, Washington, DC  
Chair: **Riho Altnurme**, University of Tartu  
**Leon van den Broeke**, Theological University Utrecht

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 **TURBO PRESENTATIONS**

During turbo presentations, participants showcase their organisation or project to the symposium's audience. Each speaker has up to 90 seconds. Topics of the turbo presentations will be connected with the general theme of the symposium.

20:00 **CONCERT The Spirit of Helsinki in Song and Culture: 50th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act**

Goethe-Institut Helsinki

**Ieva Akurātere**, Latvian singer, songwriter and actress in the Latvian independence movement  
**Jaroslav Hutka**, Czech musician, composer, songwriter, democracy and human rights activist (signatory of Charter 77)  
**Stephan Krawczyk**, German writer and songwriter, formerly as GDR dissident

### DAY 3 THURSDAY 12 JUNE University of Helsinki Porthania II



- 08:00-09:00 REGISTRATION
- 09:00-10:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Freedom, Security and Human Rights – Then and Now**  
What did security mean at the time of the Helsinki Final Act compared to today? How does the feeling of being secure influence our freedom of mind, speech and expression? How, in turn, does this influence economic activity and perceptions of democracy? As an overarching question, this panel will address how the Helsinki Final Act has changed our view of human rights and their potential consequences.  
**Agnieszka Kosowicz**, Polish Migration Forum Foundation, Warsaw  
**András Mink**, Blinken OSA Archivum, Budapest  
**Hermann Wentker**, Institute of Contemporary History, Munich
- Chair: **Bradley Reynolds**, Historians without Borders, Helsinki

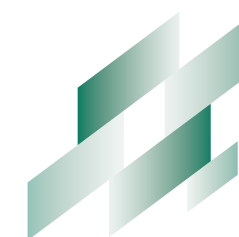
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 **CASE STUDIES Courage, Bravery and Leadership: Dialogue Then and Now**

How do institutions/museums teach and encourage constructive debate? How do they engage young people and audiences in meaningful discussions? Are they able to connect historical examples with contemporary challenges and, conversely, how are they able to erase the past through creating a new future? What is needed from institutions, museums and individuals to support peace and dialogue today?

**Maciej Bator**, Polish Wings Heritage Trail, Belfast  
**Ieva Česnulaitytė**, DemocracyNext, Vilnius  
**Ville Kivimäki**, The Finnish Literature Society, Helsinki  
**Joanna Matera**, The New Community Foundation, Warsaw  
**Joan Morrison and Mairead McCann**, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo

12:30-12:45 Coffee Break





12:45-14:15 **PANEL DISCUSSION 2 Truth and Reconciliation Processes**

Reckoning with the past is important for successful transitions from conflict and to foster trust in the present. Throughout history, this has taken multiple forms, from faith-based dialogues to truth and reconciliation commissions. An overarching goal is to heal relations by uncovering facts and unearthing marginalised testimonies concerning the past. Nevertheless, truth and reconciliation processes do not always result in the intended outcome due to lack of political will, joint leadership and accountability, or because of continued violations of rights. How can reconciliation processes be better utilised to address historical injustices, foster historical reconciliation and promote joint ownership of the past? Can or should the past be reconciled 'for good', and most importantly, when having a dialogue on the past, how do we deal with the present?

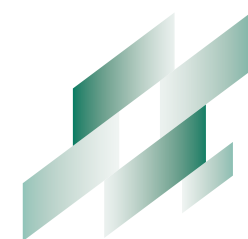
- Keynote: **Katalin Miklóssy**, University of Helsinki
Chair: **Áron Máthé**, Committee of National Remembrance Hungary
**Marek Mutor**, Platform of European Memory and Conscience, Prague
**Taina Máret Pieski**, Sámi Museum Siida, Inari

14:15-15:00 Lunch

15:00-18:00 **CULTURAL VISITS choose one:**

- Visit to Suomenlinna Sea Fortress
• Ateneum Art Museum and Political Walking Tour of Helsinki
• Ateneum Art Museum
• Modern Helsinki Walking Tour and Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma

18:15-19:30 Cocktails at the University of Helsinki



DAY 3 THURSDAY 12 JUNE Finlandia Hall INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Helsinki from Below: Grassroots Dynamics and Human Rights**

09:00-10:00 **OPENING & WELCOME BY THE ORGANISERS**

10:00-12:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Principle VII and Basket III: Dynamics through Human Rights**

- Marju Lauristin, politician, Estonia ONLINE
Roland Czerny-Werner, Paris Lodron-University of Salzburg
Gert Weisskirchen, politician, Germany
Kimmo Elo, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu
Sarah B. Snyder, American University, Washington, DC

Keynote: Sarah B. Snyder, American University, Washington, DC
Chair: Katharina Kunter, Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION 2 Helsinki and Civil Courage: The Helsinki Groups in Central and Eastern Europe and Reactions to (1970s-80s)**

- Anna Šabatová, signatory and speaker of Charter 77, Czechia
Gregor Feindt, Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz
Douglas Selvage, Federal Archives, Berlin
Nadezhda Beliakova, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Keynote: Myroslav Marynovych, Ukraine Helsinki Committee
Chair: Stefan Kube, Institute Religion & Society in East and West, Zurich

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION 3 Outlook: Lessons Learnt? – The Spirit of Helsinki from 1990 up to Now**

- Gabriel Andreescu, dissident, human rights activist, Bucharest
Anja Mühr, OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan & Centre on Governance through Human Rights, Berlin
Piet de Klerk, Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Anna Kaminsky, Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany, Berlin
Gwendolyn Sasse, Centre for East European and International Studies, Berlin TBC

Chair: Jenny Baumann, Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany, Berlin

DAY 4 FRIDAY 13 JUNE The University of Helsinki INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09:00-10:15 **WORKSHOPS choose one:**

- Definition of a museum and how museums deal with historical memory
The workshop will explore different examples how Polish museums have presented, preserved and interpreted historical memory in the 20th and 21st centuries. The changing definition of a museum will also be discussed.
Adam Barbasiewicz, Advocate, Partner at Cottyn Barbasiewicz i Lyś-Gorzowska law firm, member of ICOM Poland
• The role of cultural institutions in fostering media literacy
This workshop explores the role of cultural institutions (especially museums) in teaching and promoting critical thinking and fact-checking through the examples of exhibitions, educational games, events, multimedia and other materials.
Joanna Urbanek, Curator at the House of European History

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

09:00-10:15 **WORKSHOPS choose one:**

- Cultural sustainability
Museums are not noncommittal places, especially when they deal with dissonant subjects such as war, peace and remembrance. Based on the practice of the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, which is dedicated to the history and commemoration of the First World War, this workshop will discuss several approaches that museums can use to fulfil their societal role.
Pieter Trogh, Curator of the In Flanders Fields Museum
• How can the impact of museums be measured?
The Finnish Museums Association has, together with Petri Uusikylä, built a model for demonstrating the systemic impact of museums. The model is in its pilot phase. The workshop will present the basics of the model, its current stage and lessons learned so far.
Petra Havu, CEO of the Finnish Museums Association

11:45-12:15 Coffee Break

12:15-14:00 **SUMMARY AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: Where Has the 'Spirit of Helsinki' Gone? What Is Left after 50 Years?**

In the concluding panel, participants will reflect on the 'Spirit of Helsinki' in a global context. Have the Russian-Ukrainian and Israeli-Palestine wars changed the significance of the Helsinki Final Act? Has 50+ years of human rights advocacy been in vain considering the current state of the world and declining democracy on both sides of the Atlantic?

- Taras Kuzio, National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy
Bradley Reynolds, Historians without Borders, Helsinki
Andrea Seelich, Institute for the Study of the Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR), Prague
Ernest Wyciszkievicz, Juliusz Mieroszewski Centre for Dialogue, Warsaw

Chair: Elisa Tarnaala, Historians without Borders, Helsinki

14:00-14:15 **CLOSING REMARKS**

14:15-15:15 Lunch

DAY 4 FRIDAY 13 JUNE German Congregation in Finland, Helsinki INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**German Speaking Event**

10:00-10:10 **GREETING ADDRESS**

Robert Grünbaum, Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany, Berlin

10:10-11:00 **LECTURE BY**

Irina Scherbakowa, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Berlin

11:00-12:00 **TALK BETWEEN**

Irina Scherbakowa, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Berlin and
Katrin Göring-Eckardt, Member of the German Bundestag
Chair: Tina Meyn, German Congregation in Finland, Helsinki
Irene Bark, Goethe-Institut Helsinki

12:00 Lunch & Closing



FIND OUT MORE
https://enrs.eu/edition/european-remembrance-symposium-2025

Organiser



Partners



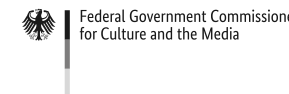
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ENRS is funded by



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