

**21st Award Ceremony for the
Bruno Kreisky Prize for Services to Human Rights**





INVITATION TO

the 21st Award Ceremony for the Bruno Kreisky Prize for Services to Human Rights

Vienna City Hall, Friedrich-Schmidt-Platz 1, 1010 Vienna

October 22nd, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Opening:

Dr. Michael Ludwig, Mayor of Vienna

**Gouverneur a.D. Univ. Prof. Dr.
Ewald Nowotny**

Chairman of the board of trustees of the
Bruno Kreisky Foundation for Services to
Human Rights

**Keynote Speech: Attacks on independent
judiciary, academia and media**

Univ.-Prof.in Dr.in Frauke Brosius-Gersdorf
Jurist at the University of Potsdam

Award Winners:

Presentation of the Bruno Kreisky Prize to:
Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo

Laudatio: **Marijana Grandits**
Human Rights Expert

Presentation of the Bruno Kreisky Prize to:
Mag. Martin Schenk

Laudatio: **Dr. Harald Katzmair**
Sociologist and philosopher

Presentation of the Bruno Kreisky Prize to:
**UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Dr. Volker Türk**
Award Presented in Absentia

Moderation:

Univ. Prof. i.R. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb
Board Member of the Bruno Kreisky
Foundation for Services to Human Rights

Thanks and Closing Words:

Univ. Prof. i.R. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb
Board Member of the Bruno Kreisky
Foundation for Services to Human Rights

Reception to Follow



AWARD WINNERS 2026

Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Kosovo

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) was founded in 2003 as an NGO and has grown into a regional network spanning Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. YIHR Kosovo (YIHR KS) has been in existence since 2004 and has been working for two decades to protect and promote human rights and democratic values in Kosovo and the region. Over the years, YIHR KS has successfully engaged thousands of young people, established lasting cross-border partnerships, and garnered national and international recognition for its contributions to human rights and peacebuilding. Its focus areas include dealing with the past, protecting human rights and the rule of law, and empowering young people at the local and regional levels. YIHR KS's mission is to inspire young people to document human rights violations, take preventive action, advocate for their inclusion, and build partnerships to strengthen voices and promote peace. The executive director is Marigona Shabiu, who has extensive experience in civil society and relevant academic qualifications.

Mag. Martin Schenk

Martin Schenk is a social psychologist who has worked for many years at Diakonie and previously worked in youth services as well as with people with disabilities, the homeless, and those suffering from severe trauma. As a social expert, he has been committed for decades to the common good, justice, and a harmonious society, and in the mid-1990s he co-founded the Poverty Conference, where he continues to serve on the coordinating team to this day. He is a networker and the initiator of, among other things, "Hunger for Art and Culture," "Hemayat," the "Journalism Award for the Marginalized," the "Social Rights Network," and the project "Mitgehen." Using scientific evidence and the experiences of those affected, he combats myths and stigmatization and works to raise public awareness and develop solutions. He writes regularly for the street newspaper "Augustin" and teaches Social Work at the Vienna University of Applied Sciences. His book "Brot und Rosen" emphasizes both material and immaterial foundations of life. In addition, he has co-initiated relevant studies and has been a member of the Human Rights Advisory Board since 2000.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Dr. Volker Türk

Dr. Türk assumed his post as the eighth United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva in October 2022.

Prior to that, Dr. Türk served as Under-Secretary-General for Policy (2021–2022) and Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York (2019–2021). In this role, he coordinated system-wide strategic initiatives and policy issues, including the Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda"—a vision for strengthening multilateralism that served as the basis for the Future Summit and the Future Pact.

As Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees for Protection at UNHCR in Geneva (2015–2019), Dr. Türk played a central role, among other things, in the development of the Global Compact on Refugees. Prior to that, Dr. Türk held key positions with UNHCR in Geneva as well as in various countries, including Malaysia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Kuwait.

Dr. Türk earned his Ph.D. in international law from the University of Vienna and has published numerous academic works on international refugee law and international human rights issues.



Bruno Kreisky Prize for Services to Human Rights - Award Ceremony

www.kreisky.org/human.rights

Organisation: Univ. Prof. i.R. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb

For security reasons, admission to the event is granted only upon **personal registration via email** at office@kreisky-menschenrechte.org, providing the following information: *first name, last name, address, and cell phone number*, no later than **October 15, 2026**, as well as upon presentation of an **official form of identification** (passport, ID card, driver's license) for identification purposes.

Admission is only permitted until 6:15 p.m.

