



The Law Society
of England and Wales



HRC63 Side Event

Lawyers Under Siege

The Situation of Lawyers in the Russian Federation and in Exile



23 September 2026



Room IX

Palais des Nations, Geneva



13:00 - 14:00 CEST



English & Russian

Since the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the space for independent legal practice inside Russia has narrowed dramatically, and lawyers forced into exile continue to face growing transnational repression. This side event will examine the situation of independent lawyers inside Russia and in exile, and aims to formulate actionable recommendations to advance protection and support.

Speakers

- Opening remarks: **Baroness Helena Kennedy LT KC**, Director, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (*online*)
- **Mariana Katzarova**, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation
- **Vadim Prokhorov**, International Association of Russian Advocates
- **Ivan Pavlov**, First Department
- **Dr. Roya Sangi**, incoming Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Deutscher Anwaltverein

Moderator: Tara Fiechter, Lawyers for Lawyers

Webex link for remote attendance (English only) can be provided upon request

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