



# AGENDA

## Annual International Conference Transforming Local Challenges into Advocacy Action: Empowering Civil Society for Rights-Based Advocacy

Dates: 21–22 November 2025

Location: “PORTO BELLA” Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Organized by:

- Alisher Navoiy Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature (TSUULL)
- Association of Central Asia Representative Office (ACARO), Uzbekistan
- British Embassy in Tashkent

National Partner: Ombudsperson (Commissioner for Human Rights of Uzbekistan)

Academic Lead & Moderator: Prof. Gulnoza Mamarasulova (TSUULL)

### Purpose of conference

This national-level cross-sectoral dialogue and training event was designed to promote evidence-based advocacy, gender equality, and human-rights-based approaches within Uzbekistan’s civil society and education systems, directly contributing to SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

TSUULL served as a co-organizer and academic partner, providing intellectual leadership, moderation, and research-based guidance. The university’s participation ensured a strong linkage between academic expertise, NGO practice, and government policy dialogue — meeting the Times Higher Education (THE) definition of cross-sectoral engagement in SDG implementation

### THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

Opening and Welcoming Remarks

#### Speakers:

- Feruza Eshmatova – Ombudsperson
- Helen Brodrick – British Embassy
- Pulat Ahunov – Association of Central Asia
- Azamjon Formonov – “Legal Support” NGO

10.30 - 11.20

Moderator: Prof. Gulnoza Mamarasulova (TSUULL)

#### Objectives:

To open the event and establish a collaborative framework among government, NGOs, academia, and international partners.

Format: Plenary panel session







10:30–11:15	<b>Session 1: What Are Human Rights?</b> <i>Objective: Explore core human rights principles and state obligations.</i> <i>Format: Mini-lecture + interactive discussion</i>
11:30–13:00	<b>Session 2: Gender Equality and Discrimination</b> <i>Objective: Identify and analyze various forms of discrimination in society and education.</i> <i>Format: Case studies + “Invisible Discrimination” exercise</i>
14:00–15:15	<b>Session 3: Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups</b> <i>Objective: Discuss how advocacy can address the needs of women, youth, and persons with disabilities.</i> <i>Format: Group work</i>
15:30–17:00	<b>Session 4: Introduction to Advocacy — From Rights to Action</b> <i>Objective: Understand collaboration models between NGOs and universities in advocacy work.</i> <i>Format: Interactive lecture + group discussion</i>
<div>.....<div>End of Day 1</div>.....</div> <div><b>FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER</b></div>	
09:30–10:00	<b>Reflection on Day 1</b> <i>Objective: Exchange insights, key takeaways, and changing perspectives.</i> <i>Format: Group dialogue</i>
10:00–11:30	<b>Presentation of Homework</b> <i>Objective: Participants present local community challenges they identified for advocacy.</i> <i>Format: Short presentations + peer feedback</i>
11:45–12:30	<b>Session 5: From Problem to Solution — What Can NGOs Do?</b> <i>Objective: Develop concrete NGO-centered responses through multi-stakeholder collaboration.</i> <i>Format: Group work: “What can we change ourselves?”</i>







12:30–13:15	<i>Session 6: Simple Steps of Advocacy</i> <i>Objective: Introduce practical advocacy tools, such as petitions, social media, and public dialogue.</i> <i>Format: Practical exercise</i>
14:00–14:30	<i>Session 7: Practical Action Plan</i> <i>Objective: Draft individual or institutional advocacy strategies.</i> <i>Format: Workshop session</i>
14:30–16:00	<i>Closing and Certificate Ceremony</i> <i>Objective: Summarize results, share reflections, and award certificates.</i> <i>Format: Reflection circle + distribution of certificates</i>

## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

- Strengthened cooperation between academia, NGOs, and government institutions
- Development of 20+ community-based advocacy plans
- Enhanced civil society capacity in monitoring SDG progress
- TSUULL recognized as a long-term academic policy partner for SDG implementation

