



# CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>1</b>	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>ABOUT THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	Volunteers and interns	10
<b>3</b>	<b>COALITIONS AND INITIATIVES OF THE CCL</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1	The activity of the Human Rights Agenda Platform	13
3.2	Overcoming the consequences of armed conflict	16
3.3	The #PrisonersVoice campaign and actions in support of Kremlin prisoners	19
3.4	The OZON civic monitoring group	22
3.5	Euromaidan SOS Volunteer Award	24
<b>4</b>	<b>PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CERTAIN VULNERABLE GROUPS</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>LEGAL EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>CCL TEAM</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND WORK WITH THE MEDIA</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL REPORT 2020</b>	<b>43</b>

# 1 OPENING REMARKS

## STARTING CONDITIONS

Seven years ago, people came out en masse against a corrupt authoritarian regime that decided to curtail European integration. They fought for their democratic choice and for living in a country where everyone's rights are protected, the government is accountable and controlled, the courts are fair and independent, and the police do not disperse peaceful student demonstrations. And they paid a pretty high price for it.

When the Yanukovich regime fell, Ukraine was given the opportunity to carry out a democratic transformation. And this was already a direct danger to the authoritarian Putin regime. To stop Ukraine

on this path, Russia occupied Crimea and launched a hybrid war in the Donbas. Whereas Russia has recognized the establishment of its control over the Crimean peninsula, although not immediately, it still denies its participation in the war in the Donbas.

A few years ago, in its report, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court noted that in August 2014, an international armed conflict began in Donbas. In other words, the war with the Russian Federation.

All these seven years, Ukraine has been facing two tasks: to build stable democratic institutions and to withstand the war. Therefore, speaking of the interim results, it should

be said that Ukraine continues to follow the democratic path outlined by the Revolution of Dignity. However, the pace of the country's movement on this path is determined by a number of serious challenges. And since I will talk about these issues further, because we have to treat them responsibly, I immediately want to make an important emphasis. The maintenance of change of power and democratic elections, strengthening local communities as a result of decentralization are albeit small but positive changes in a number of indicators of the Freedom House's annual report "Nations in Transition". And this is a significant achievement in these difficult circumstances.

## THE FIRST CHALLENGE IS REFORMS

After the Revolution of Dignity, the country did not experience a reboot of the political system and

a change of elites. That actually explains a lot. The government, like a tightrope walker, balanced between

the need to carry out radical reforms and maintain control in the context of periodic election cycles. As a result,

the successful reform of the police patrol service was not synchronized with changes in other police departments. As a result, a man politely detained on the street by a new patrolman could be taken to the police station, where an old “cop” was waiting for the detained. This situation is analyzed in detail in the Chatham House report, which was published before the presidential election. Yes, over these seven years, the country has experienced more

positive changes than in the previous twenty. However, the truth is that none of these positive changes has reached its point of no return.

In the last presidential and parliamentary elections, the society had a huge demand for new faces and a new quality of politics. Ukraine followed the world trend, and Volodymyr Zelenskyy won the election by a huge margin. As a classic populist, he claimed to represent the voice of the people against a corrupt political elite. At the

same time, he had a broad mandate of public trust to carry out systemic reforms, which he, unfortunately, did not take advantage of. Apart from a number of positive developments, such as lifting the moratorium on land sales, he has failed to strengthen democratic institutions. The recent crisis over the Constitutional Court’s decision on anti-corruption legislation proves this.

## THE SECOND CHALLENGE IS WAR

The war is not just about direct consequences such as 13 thousand dead, 23 thousand wounded, one and a half million displaced people, occupied Crimea and Donbas, 5,5 million people who remained in these territories, or hundreds of political prisoners. Under the conditions of protracted armed conflict, any society experiences an increase in the pain threshold and the level of polarization. The war unites only at the beginning and then divides even more. The answer to this should be the effective introduction of transitional justice mechanisms. The war brought a lot of pain, thousands of people became victims of war crimes. It is important that society’s demand for

justice is implemented in the legal field, otherwise, it may turn into a demand for revenge. Unfortunately, Ukraine is still only at the beginning of this path.

Solely in terms of the occupied territories, leaving the circumstances that Ukraine can not influence aside, that is, Putin’s aggressive policy, there are two tasks that have to be done to overcome the consequences of the armed conflict. First, to demonstrate the success of reforms and the convincing attractiveness of the democratic model. Secondly, to keep



*Photo by  
Valentyna  
Lutsenko*

in touch with the people in the occupied territories so that they feel the protection of the Ukrainian state. Instead, all these years the authorities have been

making mostly declarations: “Crimea is Ukraine”, “Donbas is Ukraine”. These are very correct declarations, but they are barely supported by real action.

## THE THIRD CHALLENGE IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Volunteers and NGOs enjoy the highest levels of trust compared to state and other public institutions. They have become the locomotives of positive change in various fields and at various levels. But civil society in Ukraine is fragmented. It works on its narrow topics and solves local problems. Some promote an anti-corruption agenda, some fight for human rights, some protect the environment. As a result, civil society has not developed a consolidated position, such a broad public agenda that could have been imposed on all political forces in the last election and promoted in society. A clear example of this situation is the rather weak mobilization of civil society in response to the introduction of the

obligation to submit electronic declarations for anti-corruption activists. The weak reaction led to a shift to tougher methods of pressure and the cessation of activities of civil society activists in the regions. So far, with the exception of the Who Ordered Katya Gandziuk initiative, there are no examples of a systematic effort to protect active people across the country.

In addition, civil society is quite detached from ordinary people. In 2019, sociologists for the first time registered a decline in civic activity to 7.5%. Therefore, the urgent task for civil society is to build clear communication with society, to go beyond the cozy activist “ghetto” and to involve as many people as possible in public work.

*“Of course, the citizens of Ukraine themselves are responsible for democratic change in the country, but the challenges we face, first and foremost, the war with Russia, are not being addressed within national borders.”*

## AND THE FOURTH CHALLENGE IS THE

## INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

All the problems we have faced in Ukraine are a direct reflection of the global crisis in the post-war world. This crisis, like a severe illness, manifests itself in different ways. In some countries, there is an intensification of authoritarian regimes and persecution of civil society. New gray areas are emerging on the map as a result of the abandonment of the international principle of inviolability of borders. Frozen conflicts are breaking out. People come out on peaceful protests and face brutal violence in return. But even in developed democracies in the EU, populist radical forces are gaining more and more support, and politicians are openly denying the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This

undermines the importance of the EU as a role model for countries in transition.

Of course, the citizens of Ukraine themselves are responsible for democratic change in the country, but the challenges we face, first and foremost, the war with Russia, are not being addressed within national borders. Despite the fact that interest in Ukraine is declining due to objective reasons, the country needs it more than ever.

Therefore, Ukraine is still in a “transition period” and is following the path outlined by the Revolution of Dignity. There is inertia which benefits from the weakness of state institutions, the low legal culture of the population, and sometimes just the irresponsible attitude of the ruling elite. While an active civil society opposes it. Thousands

of ordinary people took responsibility for the development of the country in this difficult period. These people, in fact, perform state functions without special resources or powers. The question of whether this “Euromaidan energy” will help to make a qualitative leap and get out of the “turbulence zone” is being solved nowadays.

Success on this path is important not only for Ukraine. I often mention the words of my colleagues, Russian human rights defenders. When I asked them what we could do to help, they said, “Be successful!” Ukraine’s success will have an inevitable impact on the entire region, where freedom in some countries is reduced to the size of a prison cell.

**OLEKSANDRA MATVIYCHUK**

**Chairwoman of the Board of the  
Center for Civil Liberties**

*(Introductory speech to the 16th International  
Annual Conference of the Kyiv Dialogue)*



[www.ccl.org.ua](http://www.ccl.org.ua)

[fb.com/ccl.org.ua](https://fb.com/ccl.org.ua)



## 2 ABOUT THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) is a Ukrainian human rights organization founded in 2007. The CCL conducts monitoring and analysis of draft laws for compliance with human rights standards, carries out public oversight over law enforcement agencies, courts, and local authorities, the investigation of the crimes committed during the Maidan events, documents political persecution, human rights violations, and war crimes in the Donbas, conducts educational activities in the field of human rights and democracy, international solidarity, etc.

### OUR MISSION:



The establishment of human rights, democracy, and solidarity in Ukraine and the OSCE region for the affirmation of human dignity.

### VISION:



CCL is one of the leading actors in Ukraine, influencing the formation of public opinion and public policy, supporting the development of civic activism, and actively participating in international networks and solidarity actions to promote human rights in the OSCE region.

### OUR VALUES:

*respect for human dignity;*

*freedom and human rights;*

*the rule of law;*

*democracy;*



*solidarity;*

*impartiality;*

*non-discrimination.*

## 2.1 Volunteers and interns



During 2020, the organization continued to recruit and engage new volunteers to the human rights movement, despite the challenges posed by the spread of the pandemic. During 2020, 74 people applied for membership in the community of volunteers. After the selection, the CCL staff held information meetings, during which those interested had the opportunity to learn more about the tasks of volunteering, team structure, history of the organization, and principles of work. In total, 9 such meetings were held for 47 people. About 20 new members joined





the volunteer community.

During the year, volunteers helped to organize flash mobs, public rallies, collecting letters to political prisoners, communications in social media, engaged in the preparation of analytical papers, and OZON monitorings, participated in the initiatives of #Prisoner's Voice, and the Human Rights Agenda. On August 26 in different countries, a global flash mob of the initiative #BelarusWatch was organized with the participation of our volunteers. Large and regular events such as the National Human Rights #NonConference 2020 and the Volunteer Award 2020 were held online for the first time and CCL volunteers also took an active part in their organization and holding.

The work of the CCL team in 2020 was strengthened by the internship program. The opportunity of the internship for foreign interns was limited due to the epidemiological situation. Nevertheless, we managed to attract about a dozen new interns from Belarus, who were forced to leave their homes due to the political crisis and persecution. We are integrating Belarusian activists together with our partners, in particular with the Free Belarus Center.

Louise Nilsson, a student of the human rights master's program at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), got a remote internship at the CCL and later arrived



in Ukraine to be physically present. During this time, Louise Nilsson familiarized herself with the work of the CCL and the activity of Ukrainian human rights activists. "What makes me get out of bed in the morning is the opportunity to be useful to those who need it, to promote human rights and to protect human rights defenders," says Louise Nilsson.

# 3 COALITIONS AND INITIATIVES OF THE CCL



*LET MY PEOPLE GO!*





## 3.1 The activity of the Human Rights Agenda Platform

During 2020, the informal coalition of human rights organizations, the Human Rights Agenda Platform (HRA), continued to work in the field of monitoring, analysis, and development of legislation in accordance with the basic principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Human Rights Agenda has prepared 6 statements and appeals to the authorities to protect fundamental rights and freedoms. Together with partners, we signed

more than 55 statements and appeals, developed recommendations for the preparation of the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights, which outlined the following topics: administration of justice, prosecution and the rule of law, prevention of torture and ill-treatment, freedom of expression and protection of journalists, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, protection of civil society, prevention of gender-based and domestic

violence, implementation of international humanitarian law and peace-building, and the establishment and development of a national human rights institution.

We also prepared a resolution in which the coalition focused on the most striking violations committed by the state, such as the issue of systematic persecution of civil society activists in the occupied Crimea and the situation in Belarus.

## JUDICIAL REFORM AND JURY TRIAL

During the year, we continued to work on judicial reform and the introduction of the classical model of the jury. Although, after the resignation of the government in March, the Cabinet of Ministers withdrew the bills, we continued to work on the judicial reform and the promotion of the classic jury model. Together with

representatives of the Ministry of Justice and deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, we held a press conference, during which we presented the government with bills proposing respective amendments. With the participation of experts and MPs, we held several thematic online meetings,

where we stressed the need to introduce a jury trial, and also participated in hearings in the Verkhovna Rada on the bill on the jury trial. We also held an online webinar on jury trials, which was viewed by about 100 YouTube users, prepared and submitted expert recommendations to the Legal Policy Committee to the text of bill № 3843.



Within the 5th Annual National Human Rights #NonConference, we organized a discussion on judicial

reform, reaching more than 600 Facebook users. With regard to the resolving of the constitutional crisis, the HRA

made a statement and held a joint press conference.

## REFORM OF THE SECURITY SERVICE OF UKRAINE

In 2020, within the framework of the HRA, we worked on the topic of reforming the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). We took part in 20 meetings of the working group of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Security and Defense. Our experts prepared two conclusions,

which were submitted to the Verkhovna Rada Committee for consideration when amending the draft law on the SBU. The HRA prepared an infographic and published 2 statements on the draft law on the SBU.

We organized two online events dedicated to the

problematic issues of the bill and the reform in general. The topic of reforming the SBU was discussed at one of the panels within the framework of the 5th Annual National Human Rights #NonConference. More than 600 YouTube and Facebook users have joined in viewing our events.

## STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE



## OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE

In 2020, the Center for Civil Liberties within the HRA Platform worked on the topic of the Ombudsman institute. We held several working meetings at the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, during which we influenced the decision

on the preparation of a new draft law on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. In addition, we submitted an expert opinion to the new bill № 3312. The HRA organized two online discussions on reforming the institution

of the Commissioner with the participation of human rights defenders, government officials, and international organizations. Our events have attracted the attention of over 350 YouTube and Facebook users.

## COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

During 2020, we have conducted a public campaign in support of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. We have

organized a number of online webinars on the protection of victims of domestic violence. Our discussions garnered about 400 views

on YouTube. We also conducted an information campaign on social media, raising issues of combating domestic violence.

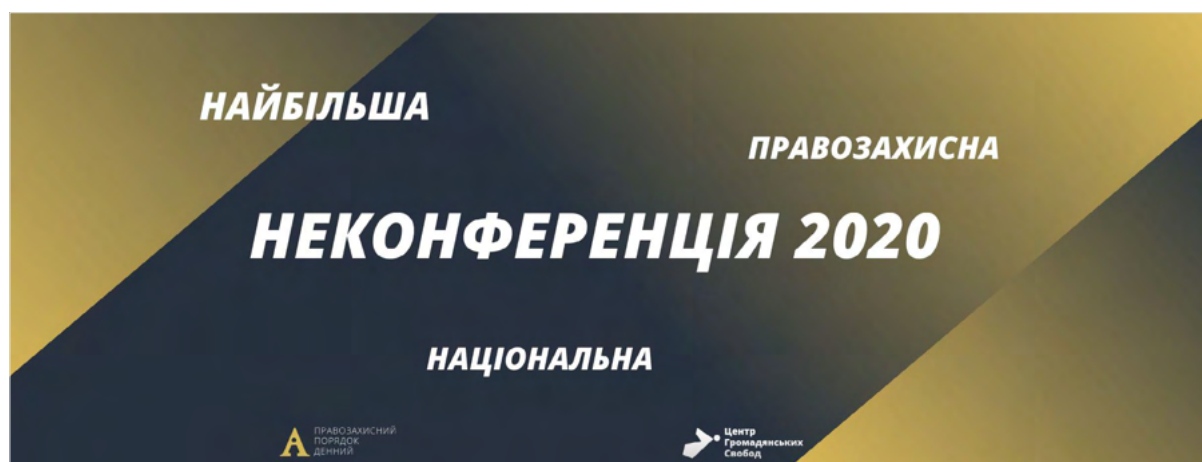
## FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NONCONFERENCE

In 2020, the Annual Human Rights #NonConference was held online because of quarantine restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the fifth year in a row, the HRA has been holding a #NonConference. The main feature of the event is a combination of different formats: thematic workshops working simultaneously and covering a variety of topics – from the protection of LGBT rights to Kremlin prisoners, the problems in Belarus and Transnistria.

This year, 27 different workshops worked during the event in cooperation with 18 partner organizations. More than 200 participants registered to participate in the #NonConference, and 2,000 viewers from across the OSCE region joined the conference online.

An integral part of the NonConference is the awarding of the nominee selected by the members of the HRA Platform with the National Human Rights Prize. In 2020, the laureate of the National

Human Rights Award was human rights activist Yulia Sachuk and Roman Martynovsky. Yulia Sachuk is the head of the NGO Fight for Right, initiator of the advocacy campaign #derzhkoshtynedlyaobrananykh (state money is not for chosen ones) during the development and approval of the annual budget. Roman Martynovsky is a Crimean lawyer who founded the Regional Center for Human Rights and has prepared a number of reports to cover illegal displacement, citizenship issues,



protection of property rights,  
and religious persecution.

An important area of Roman  
Martynovsky's work is to

help Crimean prisoners.

## 3.2 Overcoming the consequences of armed conflict

### CAMPAIGN TO PASS THE BILL ON WAR CRIMINALS

Throughout the year, we have made every effort to draw attention to the draft law on war criminals. We held a joint press conference with the participation of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Legislative Support of Law Enforcement and the Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as the authors of the bill and

former prisoners. We also organized a round table on "The relevance of the full implementation in the Criminal Code of Ukraine of international criminal and humanitarian law on prosecution for international crimes" in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with the participation of MPs, representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, SBU, Armed Forces, and other public authorities,

as well as representatives of international organizations and embassies. Following the round table, human rights activists and deputies adopted a joint resolution calling for support for the bill №2689.

As part of the work to promote the law on war criminals, we held more than 50 advocacy meetings with representatives of the International Criminal Court, the Minister of Veterans of Ukraine, MPs, representatives of the





veterans' movement, and participated in meetings of the profile committee.

During the year, we have continued to remind deputies of the necessity to pass the bill and inform the public about the issue. We also launched an online campaign about war crimes and the punishment of such crimes. In particular, under the walls of the Verkhovna Rada with the participation of former prisoners and relatives of political prisoners, we held 2 public rallies in support of the law on war

criminals: art performance "Putin's House of Cards", in cooperation with the Platform of Cultural Initiatives "Isolation", and rally "Alarm clocks for parliament", during which participants set a deadline for parliamentarians to adopt the bill. Our actions were covered on more than 60 mass media.

During the campaign in support of the bill on war criminals, we organized and participated in more than 15 expert discussions and events, prepared two appeals that were signed by 10 human

rights organizations, held a briefing for embassies and international organizations, conducted an expert study that was presented at the online presentation "Challenges of war for legislation and law enforcement practice". We conducted the analysis of the comments received from various political forces on the bill № 2689. The HRA advocacy campaign has contributed to the fact that more than 80 news articles and reports were written and filmed about the bill.

#### CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE ROME STATUTE

Back in June 2019, the three-year postponement of the entry into force of the new constitutional provisions, which pave the way for the ratification of the Rome Statute, expired. However, in 2020, neither the President nor the parliament

initiated the ratification of the Rome Statute.

Throughout the year, the Human Rights Agenda continued to remind the society and the state of the need to ratify the Rome Statute. We joined the statement of international organizations in defense

of the International Criminal Court, held an online discussion to elucidate the main pros and cons of the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, with the participation of Prosecutor General of Ukraine (2019-2020) Ruslan



Ryaboshapka, and director of the program “Law” of the Ukrainian Institute for the Future Oleksandr Chebanenko. About 200 YouTube users watched the discussion.

We have tried to dispel the myths and fears surrounding the ratification of the Rome Statute on all possible online platforms. On International Justice Day, we conducted online lectures “And justice for all”, which were viewed by more than 200 people. Our comments on the importance for Ukraine to ratify the Rome Statute were published in the columns of leading Ukrainian media.

At the meeting with the prosecutors of the ICC, we discussed the prospects of ratification of the Rome Statute. During the conversation, we also touched upon problematic issues that may

hinder ratification, in particular, the creation of myths by politicians around the topic of ratification. In total, in 2020, in support of the ratification of the Rome Statute, the HRA held more than ten meetings and events.

Another important step in establishing justice, which will affect not only the future work of the CCL but also the possibility of prosecuting accomplices of the Putin regime, was the report of the International Criminal Court. The ICC has completed a preliminary examination of the situation in Ukraine since 24 February 2014, which was opened on the basis of statements by the Government of Ukraine recognizing the jurisdiction of the ICC. According to a preliminary examination, the ICC qualified crimes committed in the context of hostilities

in Donbas, in the Crimea, and during detentions constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. In this context, the need for Ukraine to ratify the Rome Statute becomes very important. This will strengthen the ICC’s ability to bring those responsible for crimes in the Crimea and Donbas to justice.

### 3.3 The #PrisonersVoice campaign and actions in support of Kremlin prisoners

For the seventh year in a row, the CCL, together with partner organizations, has been campaigning for the release of all Ukrainian prisoners of the Kremlin. Since 2014, the activity has been carried out within the framework of the #LetMyPeopleGo and #SaveOlegSentsov campaigns. In 2020, we continued to fight for every Ukrainian prisoner in Russia and the occupied territories as part of the #PrisonersVoice campaign, with one of our main slogans – become the voice of the Kremlin prisoners! Together with our partners, we are working to ensure that the issue of Ukrainian political prisoners and hostages remains relevant on any international platform. We are continuing our information campaign focusing on the Kremlin prisoners.

Thanks to the joint work of campaign partners, the Ukrainian government, the international community, and the activism of lawyers, relatives, and support groups, six Kremlin prisoners have been



released from prison. Also, in April, 20 Ukrainian citizens who were illegally detained in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine as part of the exchange. Despite this, 16 new illegal detentions took place in Crimea this year. Therefore, as of the end of 2020, the campaign is taking care of the fate of 102 illegally imprisoned Ukrainians in Russian prisons and in the occupied Crimea, as well as at

least two hundred Ukrainian hostages in the basements of the occupied Donbas.

This year, former Kremlin hostages, film director Oleg Sentsov, journalists Stanislav Aseyev and Roman Sushchenko, public figure Mykola Karpyuk, and others actively joined the #PrisonersVoice campaign. The campaign responded promptly to challenges posed by the threat of COVID-19 proliferation. Within the #PrisonersVoice campaign,



Oleksandra Matviychuk initiated a statement demanding an urgent response from the UN, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE, and their member states on the catastrophic risks of coronavirus spread in closed prisons in the occupied territories of Crimea and Donbas where many Ukrainian citizens are behind bars in fabricated criminal cases. 139 organizations from 41 countries supported and published this appeal.

To make the issue known to the general public, the statement was transformed into a petition and posted on Change.org. Within the campaign, a series of promotional videos #Manifesto\_PrisonersVoice was created, in which famous writers, journalists, actors, and musicians became the voice of the Kremlin hostages and asked to support the Ukrainian prisoners of the Kremlin and their relatives. The promotional campaign was joined by TV presenter, journalist Yanina Sokolova, actor, director, TV presenter Akhtem Seitablayev, human rights defender Oleksandra Matviychuk, religious scholar and former Kremlin hostage Igor Kozlovsky, theater and film actress Rymma Ziubina, frontman of Bumboks band Andriy Khlyvniuk, singers, members of the band "TNMK" Oleksander

Sydorenko and Oleg Mykhailiuta, radio host, DJ Vlad Fisun, journalist and TV presenter Yuri Makarov, writer Oksana Zabuzhko, as well as a film director and former Kremlin hostage Oleg Sentsov. As for now, the petition has collected about 14,000 signatures.

In partnership with the NGO Internews-Ukraine and with the support of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, we developed a website and mobile application #PrisonersVoice, in which anyone can hear the stories of released Kremlin prisoners: Oleksander Kolchenko, Oleg Sentsov, and Vladimir Balukh, as well as find and read the stories of prisoners, who are still in places of detention. In mid-October, information parcels with branded masks, information

leaflets, and letters of appeal were created and distributed through international partner organizations to each member of the European Parliament, heads of diplomatic missions, and heads of Ukrainian embassies in European countries.

Dozens of offline and online events were held in support of Kremlin prisoners: the year began with the traditional Winter Marathon of writing letters, during which more than 1,000 letters and postcards were collected. In addition, we organized closed and open events for embassy representatives, participated in international forums and discussions, organized dozens of rallies of support and solidarity, celebrations of political prisoners' birthdays in Kyiv squares, events as part of the event "The Week of Solidarity with Kırımli". Moreover, there were traditional events organized jointly with the Ukrainian PEN Club: the third closing event of the Lviv Publishers' Forum "Letters from Behind Bars" with the participation of Ukrainian opinion leaders Roman Vintoniy, Myroslava Barchuk, Emine Dzheparova, etc., and the "Day of Empty Chairs" that was joined by writers Andriy Kurkov and Larysa

Denysenko, actors Antonina Khyzhniak, Olesya Zhurakivska, and Akhtem Seitablayev, journalist Vakhtang





Kipiani and others.

To expand the audience and spread the unique content of the campaign – the series of interviews with relatives of the Kremlin prisoners – systematic cooperation was established with the Internet edition “Radio Liberty”. As a result, since March 2020, more than 10

publications of conversations with prisoners’ relatives have been published.





public monitoring

## 3.4 The OZON civic monitoring group



34

monitorings  
of peaceful  
assemblies



30

monitorings  
of court hearings



12

monitorings  
of police stations



23

appeals to the  
authorities



25

requests for  
access to public  
information







During the first months of 2020, spreading public control practices, the CCL held 4 trainings “Police in Law” in Kyiv, Dnipro, Odesa, and Lviv. The CCL’s experts developed a special training program, which consisted of a theoretical part on the basic concepts and functions of law enforcement, the powers of law enforcement officers in various situations, and a practical one – with exercises to learn specific tools of public control, such as requests for access to public information.

338 people submitted

applications for participation in the trainings, 132 people took part, and 65 most successful participants were selected to participate in the monitorings. For the purposes of the new training module, the handbook “Police in Law: Tools for Public Control” was developed.

In total, in 2020, we organized 8 public trainings and lectures, 5 workshops, and 3 meetings of the observer network, conducted 34 monitorings of peaceful assemblies, 30 monitorings of court hearings, 12 monitorings of police stations, sent

23 appeals to the authorities, and 25 requests for access to public information.

In response to alarming reports of human rights violations during the imposition of quarantine restrictions, we initiated an All-Ukrainian monitoring campaign on police actions and other law enforcement agencies. As part of the monitoring campaign, OZON observers from different regions collected more than a hundred reports of incidents through monitoring on social networks. As a result, we received more than



40 messages from interested people in response to our call.

The OZON's analysis has revealed key systemic problems in the functioning of law enforcement agencies. Therefore, OZON initiated changes in the policy related to quarantine

restrictions. The CCL and partner organizations prepared 2 interim reports on the human rights situation during quarantine restrictions. The final report entitled "Responding to the Challenges of COVID-19 and Human Rights: A Review

of the Situation in Ukraine" was published in early July 2020. To communicate the most pressing issues found out during the monitoring, the OZON group held 7 public events involving government officials.

## 3.5 Euromaidan SOS





# Volunteer Award

This year, for the eighth time, the Center for Civil Liberties awarded “ordinary people who do extraordinary things” as part of the Euromaidan SOS initiative. The Volunteer Award ceremony traditionally took place on November 30. On the very same day in 2013 that the Euromaidan SOS initiative was created

as a reaction to the violent dispersal of a peaceful student demonstration on Independence Square.

Every year, there are more and more nominees for the Volunteer Award, the list of areas of activity of volunteers is expanding, and this year, we received more than 170 applications. Among the nominees are

volunteers from all regions of Ukraine, representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora living abroad, and foreign





citizens volunteering in Ukraine. Volunteers work in various fields: helping the military and war victims, children, families of internally displaced people, coordinating environmental, cultural, and educational projects – the list of areas of volunteering is inexhaustible. This year's event was held in a mixed

mode: in online and offline formats, in compliance with quarantine restrictions. The winners and everyone who wanted to congratulate them were able to join the ceremony online.

The jury consisted of: **Boris Khersonsky, Natalia Vorozhbyt, Larysa Denysenko, Nariman Memedeminov, Andriana Arekhtha.**

**This year, 5 volunteers became the laureates:**

**Kateryna Nozhevnikova**, co-founder and director of the Monster Corporation Charitable Foundation, which brings together dozens of volunteers from Odesa and the Odesa region. They provide medical, social, and humanitarian assistance to children and displaced people, as well as the elderly, purchase

hospital equipment, repair hospitals, and help those who were refused hospitalization. Since August, Kateryna and several other volunteer doctors have been caring for patients with COVID-19.

**Yuriy Vdovtsov** started volunteering in 2008, and in 2012 he founded the Angels volunteer group, a union of like-minded people united by the desire to support orphans and children in difficult situations.



The group regularly supports more than fifteen orphanages and boarding schools. Since 2019, Yuriy has been actively involved in educating young people in the field of volunteering.

**Yulia Alexandrova** together with the Association of Parents of Premature Babies “Early Birds” provides continuous support to families raising premature babies or who have lost such a child. The woman transformed her own painful life experience so that mothers like her would not be alone with their grief.

**Serhiy Brushnitsky**, since 2013, has been working as a volunteer with people with musculoskeletal disorders, getting them involved in physical culture and sports, as well as teaching children the martial art of taekwondo. It all started as physical rehabilitation of people with disabilities, but thanks to the dedicated work of the coach and the persistent training of his students, it grew into professional sports. Serhiy has trained five World Champions and many winners of international events at various levels.

**Iryna Vashchuk-Discipio** lives in the United States and has been helping wounded Ukrainians since the beginning of the Revolution of Dignity and the outbreak of war in Eastern Ukraine. In 2015, she founded the Revived

Soldiers Ukraine Charitable Foundation. Its goal is to provide medical care and rehabilitation services in the United States and Ukraine to Ukrainian servicemen and volunteers wounded in the Donbas war zone.

**5**  
volunteers  
became the  
laureates  
this year



# 4 PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CERTAIN VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2020, the CCL continued to work to protect civil society. On November 12, 2020, together with the Open Dialogue Foundation, we presented the FightBack chatbot ([t.me/fight\\_back\\_bot](https://t.me/fight_back_bot)) on legal self-help. The chatbot was created as a result of a series of interviews with activists who have been victims of violent attacks or other forms of pressure in various regions of Ukraine.

The developed mechanism makes it possible to provide information in a simple and accessible way on how the pre-trial investigation is structured and what rights victims have at each stage. Well-known lawyers who defend the rights of activists

also joined the preparation of the chatbot: Larysa Denysenko, Maryna Lilichenko, Vitaliy Tytych, Vitaliy Kolomiets, and Yuriy Bilous.

In addition, Ukrainian media wrote widely on the chatbot and it received positive reviews from the expert and activist communities.





# 5 LEGAL EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT



The Kyiv School of Human Rights and Democracy is a free educational platform of the Center for Civil Liberties. We regularly hold educational events in Kyiv and other cities. Within the school, we organize lectures, film screenings, round tables, and

courses. The school is a great opportunity to volunteer for one of the initiatives of the Center for Civil Liberties, start human rights activities and learn more about human rights.

Despite the fact that 2020 was full of challenges related to the epidemiological

situation both in Ukraine and in the world, the Kyiv School of Human Rights and Democracy managed to successfully adapt to the new realities of work and attract a large number of students to educational events.

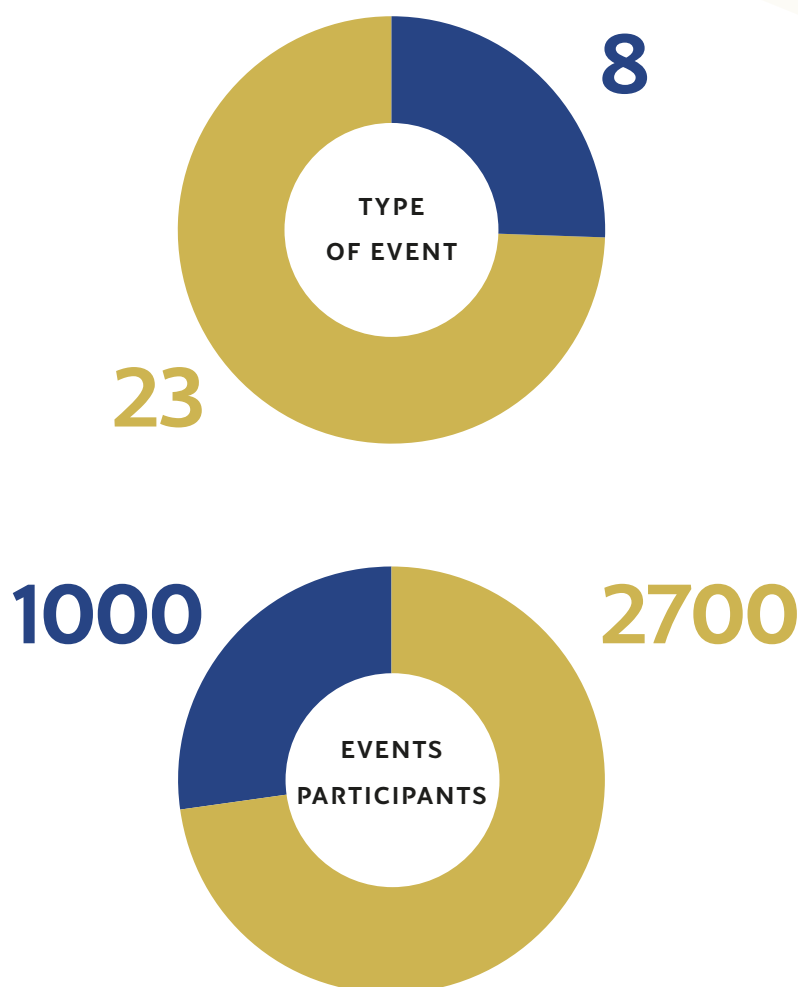
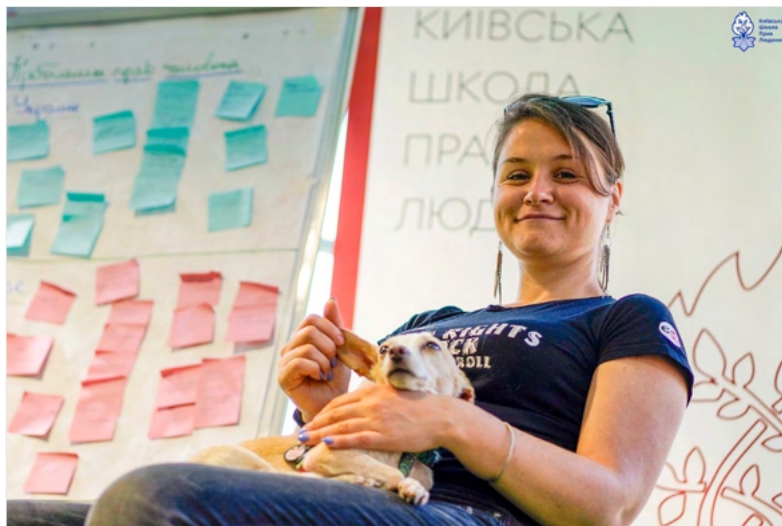
The spread of the COVID-19 virus and the introduction

of quarantine restrictions have affected the work of all organizations in the world, and the Center for Civil Liberties is not an exception. However, this challenge has become a point of growth for the CCL. Educational events of the Kyiv School of Human Rights and Democracy were held in the format of one and a half-hour webinars with invited trainers and lecturers, including Stanford University researcher Dmytro Koval, founder of the Tbilisi Shelter City project Oleksandra Delemenchuk, Chairman of the Board of the SOVA Expert Group Mykhailo Savva, an expert on politics and election legislation Oleksandr Solontai, etc.

In addition, the last webinar of the School in 2020 was held in English by a foreign trainee of CCL Louise Nilsson, where she spoke about Sweden's experience in the implementation of human rights.

In 2020, the School organized 25 educational events, including 8 offline and 23 online, and 1 two-day human rights course, published 4 training materials, and actively worked on expanding and interacting with the CCL volunteer community.

2700 participants registered for online educational events, 1000 of them participated in person. As part of the developed project management course, 8 participants successfully completed the final task and received certificates.





# 6 INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY



In 2020, the Center for Civil Liberties continued to work systematically to inform and influence decisions in institutions such as the Council of Europe, including the European Court

of Human Rights and the PACE, the OSCE, the UN, the European Parliament, and the International Criminal Court.

The CCL continues to use all the tools provided by international institutions

to address human rights violations in both the occupied territories and the ones controlled by the Government of Ukraine. In 2020, the fruitful cooperation with domestic and international





human rights associations continued even despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world.

The key issues that the CCL focused on were cross-cutting issues of supporting and strengthening the human rights context in the so-called “Minsk process”, bringing Ukrainian legislation in line with international humanitarian law and releasing political prisoners held in Crimean and Russian prisons and in the occupied territories.

The CCL initiated a campaign calling to sign the petition in support of Kremlin prisoners who are defenseless against COVID-19. Moreover, we introduced the #PrisonersVoice application, which collected stories of released Kremlin prisoners Oleksandr Kolchenko, Oleg Sentsov, and Volodymyr Balukh. The application simulates augmented reality

and takes you to the time and place where the events took place: from detention and long days in the colony to the return to Ukraine. The information campaign was also supported by prominent figures and opinion leaders.

Together with PEN Ukraine, the Center for Civil Liberties, as part of the global #PrisonersVoice campaign, organized a campaign in support of all Ukrainian hostages of the Kremlin, as well as initiated a flash mob on social networks.

An indisputable achievement of civil society and in particular of the CCL was the return of National Guard deputy commander Vitaliy Markiv to Ukraine. The Milan Court of Appeal fully acquitted Vitaliy Markiv. The Center for Civil Liberties carried out an information and expert campaign for the release of Vitaliy Markiv and

conducted an objective and impartial review of his case.

Advocacy campaigns were also carried out to promote the draft law on war criminals, the draft law on the jury trial, amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On the Security Service of Ukraine”, on the draft law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine concerning the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights”, on the ratification of the Rome Statute, as well as an information campaign to combat domestic and gender-based violence.



# 7 INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Solidarity is not only an important area of the activity but also one of the values of the Center for Civil Liberties. During the year, we focused on human rights violations in the OSCE region, in particular the protests and crackdowns on protesters in Belarus.

The Center for Civil

Liberties initiated the international solidarity action #BelarusWatch to support and draw attention to the events, protests, and peaceful demonstrations that have begun and still are ongoing in Belarus as a result of the massive falsification of the presidential election results.

The Civil Center joined the

action of solidarity with the women of Kazakhstan, who initiated the action “Kazakhstan Prison”. For Kazakhstani women activists, the only way to draw attention to the country’s political persecution was to cut their hair and shave their heads. Thus, the women drew attention to the problem of persecution of activists



and demanded the repeal of Article 405 of the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan. The CCL expressed solidarity with the civil society of Kazakhstan and called on colleagues to keep the situation in focus.

During the year, we closely monitored the observance of the rights of foreign citizens in Ukraine, including those who were forced to leave their homeland due to political or other

persecution. Unfortunately, we note the unwillingness of the Ukrainian authorities and migration services to fulfill their obligations under international agreements on refugees.

Within the #SolidarityTalks project, we held a public discussion with Moldovan experts and human rights activists on the future of the Transnistrian conflict in the context of a change of government.

The Center for Civil Liberties continues to provide targeted assistance to several politically persecuted activists who are forced to seek asylum in Ukraine. We continue to support Ukrainian human rights organizations, which are taking the initiative to reform the migration procedure in terms of protecting foreign nationals from political persecution.

# 8 ACHIEVEMENTS

It has been a difficult year, full of new challenges and new opportunities. The Center for Civil Liberties actively continued its work.

## LAUNCH OF THE LAND MARKET

Before the 2019 parliamentary elections, human rights activists presented for parliamentarians the #Human Rights Plan. Within the HRA Platform, coordinated by the Center for Civil Liberties, the presented

action plan included a clause on the opening of the land market. Thanks to the coordinated actions of the platform participants in 2020, it was realized. Owners can now exercise their legal right to dispose of their own land.

## APPOINTMENT OF THE LANGUAGE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE STATE LANGUAGE

The advocacy campaign, which was actively joined by the Center for Civil

Liberties, brought the long-awaited result – the appointment of the Commissioner for Protection of State Language, the establishment of the Secretariat, and the beginning of real work in this direction.

## RELEASE OF VITALIY MARKIV

The Milan Court of Appeal fully acquitted Vitaliy Markiv. The Center for Civil Liberties conducted an active information campaign and



joined the expert work, which contributed to the release of Vitaliy Markiv.

### LAUNCH OF THE FIGHTBACK CHATBOT

The chatbot was developed by the Open Dialogue Foundation and the Center for Civil Liberties with the financial support of the European Union under the EU Scholarship Program of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Development Mechanism. This online tool is a detailed instruction for people (or their close ones) against whom crimes have been committed, with step-by-step explanations of specific actions. The tool contains brief and clear explanations on how to act in the first hours after the attack, 24 hours after the attack, when it is necessary to preserve evidence or add it to cases, to complain about the actions of the investigator or prosecutor when the crime is not properly qualified.

### VOLUNTEER AWARD

The 2020 Volunteer Award was held in a new mixed format – offline and online. For the first time in the history of the Volunteer Award, a record number of nominees applied for the title of laureates – 170 applicants. Laureates of the Volunteer Prize in 2020

were: the founder of the Revived Soldiers Ukraine charitable foundation Irina Vashchuk-Discipio, the head of the AngelS volunteer group Yuriy Vdovtsov, coordinator of the Ukrainian Association of Parents of Premature Babies “Early Birds” Yulia Alexandrova, coach Serhiy Brushnitsky, head of the Monsters Corporation Charitable Foundation Kateryna Nozhevnikova.

### THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NON-CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ONLINE.

On December 9-10, 2020, on the occasion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the HRA Coalition held its fifth annual National Human Rights #NonConference. The COVID-19 pandemic made its adjustments, but it was rather a window of opportunity for the Center for Civil Liberties. #NonConference 2020 was held in a new online format, which included autonomous workshops on current human rights issues.

### THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) CAN FINALLY INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS ON THE MAIDAN, THE CAPTURE AND OCCUPATION OF CRIMEA AND THE WAR IN DONBAS.

The ICC conclusion will prompt the prosecution of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his accomplices for crimes committed in Ukraine. The document, posted on the ICC's official website, states that the ICC Prosecutor's Office, after analyzing all events over the seven-year period since the Revolution of Dignity, including Russia's occupation of Crimea and the attempted capture of Donbas, established crimes committed by Russia: mass deportations, torture, forcing residents of the occupied territories into military service in the army of the aggressor country, etc.

### THE VERKHOVNA RADA ADOPTED THE LAW ON WAR CRIMINALS (BILL № 2689) IN THE FIRST READING.

On September 17, 2020, the Verkhovna Rada adopted a draft law on punishment for war crimes. The bill was adopted by parliamentarians in the first reading. The most important last step is ahead, and the Center for Civil Liberties, like the entire human rights community, is keeping this issue under control, as Ukrainian legislation still does not meet the challenges of the war that has been continuing for seven years. So far, all the most serious crimes under international law, namely crimes against humanity

and war crimes committed in Ukraine, are classified as general criminal offenses.

THIS YEAR, THE HEAD OF THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES OLEKSANDRA MATVIYCHUK FOR HER ACTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC WORK WAS AGAIN LISTED AMONG THE TOP 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF UKRAINE ACCORDING TO THE FOCUS MAGAZINE.

“For the second year in a row, the Center for Civil Liberties has been campaigning for the adoption of a law on war criminals in Ukraine. It will harmonize Ukrainian legislation with international law and introduce criminal liability for crimes such as genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, which are still not in the Criminal Code of Ukraine. According to Oleksandra Matviychuk, the adoption of this law is extremely important given Russia’s aggression and crimes committed in eastern Ukraine,” Focus reports.

THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES’ PROPOSALS, DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE SECOND WAVE OF JUDICIAL REFORM, HAVE FOUND SUPPORT AMONG THE AUTHORITIES. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE INTRODUCED BILLS

ON JURIES, MEDIATION, JUSTICES OF THE PEACE PROPOSED BY THE CCL.

THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES BECAME ONE OF THE INITIATORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN #BELARUSWATCH.

On August 26, volunteers simultaneously held protests in 16 countries in support of civil protests in Belarus. Residents of 29 cities from such countries as Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Ukraine, Germany, Belgium, Italy, USA, Ireland, Poland, Switzerland took part in the rallies.

OZON VOLUNTEERS MONITORED 36 PEACEFUL ASSEMBLIES AND 30 COURT HEARINGS, CONTINUING TO WORK UNDER QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS AND PROMOTING RESPECT FOR CITIZENS’ RIGHTS DURING THE PANDEMIC-RELATED RESTRICTIVE MEASURES.



## 9. CCL TEAM



**Oleksandra  
Romantsova**

executive director  
[aleksandra.romantsova@gmail.com](mailto:aleksandra.romantsova@gmail.com)



**Maryna  
Lilichenko**

lawyer  
[lilichenkom@gmail.com](mailto:lilichenkom@gmail.com)



**Liubo  
Halan**

project coordinator  
[liubov.halan@gmail.com](mailto:liubov.halan@gmail.com)



**Serhiy  
Zaichenko**

communications manager  
[s.z.93.ua@gmail.com](mailto:s.z.93.ua@gmail.com)



**Liubov  
Goncharova**

accountant  
[lvgoncharova18@gmail.com](mailto:lvgoncharova18@gmail.com)



**Tetiana  
Kozachok**

financial manager  
[tvkozachok2018@gmail.com](mailto:tvkozachok2018@gmail.com)



**Daria  
Bychkova**

project coordinator,  
event manager  
[dariabychkova.ccl@gmail.com](mailto:dariabychkova.ccl@gmail.com)



# COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD



**Oleksandra  
Matviychuk**

Chairwoman of the Board  
*avalaina@gmail.com*



**Alisa  
Malytska**

Member of the Board  
*Alisamalickaya@gmail.com*



**Ksenia  
Shymanska**

Member of the Board  
*ksenya.shymanska@gmail.com*



**Iryna  
Dumych**

Member of the Board  
*irynadumych14@gmail.com*



**Nazariy  
Boiarskyi**

Member of the Board  
*n.boiarskyi@gmail.com*



# SUPERVISORY BOARD



**Tatiana  
Mazur**

Independent consultant on organizational development of the NGOs. Member of the board of the Legal Initiative project and the KyivPride.



**Svitlana  
Astrakhantseva**

Member of the Board of the International Helsinki Group and the International Helsinki Association.



**Oleg  
Martynenko**

Head of the analytical department of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. Director of the Center for Law Enforcement Research. Doctor of Law, criminologist.



**Maria  
Kravchuk**

Director General at Polimentor – digital advertising and contact-center



**Larysa  
Denysenko**

Lawyer, human rights defender, writer.  
Member of the Board and presenter of the Hromadske Radio. UNDP Envoy for Tolerance in Ukraine. Member of the Board of the International Renaissance Foundation.



# 10 COMMUNICATIONS AND WORK WITH THE MEDIA

In 2020, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center for Civil Liberties has stepped up its coverage on social networks and the media. The CCL held dozens of press conferences as part of advocacy and information campaigns.

In particular, the following press conferences were held offline:

1. Press conference "Introduction of the classic jury trial in Ukraine".
2. Press conference "Law

on War Criminals: Adopt – Do Not Procrastinate".

3. Press conference "Impunity for blood on the Maidan: what should we do with it?".

4. Press conference "Salt of Ukraine. Day of solidarity with the unconquered Crimea".

5. Press conference "(Not) actual: human rights challenges for Ukraine and the region".

6. Press conference "Ukraine needs amnesty for prisoners".

7. Discussion "Game by the rules 2.0: is Ukraine ready for the next wave

of coronavirus?".

It should be noted that the press conferences were broadcasted online on the CCL pages on social networks. The activity, initiatives, announcements and results of work of the CCL are presented on the following pages of the social media:

- Center for Civil Liberties,
- Human rights agenda,
- Euromaidan SOS,
- Kyiv School of Human Rights,
- OZONE.

IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2020, ACCORDING TO INFOSTREAM ANALYSTS, MEDIA MENTIONS WERE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

**1. CCL** – 66 mentions, 34 reports, which mainly concerned press conferences, presentations of initiatives, and statements on the readiness of the International Criminal Court to investigate crimes in Ukraine since 2014.

**2. Human rights agenda** – 88 mentions in the media in the framework of 44 reports

related to the #NonConference, the Human Rights Award, calls for the introduction of responsibility for war crimes, positions on amnesty, etc.

**3. Euromaidan SOS** – 13 mentions in the framework of 10 reports, which were associated with the awarding of the Volunteer Prize 2020 and stories of volunteers.

It should be noted that the quantity of mentions in the media can be much higher given the possibility of using search keys in different configurations. However, the areas of the CCL's activity are clearly associated with the respective projects, which continue to be strengthened as a human rights brands, and are the subject of media reports.

FREE  
RUSSIA

3,351,974  
Free Russia Foundation (USA)

OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS

2,560,366  
Foundation Open Society Institute

SIGRID  
RAUSING  
TRUST

2,159,750  
TheSigridRausingTrust



1,212,100  
National Endowment for  
Democracy



998,056  
DRA (German MIA)



548,568  
UN Development

# 11. FINANCIAL REPORT 2020



SUPPORT  
RECEIVED  
IN 2020:

All amounts are indicated in UAH



Parliamentarians for Global Action  
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global  
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires  
برلمانيون من أجل الحركة العالمية

**Freedom House**

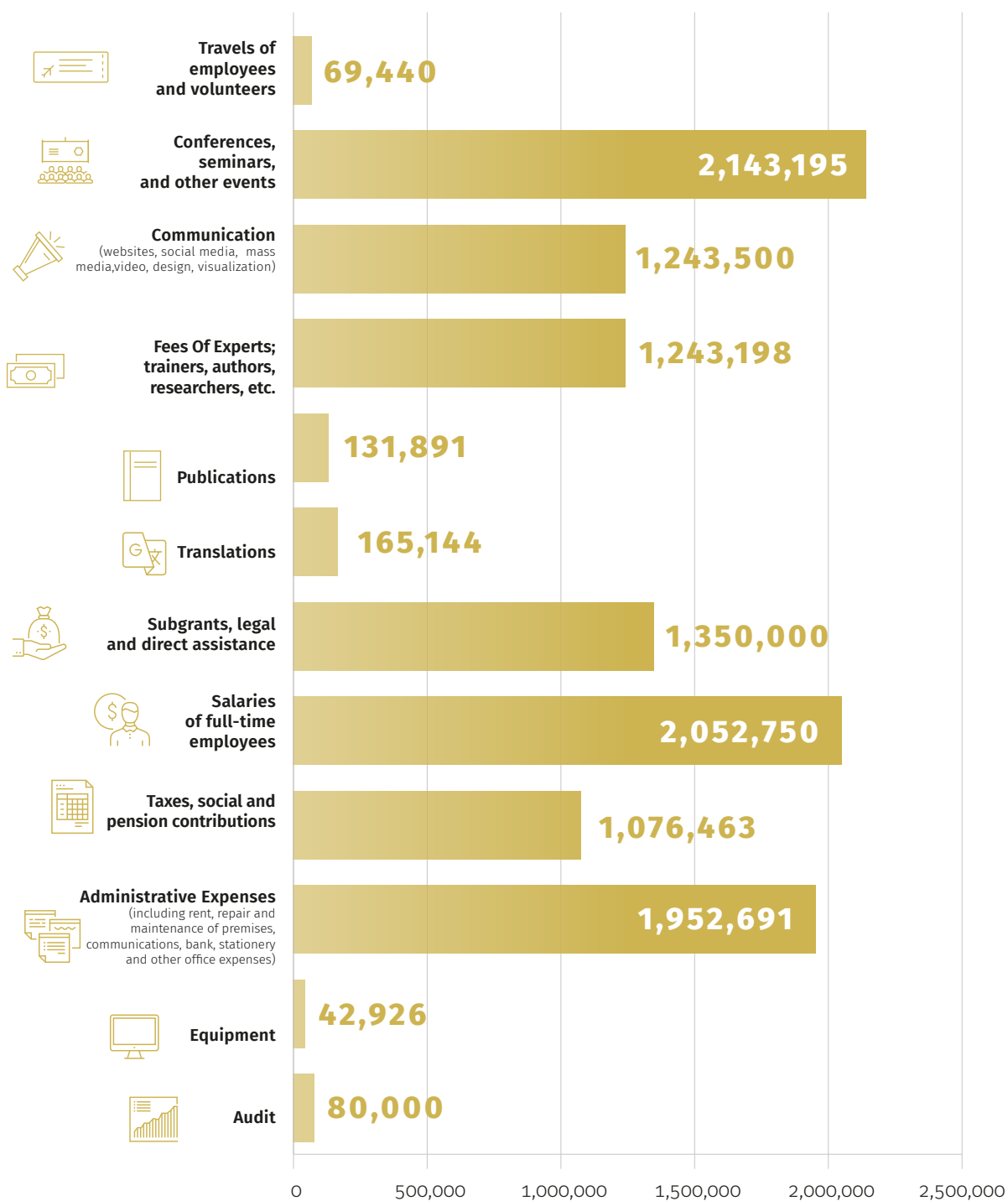
**European Center for  
Not-for-Profit Law**

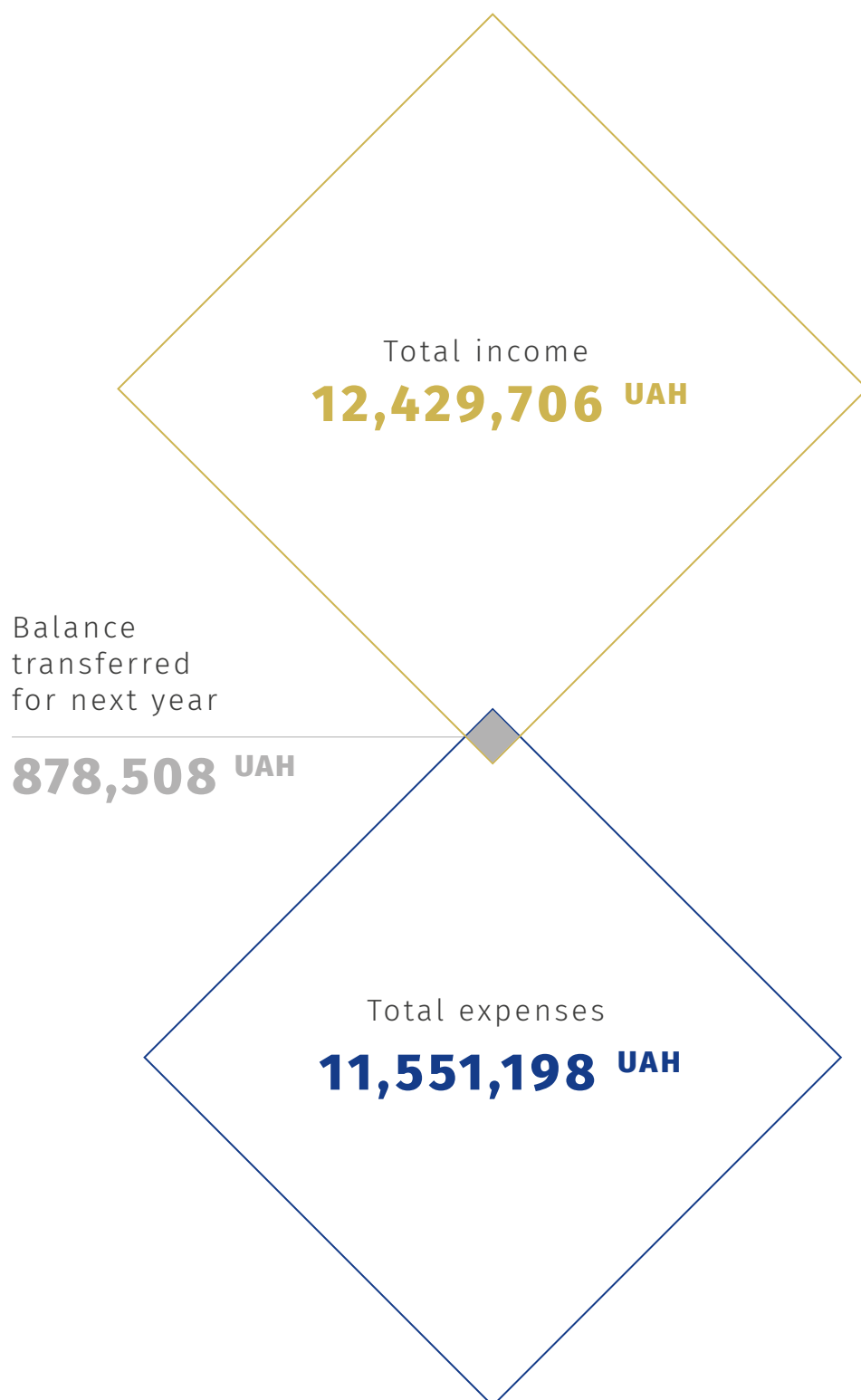
**МІЖНАРОДНИЙ  
ФОНД  
ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ**

**Norwegian  
Helsinki Committee**



## EXPENSES (ALL AMOUNTS ARE INDICATED IN UAH)









# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES 2020

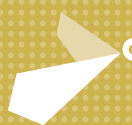
**ADDRESS:**

9g Baseina Str., of. 28, Kyiv,  
Email: [ccl.org.ua@gmail.com](mailto:ccl.org.ua@gmail.com)

[www.ccl.org.ua](http://www.ccl.org.ua)

[fb.com/ccl.org.ua](https://fb.com/ccl.org.ua)





Center  
for Civil  
Liberties