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**List of participants at the meetings**

- **Lyudmyla Kozlovska (Ukraine)**, President of the Open Dialogue Foundation (ODF) and a human rights defender from Ukraine. ODF is known for its support for Ukraine during the Maidan Revolution, its response to Russian aggression in 2014, and its advocacy campaigns to protect political prisoners. ODF has been campaigning for the Rule of Law in Poland since 2017, winning several libel cases against top government officials and other court disputes with the country's increasingly oppressive authorities. Despite the enforced transnational persecution with SIS II mechanisms and disconnection from the banking system (following the abuse of AML/CFT laws and state-sponsored smear campaign), ODF has managed to operate and raise emergency funds for Ukraine through the use of crypto-assets like Bitcoin and Tether. Ms. Kozlovska advocates for EU regulators to provide remedies and prevent misuse of AML/CFT laws and support civil society activists using Bitcoin and stablecoins to address financial exclusion, political oppression and the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- **Rafael Cordon (Guatemala)**, leader of ITZDATA, an IT consulting company with extensive experience in cloud platform solutions. In 2023, ITZDATA successfully implemented the Immutable Backup solution (Respaldo Inalterable) for the Guatemalan Supreme Elections Tribunal, [safeguarding election documents and preventing unauthorized alterations](#).
- **Jorge Jraissati (Venezuela)**, President of the Organization for Economic Inclusion, a global coalition uniting youth leaders, industry experts, and policymakers. Its mission is to safeguard democracy by advancing economic inclusion and opportunity, especially among the youth. The organization's areas of focus include advocating for financial reforms that guarantee a "*right to banking*" for all people and ensuring that young people have representation in policy decisions. Jorge is also an economist and a researcher at IESE Business School for the Center for Public Leadership and Government. His articles can be found in publications like Economic Affairs, the Brookings Institution, and Foreign Policy. He has been a guest speaker at institutions like the European Parliament, forums like the Copenhagen Democracy Summit, and universities like Cambridge and Harvard.
- **Nischal Dhungel (Nepal)**, an international development economist with four years of professional experience with a focus on Asia, Latin America, and Africa, and member of Organization for Economic Inclusion. Currently serves as a Social Inclusion and Gender Specialist at The World Bank. Responsible for the Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Program (EHPMP), identifying and addressing gender and social inclusion challenges and opportunities and conducting regional level policy analysis and recommendations associated with environmental pollution across Sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia). He has worked with multilateral organizations such as USAID and the British Council, as well as national policy research think tanks. He has given lectures at the State Department, contributed to The Economist, and has a master's degree in economics from Bard College.

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- **Obi Nwosu (UK)**, CEO & Founder of Fedi, former CEO of a regulated Bitcoin exchange Coinfloor in the UK. Nwosu advocated and worked with regulators, including the House of Commons Treasury Committee, advised the police, the Bank of England, HM Revenue & Customs and the intelligence services in the UK. Coinfloor worked closely with regulatory advisors across Europe. Nwosu will describe the reason why civil society and politically persecuted groups were unintentionally marginalised because of the way the existing AML/CFT regulations and directives work within the UK and in the EU.
- **Anna Chekhovich (Russia)**, financial director of Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) from Russia. Targeted by Putin's regime, the foundation has gradually lost access to financial institutions. FBK has been using Bitcoin since 2015 to help overcome financial repression. At that time, the Russian government began blocking the bank accounts of various foundations, even those very loosely connected to the FBK. Mr. Navalny and his family have also had their personal accounts frozen as did many people who worked on the FBK team. Bitcoin has given them a financial tool away from the reach of Putin's regime.
- **Frank Corva (United States)**, Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Applied Linguistics from Teachers College at Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Communications from New York University. Frank has lived, studied, and worked in Ghana, Italy, Japan, and Venezuela but is based in New York City. Frank is currently [the Business Correspondent for Bitcoin Magazine](#) and [a contributor at Forbes Digital Assets](#), and also interviews guests from the Global South for his podcast, ["New Renaissance Capital"](#). As both writer and podcaster, he looks at how Bitcoin helps those who have been disenfranchised by or cut off from the traditional financial system. Before working as a writer and podcaster, Frank taught college-level writing courses to non-native English speakers and [trained ESL/ENL teachers at Teachers College, Columbia University](#), New York University, Baruch College (CUNY), and Hunter College (CUNY). He also helped create [an online course for the United Nations' SDG Academy](#), [upgraded a trade school in rural Ghana](#), [taught at a high school in a barrio of Barquisimeto, Venezuela](#), and counselled Holocaust survivors.
- **Bota Jardemalie (Kazakhstan, political asylum in Belgium)**, a Harvard Law graduate, a licensed attorney in the State of New York, and a human rights defender from Kazakhstan. For years, she had defended the Kazakh opposition, political activists, human rights defenders and victims of torture, advocates for human rights, democracy, and the fight against corruption. In 2013, Bota Jardemalie was granted political asylum in Belgium due to the extraordinary risks she faced in the form of reprisals by Kazakhstan against her for her legal work against the regime. The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) recognises Jardemalie as *"lawyer in danger"*.