

## Inauguration Seminar at the Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL)

Thursday, 8th March 2001, 12.00 – 14.00 h  
Riga, Alberta iela 13  
Wallenberg building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Auditorium 42

### “Discrimination: New Trends in European Legal Framework”

**Chairman:** *Uldis Grava, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*

**Keynote-speakers:**

*Prof. Dr. Luzius Wildhaber, President of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg*

“Protection against discrimination under the European Convention of Human Rights - a second class guarantee?”

*Aryeh Neier, President of the Open Society Institute, New York*

“Application of European Human Rights Law to a Minority Suffering of Severe Discrimination: The Roma.”

**Reports:**

*Andris Gulāns, President of the Supreme Court of Latvia;*

“Anti-discrimination provisions in Latvian Constitution and in judicial practice”

*Isabelle Chopin, Programme Director, Migration Policy Group, Brussels*

“Ruling out racial and ethnic discrimination: a challenge for Europe”  
(Directive 2000/43/EC, “Race directive”)

**Discussion:**

*Karolina Lindholm, UNHCR Liaison Office in Riga*

“Discriminatory application of the fundamental human right to seek asylum”

*Priit Jaerve, European Centre for Minority Issues*

“Principle of non-discrimination and minority issues in Estonia”

*Mārtiņš Mīts, Latvian Human Rights Institute*

“Prohibition of discrimination in the Latvian legislation and selected implementation problems”

*Dr. Nils Muižnieks, Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies*

“Discrimination in Latvia: evidence from surveys and practitioners”

**Comments on the Content:**

Problems of equality and discrimination become more and more in focus of the human rights discussion. Equality rights and prohibition of discrimination could serve as a counterbalance for the increasing tendency to inequality both on international and national level caused by unequal accumulation of material, immaterial and technological resources.

One of the central issues of the equality rights and the prohibition of discrimination is the question whether these rights are (should be) accessorial (like Art.14 of the European Convention of Human Rights) or autonomous (like Protocol No.12 of the European Convention of Human Rights).

The aim of this seminar is to discuss the problems of equality rights and the prohibition of discrimination in the light of the latest developments in the European legal framework in this area.