

ADVOCACY DAY 2023

BELARUS AT RISK

University of Padova, Beato Pellegrino Aula 4

Friday, 9th June 2023 (09.30 – 19.30 CET)

Hybrid event: <https://unipd.zoom.us/j/88952173252>

09.30 – 09.45 Greetings and Introduction:

Claudia Padovani & Francesca Helm (UniPD, SAR Italy Coordinating Committee)

Moderator: Tatiana Krivobokova (UniPD)

09.45 – 10.30

SESSION I

Padova for people at risk

With contributions from university and local actors engaging in advocacy work for at-risk scholars and students, this session provides an overview on the contemporary state of institutional support to academic freedom in Padova.

Speakers: Cristina Basso, UniPD, Vice-rector of International Relations
Assessora Francesca Benciolini, Comune di Padova
Dora Longoni, UniPD, International Relations Division
Fiona Dalziel, UniPD, Unipd4people at risk
Elena Pariotti, UniPD, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies

10.30 – 10.45 Students' calls to the University of Padova in support of academic freedom in Belarus

10.45 – 11.30

SESSION II

Academic Freedom at risk - Europe and beyond

This session salutes the recent EU Parliament Report "State of play of academic freedom in the EU Member State" and convenes members from the Parliament Research Service STOA, students and experts to discuss its merits, also in relation to the Academic Freedom Index, and potential implications in the field of advocacy for threatened scholars.

Speakers: Eszter Fay, Policy analyst, European Parliament Research Service Scientific Foresight Union (STOA)
Denise Roche, SAR Europe, Advocacy Manager

11.30 – 11.50 Students' views on the Academic Freedom Index
Closing remarks: Asli Vatansever, Bard College Berlin

11-50 – 12-15 Coffee break

11.50 – 13.30

SESSION III

Academic Freedom at risk: Belarus 2023

In view of the recent developments in Belarus, this session discusses the current threats against academic freedom in the country, existing solidarity initiatives with Belarusian intellectuals, and the main challenges and potentials of advocacy work in the context of the Belarus conflict.

Speakers: Members of European Parliament (TBC)
Dmitrij Strocev, poet
Daria Maniuk, PR Secretary of Belarusian Students' Association
Iris Kimizoglu, European Students Union, Academic Freedom Project

13.30 – 15.00

LUNCH BREAK

15.00 – 16.15

SESSION IV

Padova Students for Belarus

Advocacy Seminar students at the University of Padova introduce their own research and advocacy initiatives in solidarity with the people in Belarus, particularly threatened students and scholars.

Speakers: Student groups
Group A: 'Padova Scholarship for At-Risk Students'
Group B: 'Responsible Internationalization'
Group C: 'Guiding Belarusian and International At-Risk Students into the Host Environment'

16.15 – 17.15

SESSION V

Belarus Students: Building Alliances & Networks

This session provides visibility to ongoing advocacy initiatives to support students and scholars from Belarus, and offers networking opportunities to strengthen collaborations between Belarusian students and students in Padova and Europe.

Speakers: Hector Ulloa, Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH), Norway
Iris Kimizoglu, European Students Union (ESU)
Representative from Unione Degli Universitari (UDU)
Supolka
Semen Poznukhov, ReACT project
Students from Carleton University, Canada

17.15 – 17.30

Closing remarks

Claudia Padovani & Francesca Helm

18.00 – 19.30 Poetry reading, with Dmitrij Strocev
& international dances, with Claudio Sanna