



INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU  
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EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and Caritas  
Czech Republic have the pleasure to invite you to a  
seminar

## ***“Contemporary Russia and the Chechen Issue in Russian Politics”***

**Oksana Chelyseva**

(The Russian-Chechen Friendship Society)

and

**Dagmar Ostřanská**

(Caritas Czech Republic)

**February 14, 2008**

**11:15 – 12:45**

**By invitations only**

**Chatham House Rules**

**Working language: English**

**Venue:**

Europeum Institute for European Policy, Rytířská 31, Prague 1, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
floor, room 201

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### **Oksana Chelyseva**

Oksana Chelyseva was born in Zaporozhye city, USSR (Ukraine) in 1968 and graduated from the Nizhny Novgorod State Linguistic University. She worked with a number of media outlets covering the issue of preservation of historical and architectural heritage of Russia. She joined the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society in 2003 as the editor of the News Agency run by the organization. An ardent defender of human rights, she has contributed to developing a number of projects to raise the issue of human rights abuses in the course of the conflict in the North Caucasus and contributing to establishing trust and understanding between the ethnic groups of Russia and North Caucasus. She represented the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society at a number of international events. During the school siege in Beslan of September 2004, she made an attempt to mediate with the leaders of the moderate side of the Chechen resistance to prevent the casualties and contribute to the resolution of the crisis. After the criminal conviction of the RCFS chair, Stas Dmitrievskiy, and the ban on the RCFS under the anti-extremist legislation, she contributed to establishing a new legal entity of the RCFS in Finland and raising more and more frequent case of HR and public activists' persecution. She is also a columnist with the Nizhny Novgorod edition of the Novaya Gazeta.

### **Dagmar Ostřanská**

Dagmar Ostřanská was born in Czechoslovakia in 1974. She studied history of arts and Ukrainian philology at Masaryk University in Brno. In 1997–1999, she studied Ukrainian philology at the State University of T.H. Shevchenko in Kiev, Ukraine. In 2002–2004, she worked as a financial manager and coordinator of a project implemented by People in Need, Mission to the Northern Caucasus, Russia. In 2004 – 2006, she was positioned at Simferopol, Ukraine. She worked

as a UN volunteer (UNAIDS) embedded in Crimean Branch of All-Ukrainian Network of people living with HIV/AIDS as a PR manager. She is responsible for program realized by Caritas Czech Republic in the Northern Caucasus since November 2006. Between February and August 2007, she was head of mission of Caritas Czech Republic to the Northern Caucasus.