

Eleanor Bindman

Specialist in Russian politics at Queen Mary University of London 2014-2017. Formerly Lecturer in Politics at University of Manchester. Her PhD looked at the role played by human rights issues within EU-Russia relations. Current research explores the role of non-state actors such as NGOs and commercial enterprises in delivering social services in Russia.



Anna Bitova

Director of Center for Curative Pedagogics in Moscow. Speech therapist and co-author of programmes aimed at creating an effective system of rehabilitation, education and integration of children with mental disabilities, as well as training professionals working in this field. Involved in developing the concept of reform of the care system for children with disabilities in Russia.



Charles Buxton

Regional Programme Manager VSO (East Europe and FSU region, 1996-2001), Central Asia Programme Manager for INTRAC (International NGO Training & Research Centre) based in Bishkek since 2001. Current work includes training, consultancy and research projects in civil society and community development, strategic planning, partnership building, programme and organisation evaluation.



Nino Dvalidze

Vice-Rector of Ilia State University in Tbilisi since June 2014, Head of its Office of Development and Foreign Relations 2010-2014. Initiated, developed and pioneered several social responsibility projects launched at ISU over the past 5 years such as ISU Science Picnic, Children's Multifunctional Development Clinic, Young Explorers' Club, Science Café, etc.



Anna Garchakova

Founder and Director of Belarusian Children’s Hospice, Minsk. Initiator of palliative care in Belarus, having put much effort into the promotion of palliative care and the development of child palliative care services in Belarus, establishing new hospices and palliative care programmes, also providing support to bereaved parents.



Yaroslav Minkin

After 15 years in Yalta (Crimea) and 15 in Luhansk (Donbas), forced to relocate to Western Ukraine. Founded and from 2008 head of NGO ‘STAN Art Group’. In 2015 started a project Promoting Dialogue and Reconciliation in Ukrainian’s Regions to debunk myths and challenge stereotypes about IDPs. Poet and cultural expert.



Elena Topoleva-Soldunova

Since 1994 Director of the Agency for Social Information (ASI). Active member of NGO community in Russia, encouraging both business and NGOs to become more responsible, transparent and accountable. Member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation since 2010. 2012-2015 member of the Council on Civil Society Development and Human Rights and Chair of the Commission on NGO development.



Arkady Tyurin

Homeless for two years in his 30's, has since devoted his life to support for homeless people, especially in the street paper movement since 1997 and the homeless football movement since 2003. Author of numerous articles, books, films, radio programmes and documentaries raising awareness of issues of homelessness.

