



The Freedom
to Write



Symposium on defending Democratic Values and fighting against Russian Propaganda

September 23 - Rooms Hotel Tbilisi, Garden Hall

09:30-10:00	Welcome Coffee
10:00-10:30	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thomas Melia - Washington Director, PEN America• Paata Shamugia - President, PEN Georgia• Eka Gigauri - Executive Director, Transparency International Georgia• Elizabeth Rood - Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. embassy to Georgia (tbc)
10:30-11:00	Keynote Speaker: Gela Charkviani - Georgian Diplomat, Writer <i>Moderated by Paata Shamugia</i>
11:00-12:30	<u>Freedom of expression and Democratic Values in Transitional countries</u> <i>Moderated by Paata Shamugia</i> Thomas Melia - Washington Director, PEN America Lasha Bughadze - Georgian Novelist and Playwright Maia Mikashavidze - Professor, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs Giorgi Lobjanidze - Georgia Poet, Translator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the place of free expression in the panoply of democratic values;• Why is freedom of speech central to all human rights?• How has Georgia built a regime of freedom of speech over the past 25 years• What does it look like when it works well? What are some of the complications that make it difficult, even the most free and democratic society, to maintain freedom of expression?• Sharing U.S. experience
12:30-13:30	Networking Lunch
13:30-15:00	<u>Session 2 - The dangers of Russian propaganda to a free society</u> <i>Moderated by Eka Gigauri</i> Dato Turashvili - Georgian Writer Giorgi Kekelidze - Director, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia Gvantsa Jobava - Chairwoman of the board, Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association Przemysław Witkowski - Polish poet, journalist and publicist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soviet and Post-Soviet Propaganda• Various forms that Russian propaganda takes• How the Russians try to exploit the freedoms that exist in Georgia and the U.S.• What might happen if it is permitted to go unopposed• Specific measures to fight back and the roles that writers could play in building a robust free speech culture
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	<u>Session 3 - Next steps: What can be done together? - Open Discussion</u> <i>Moderated by Rati Amaglobeli & Marina Vashakmadze</i>
17:00-19:00	<u>Reception at Rooms Garden</u>