



CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES 2021

ADDRESS:

9g Baseina Str., of. 28, Kyiv,
Email: ccl.org.ua@gmail.com

www.ccl.org.ua

fb.com/ccl.org.ua

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INTRODUCTION

THE ART OF GOING FORWARD

Summing up 2021 is not an easy task. The pandemic has become the backdrop for everything and has become commonplace. Still, it does not make it easier to analyze the challenges and opportunities facing the public sector and the human rights community. I want to highlight the essential things that focus, mobilize and inspire to move on:

1. WHAT EVENT WOULD YOU CALL THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE YEAR?

The event which has not been truly appreciated by the NGO sector. I mean the NSDC decision to impose sanctions on the so-called “Ukrainian smugglers”. By this decision, the President of Ukraine, acting contrary to the Constitution, arrogated to himself the powers of the judiciary and intensified the trend towards micromanaging the country.

2. DID THE NGO SECTOR RETAIN ITS POSITIONS IN 2021?

We will see it from the results of opinion polls which I can't wait to see myself. The effectiveness of the civil society sector is measured by strategic changes, and they tend to require a long-term perspective. However, we will be able to see how well the NGO sector has coped with the task of involving ordinary people in civic activism from the annual report of the Democratic Initiatives Foundation by comparing the indicators of civic activity for the past and these years.

3. NAME THE SECTOR'S GREATEST VICTORY AND GREATEST LOSS IN 2021.

The sector's greatest victory was the launch of the Crimea Platform. Yes, it was led by state institutions, but these leaders were actually

individuals and teams with NGO background that had entered the government. Now the Crimea Platform should start working as a platform for coordinating key stakeholders' actions, and the response to the detention of Nariman Celal shows that, unfortunately, this has not yet happened. Therefore, the NGO sector should join and support this transformation.

Meanwhile, the greatest loss is the NGO sector's failure to pay attention to the draft law on the Security Service of Ukraine, which would upon its adoption empower SSU agents to visit the offices of journalists, anti-corruption activists, human rights activists, businesses, essentially anyone in the country – and demand access to any information without a court warrant; it also creates ample opportunities for direct automatic access to telephones and computers belonging to persons the security service is interested in.

4. WHAT GROWTH AREA YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS IDENTIFIED FOR ITSELF FOR 2022?

The secretariat of the international Civic Solidarity Platform, which brings together human rights organizations in the OSCE region, has moved east of Vienna for the first time, and starting next year, its functions will be performed by the Center for Civil Liberties. So, we have a high-profile task before us: to build a strong human rights network that will resist the onslaught on freedom and democracy at the global level.

**Oleksandra
Matviichuk**

Chair of the Board
at the Center for
Civil Liberties





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2. ON THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Center for Civil Liberties (hereinafter the CCL) is a Ukrainian human rights organization which was founded in 2007. The CCL monitors and analyzes bills for compliance with human rights standards, conducts public oversight of law enforcement agencies, courts, and local authorities, investigates crimes committed during the Euromaidan protests, as well as documents political persecution, records human rights violations and war crimes in the Donbas, offers human rights and democracy education, takes part in international solidarity programs, etc.

OUR MISSION:



Establishing human rights, democracy and solidarity in Ukraine and the OSCE region in order to promote human dignity.

VISION:



The CCL is a leading actor in Ukraine, influencing the formation of public opinion and public policy, supporting the development of civic activism, and taking an active part in international networks and solidarity actions to promote human rights in the OSCE region.

OUR VALUES:

respect for human dignity;

freedom and human rights;

rule of law;

democracy;



solidarity;

impartiality;

non-discrimination.

2.1 Volunteers and interns

The Center for Civil Liberties defines the development and support of the volunteer movement as one of its goals. In particular, the organization regularly holds activities for volunteers who want to get involved in human rights work.

CCL volunteers help us in creating a growth environment for a new generation of human rights activists, where everyone can become part of a great movement. We are joined by all those who want to change the country, promote human rights, control the authorities and protect others. Our

volunteers organize protests, flash mobs, educational events, participate in public monitoring, maintain pages on social networks, conduct analytical and design work and much more.

As of 2021, the community of the Center's volunteers in Kyiv and the provinces numbers about 180 people. The Center also has an internship program as a special form of activity, which is carried out on a volunteer basis, and aims not only to assist employees of the organization, but also to ensure the direct intensive transfer of experience and skills to interns.

The main objectives of the offered internships are to provide interns with the opportunity to gain practical experience in a field related to their academic program or future work; to help them acquire practical skills and build capacity in relevant areas; to broaden their experience of working in a human rights NGO; and to enable CCL initiatives to benefit from the work of interns. In particular, 7 selected candidates became participants in the internship programs at the Center last year. From that number, 5 interns are foreigners from France and the USA.



3. WORK WITHIN STRATEGIC AREAS AND HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES

The main strategic work areas of the Center for Civil Liberties are:

- Developing the human rights movement and supporting reforms.
- Overcoming the consequences of an international armed conflict.
- Getting the public involved in the human rights work.
- Human rights training and education.
- Strengthening international solidarity.

Coalitions and initiatives coordinated by the Center for Civil Liberties.



3.1 Developing the human rights movement and supporting reforms

Last year, the informal coalition of human rights organizations known as the Human Rights Agenda (HRA) platform, continued to work on monitoring, analyzing and drafting legislation in accordance with the basic principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In cooperation with partners, it signed more than 30 declarations and appeals,

12 of which were addressed to public authorities.

During 2021, the coalition of human rights organizations focused on the reform of the Security Service of Ukraine and the prospect of introducing jury trial, promoting ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the Rome Statute, adoption and signing of the Law of

Ukraine on War Criminals (Law No. 2689), protection of Belarusian human rights activists and media, release of political prisoners held in Crimea, certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Russian Federation, improvement of legal awareness and ensuring respect for human rights principles in the drafting of new laws.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT LAW NO. 2689 ("THE WAR CRIMINAL LAW")



In 2021, we kept up an active campaign to push for the adoption of the draft law No. 2689 and made every effort to that end, resulting in the Verkhovna Rada adopting in the second reading the Law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Implementation of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law" (the draft law No. 2689). 248 MPs voted for the law in the final reading, and it was submitted for the presidential approval on June 7.



This was preceded by a series of working meetings of CCL representatives with statepersons and stakeholders; in particular, we organized and held more than 30 advocacy meetings with representatives of the ruling party and veterans, as well as meetings with media representatives, Director of the OSCE ODIHR. In addition, our organization repeatedly raised the issue of the need to ratify the law at various national and international venues. During the campaign in support of the draft law on war criminals, we organized and participated

in more than 20 expert discussions and activities. Also, as part of our push for the draft law to be adopted, we took part in the annual forum Ukraine 30, where we talked about the conditions of detention of political prisoners in the COVID-19 era and the need to ratify the draft law No. 2689.

Three large-scale events were held as part of the campaign in the reporting year.

On May 15, an event with elements of a video installation was organized outside the Verkhovna Rada building in support of the law on war criminals. A video with

footage of real war crimes committed in the Donbas since the start of the Russian aggression was projected onto the building of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Contrary to our expectations, the long-awaited signing did not take place in early June. In order to bring attention to the matter and speed up the signing, the Center for Civil Liberties held another performance event on August 19, entitled Waiting Kills, which called for the immediate signing of the Law No. 2689, which by that time spent over 90 days under consideration

by the head of state. Shortly afterwards, namely on August 28, on the eve of the meeting of the Presidents of Ukraine and the United States, we organized another performance entitled *The Lives of Kremlin Hostages Are Not Toys*, which saw the Center for Civil Liberties managing

to bring together many human rights organizations. One of the demands was the immediate signing of the war crimes draft law.

Under the Constitution of Ukraine, any draft law must be either signed or returned to the Verkhovna Rada for reconsideration within fifteen days

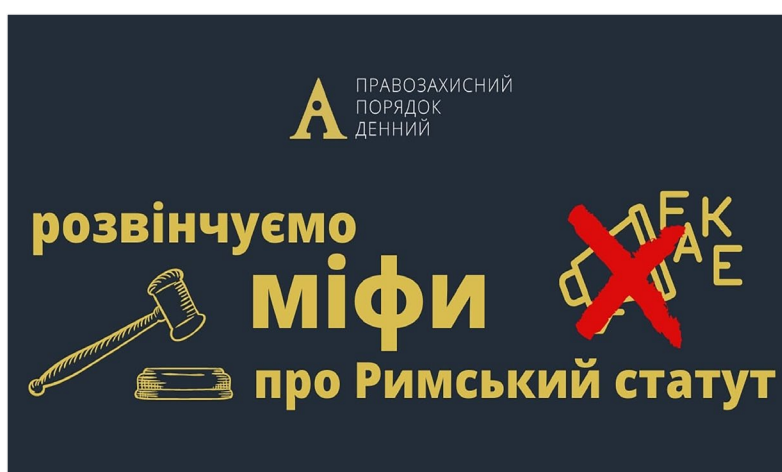
of its receipt. The draft law has been awaiting the President's signature for six months now.

The Center for Civil Liberties continues to push for the signing of this document and will continue to work actively to promote the ratification process of the law on war criminals.

CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE ROME STATUTE

The three-year suspension of the new constitutional provisions which pave the way for the ratification of the Rome Statute expired back in June 2019. However, neither the President nor the Parliament proved able to initiate the ratification of the Rome Statute in 2020. During 2021, the HRA kept reminding the public and the government of the need to ratify the Rome Statute. We managed to create an expert team which worked on the development of explanatory materials to the provisions of the Rome Statute which debunked the myths surrounding this topic.

The Center for Civil Liberties organized a series of meetings with representatives of veterans' organizations, such as the Union of Veterans of Ukraine, the Legal Hundred, the Geneva Appeal, Sich-Dnipro, the Space of Opportunities, and the Veteran Hub, to clarify the Rome Statute provisions and debunk myths. We launched an information campaign to



debunk the myths surrounding the Rome Statute, and this campaign got supported by our new partners; we also established cooperation with veterans and opinion leaders who took part in a photo project in support of the ratification of the Rome Statute.

A three-day event dedicated to the Day of International Criminal Justice, which included a series of educational and applied research online activities entitled the Week of International Criminal Justice. The co-organizers of

the event were the Representative Office of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Ukrainian International Law Association, the Department of Criminal Law Policy and Criminal Law of the Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Law Enforcement. The organizers engaged domestic and international experts and scholars, legislators, law enforcement officials and public figures. 1,785 persons watched the

discussions online. Overall, the Human Rights Agenda held more than 10 meetings and events in support of the ratification of the Rome Statute in 2021. Ratification of the

statute remains on the agenda of the Center's meetings with public authorities and international bodies; the CCL supported an official visit of the International Federation

for Human Rights (FIDH), the world's oldest human rights organization, to Ukraine to support Ukrainian NGOs' efforts to combat impunity for international crimes.

REFORM OF THE SECURITY SERVICE OF UKRAINE

In 2021, we worked on reforming the Security Service of Ukraine within the framework of the Human Rights Agenda platform. Our organization initiated a systematic effort of coalition experts on all issues of the draft law, which resulted in the experts preparing an analytical report on the danger posed for human rights by certain provisions of the draft document. The report has received support from 24 organizations. The conclusions of our experts were conveyed to legislators.

The Human Rights Agenda published 3 appeals concerning the draft law on SSU operations and prepared an infographic. In the international arena, the HRA made a joint statement with Human Rights Watch.

We held 3 open online events, 2 press conferences, and a round table on problematic issues of the draft law and reform in general. The events targeted MPs, representatives of ministries, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the SSU.

3196-д: «Проект Закону про внесення змін до Закону України «Про Службу безпеки України» щодо удосконалення організаційно-правових засад діяльності Служби безпеки України»

Приватної інформації більше не існує. СБУ може вимагати інформацію від будь-кого без суду. Оператори та провайдери мають встановити обладнання, щоб СБУ автоматично знімало дані про користувачів. Це порушує ст. 31 Конституції України.

Уявимо будні народного депутата відразу після ухвалення цього закону.



JUDICIAL REFORM AND THE JURY TRIAL

In 2021, the Center intensified its efforts to introduce the Anglo-Saxon model of jury trial in Ukraine. We sent letters to political parties represented in parliament calling for more work to be done to establish a genuine jury trial institution. We conveyed to MPs who were members of the Committee on Law Enforcement and the Committee on Legal Policy the Center's position on the government-submitted registered draft laws Nos. 4190, 4191, 4192, aimed at introducing the jury trial in Ukraine.

The Center's position on these draft laws was presented at the X Annual Judicial Forum on September 30 and received support from representatives of a number of organizations.

Experts of the Center for Civil Liberties prepared an analytical report on the draft laws, which concluded that they deserved the support of civil society organizations, as the introduction of the Anglo-Saxon model of jury trial would increase the fairness of judgments in cases where the defendant faces a term of imprisonment exceeding 10 years.

On October 27, a coordination meeting of representatives of civil society institutions on the introduction of the jury trial in Ukraine took place at the Center's office. It was attended by representatives of five



non-governmental organizations interested in promoting the jury trial in Ukraine.

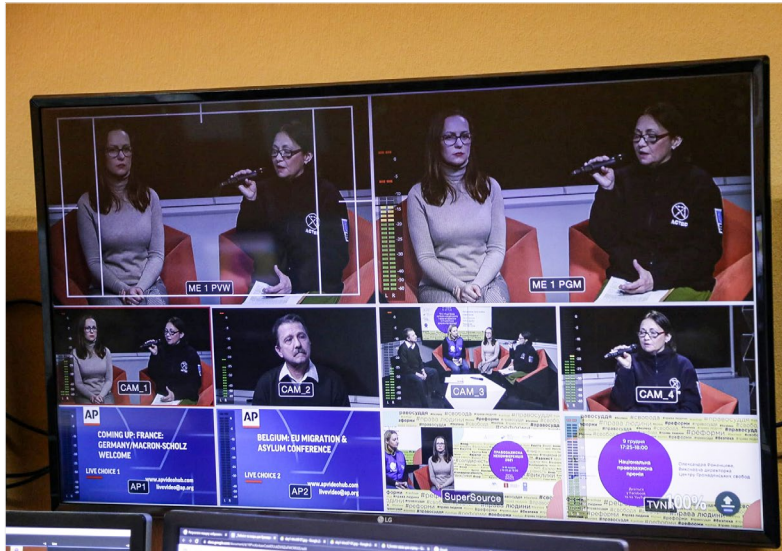
On November 5, the Committee on Legal Policy included draft laws Nos. 4191 and 4192 on its agenda (draft law No. 4190 was included on the agenda of another committee, namely the Committee on Law Enforcement, back in 2020).

In November 2021, these organizations sent a joint letter to the Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calling on them to consider holding a joint committee hearing before the year-end on draft laws with registration Nos. 4190, 4191, 4192 with

the involvement of public stakeholders and central executive bodies, the judiciary, and international experts.

Outreach and educational materials on the benefits and positive consequences of the introduction of a genuine jury trial in Ukraine are regularly published on the Center's social media pages. And why the model currently used in Ukraine is actually a Schoffen trial (or a trial by lay judges) and not a jury trial.

SIXTH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS NON-CONFERENCE



The COVID-19 epidemic has changed some things, but it has become a window of opportunity rather than a challenge for the Center for Civil Liberties, so the #Non-Conference 2021 was held in a talk show format. This format involved panel discussions with 4-5 speakers and a moderator, which lasted 55 minutes. The time constraint allowed participants to focus on key messages to provide viewers with more information in a short period of time.

The technical partner of the event was Hromadske.UA, while more than 40 human rights organizations became partners in organizing online discussions. The event was also attended by representatives of public authorities, namely the Prosecutor General, NABU, Director General of the Directorate for Strategic Planning and European

Integration of the Ministry of Digitalization, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, Deoccupation and Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations, the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of

Ukraine, the representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the State Service for Ethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience of Ukraine.

Together we were able to organize 16 online panels on various pressing topics of 2021: women's rights and the Istanbul Convention, police reform, feminist studies, activist security, personal data protection, transitional justice, environmental law, IDP rights, social work with students from certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, judicial reform, issues of historical memory and politics.

Last year, we collaborated with the human rights group SICH and Suspilne Television and showed a series of documentaries entitled *Fighters for the Truth* as part of the Non-Conference. These are personal stories of successful efforts to protect rights (in the courts, in battles with







bureaucratic officials, imperfect legislation, etc.). These are stories about spirited people who are active citizens and stand ready to defend their rights, seek ways out of difficult situations and set an example for others. They prove that people should fight for their rights.

The heroes of these stories are victims of the

armed conflict and their families (war veterans, IDPs, volunteers, former prisoners of war, families of the fallen). The cycle aims to encourage people to explore and protect their rights themselves or with the help of human rights activists.

We also held the award ceremony for the National

Human Rights Prize. The National Human Rights Prize 2021 was won by Liudmyla Huseinova, held as a civilian prisoner in certain areas of Donetsk Oblast. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Human Rights Commissioner Liudmyla Denisova presented the award to the husband of the imprisoned human rights activist.



6300

views



50

expert
speakers



16

panel
discussions



15

hours of live
streaming



10

short
documentary
videos

PROMOTING INTERNET FREEDOM IN UKRAINE



In 2021, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the Center for Civil Liberties launched a joint project entitled Promoting Internet Freedom in Ukraine, which aims to support laws and policies aimed at protecting Internet freedoms and freedom of expression online.

The project simultaneously works in three areas, namely strengthening expertise in Internet freedom and national security, increasing the capacity of Ukrainian NGOs to protect and promote Internet freedom, and stimulating interaction between

NGOs, the private sector and public authorities.

In May 2021, the Center for Civil Liberties launched our first series of public events which included round tables, webinars, and joint advocacy events to defend democratic principles and policies in the field of Internet space administration.

The CCL Training Hub has launched the Internet Freedom Club program, which includes 10 webinars on Internet freedom, freedom of speech on the Internet, media literacy, critical thinking development, and legislation on

personal data, which webinars are held through an Internet platform specifically designed to study Internet freedom and participate in public campaigns in support of it.

3.2. Overcoming the consequences of an international armed conflict

#PRISONERSVOICE CAMPAIGN AND EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF PRISONERS OF THE KREMLIN

For the eighth year running, the Center for Civil Liberties has been organizing various international and national campaigns for the release of all Ukrainian prisoners of the Kremlin. Since 2014, this work has been carried out within the framework of the #LetMyPeopleGo and #SaveOlegSentsov campaigns. Now the campaign is known as #PrisonersVoice.

In 2021, we continued to fight for our fellow Ukrainians who are imprisoned for political reasons in Russia and the occupied territories of Ukraine. As part of the campaign, we organized dozens of events last year, both independently and jointly with partner organizations, aimed to get the prisoners released and facilitate their conditions in captivity.

Thus, due to the long-standing situation



caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Center for Civil Liberties continued the international campaign #PrisonersVoice which it launched in late 2020 demanding an urgent response from the UN, Council of Europe, European Union, OSCE and their member states to the catastrophic consequences the spread of coronavirus is expected to have in closed prison spaces

in the occupied territories and in prisons of the Russian Federation. To keep this topic on the agenda and to create a public demand for further advocacy of this issue on international venues, a petition was created and disseminated in three languages (Ukrainian, English and Russian). So far, the petition has collected about 14,000 signatures.

During the reporting period, steady organizational, legal and material support was provided to the relatives of Ukrainian citizens imprisoned in Russia for political reasons, including arranging for them to send parcels to prisoners and visit the latter.

As part of the #PrisonersVoice campaign, dozens of statements in support of the prisoners of the Kremlin were released last year, both independently and jointly with partner organizations, and about **50 online and offline events**, teleconferences, roundtables and conferences were organized and held, the most prominent of them being:

- unique all-Ukrainian exhibition project **Crimea. Summer Season: What They Can't Take Away from Us**, which was implemented in June-July jointly with partner organizations. The aim of the initiative was to remind Ukrainians and international actors of the occupation of the peninsula and to collect artifacts that embody our memories of Crimea;



- side event **Crimean Childhood: Occupation for the Youngest**, organized by the CCL in partnership with the Ukrainian Institute on August 22 on the margins of the Crimean Platform, which for the first time presented the issue of protecting the rights of political prisoners' children. We also presented an artistic photography project telling the story of ten children of political prisoners;

- international event **#JournalismsIsNotaCrime**, held in solidarity with imprisoned Radio

Svoboda journalist **Vladyslav Yesypenko** and other journalists working in occupied Crimea, which has received support from dozens of well-known journalists;

- performance event **Lives of Hostages Are Not Toys**, held outside the Presidential Office Building and timed to coincide with the meeting of President Zelensky and President Biden in late August. For this event, we managed to unite the efforts of six partner organizations and remind people on the eve of the historic meeting on August 31 that our fellow citizens were still held in the Kremlin dungeons and that we needed to find ways to get these people released. A meeting of human rights activists and representatives of relevant public authorities was held shortly afterwards, which was initiated by the Presidential Office in response to our August event.



We held **four large-scale marathons** to write letters of support to political prisoners:

- traditional winter marathon of letters to political prisoners. During December-January, the Prisoners Voice and Let My People Go thematic pages, which are coordinated by the Center for Civil Liberties, published thematic posts quoting released and current political prisoners, their relatives, and public figures, and urging readers to write words of support for those currently held in Russian prisons;
- a five-day marathon of letters to the Kremlin hostages-2021 was held on June 23-27 at the annual International Book Arsenal Festival as part of the #PrisonersVoice campaign in cooperation with the Ukrainian PEN and with the informational support of Radio Kultura. As part of the campaign, well-known Ukrainians joined in reading “letters from prison” that were broadcast on the radio as long as the PrisonersVoice booth was in operation. For five days from morning till late in the evening, the festival visitors had the opportunity to write to our compatriots who are illegally held in prisons of Crimea and Russia. The event received support of many prominent figures: serving President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, fifth President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal etc.
- a marathon of letters for the Kremlin hostages was also organized as part of the #PrisonersVoice campaign on August 26-28 at the annual Lviv Media Forum, which is the principal media conference of Central and Eastern Europe;
- shortly afterwards, in mid-September, the Center for Civil Liberties conducted in the framework of the traditional Lviv Book Forum 28BookForum an information campaign entitled #PrisonersVoice, in which visitors had the opportunity to examine an updated list of the prisoners of Kremlin and write a few words of support to the captives.

We collected about a thousand postcards, most of which have already been delivered to addressees.



3.3. Getting the public involved in the human rights work

POINT 7

Last year, we launched the project Promoting Social Cohesion in Ukraine, which is implemented in partnership with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the Vostok SOS Charitable Foundation. We assigned to the project the short name Point 7 to facilitate its dissemination among the general public. It recalls Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that all people are equal and entitled to equal protection against any discrimination.

The project aims to promote social cohesion and national unity in Ukraine, built around democratic principles and toleration of differences between ethnic groups and national minorities, members of the LGBTI community, internally displaced persons and other groups by supporting civil society and media initiatives. The Point 7 project is a way to transform Ukrainian society, where the destination

is a world in which people of different backgrounds, beliefs, interests, and religious views are actively involved in the life of their communities and have equal opportunities to express themselves.

The well-being of the community depends on the well-being of all groups which contributes to general security and trust within the community. That is why we held regional working

meetings in the format of Coffee with Human Rights Activists in 11 regions in 2021. We discussed pressing issues of the region with the participation of local human rights organizations, representatives of target groups, experts and representatives of local authorities. The regional events also aimed to build a dialogue between the most active representatives of all parties to agree





stereotypes and raising the level of national identity. Initiatives of journalists included analytical and expert content, articles and the development of multimedia products.

Information web resource with an interactive map of the project and analytical materials can be found at this link <http://point7.org.ua>

on the agenda for further action. Strong communities are communities that are able to turn their diversity into an advantage and unite around their own well-being.

Besides advocacy activities, the project includes educational programs, youth camps and democracy schools for public figures. The most active participants have

the opportunity to receive support from local initiatives.

To influence the local information field, the project supported all-Ukrainian media initiatives in the framework of the Equal and Free competition. Based on the results of the competition, cross-regional journalist teams created and published materials aimed at overcoming

VOLUNTEER PRIZE 2021



Last year, the Center for Civil Liberties awarded “ordinary people who do extraordinary things” as part of the Euromaidan SOS initiative for the eighth time. The Volunteer Prize award ceremony was held, as usual, on November 30. After all, it was on this day in 2013 that the Euromaidan SOS initiative was created in response to the violent dispersal of a peaceful student demonstration on Independence Square.

With every passing year, there are more and more nominees for the Volunteer Prize, the list of volunteer activity areas grows, and last year we received record **278** applications. The nominees include volunteers from all regions of Ukraine, representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora living abroad and foreign nationals who work on a volunteer basis in Ukraine. Volunteers work in various fields: they help soldiers and war victims, children, families

of displaced persons, coordinate environmental, cultural and educational projects – this list of volunteer activity areas can go on and on. Last year’s event was the second to be held in a mixed mode subject to quarantine requirements. The winners and all those wishing to congratulate them were able to join the welcome speech via the Internet.



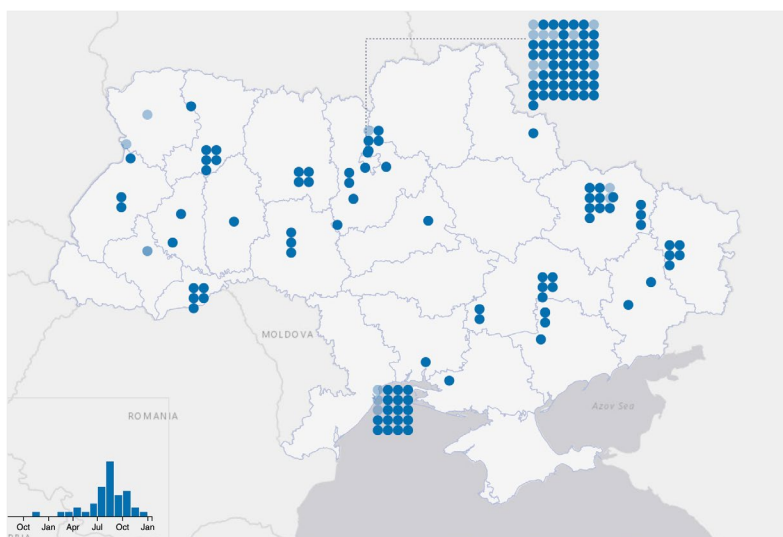
278
applications
for this year's
award



FORMATION OF A COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN UKRAINE: PROTECT THOSE PROTECTING YOU

The year 2021 showed us that the human rights movement does exist in Ukraine, but, unfortunately, one of the indicators of its activity is the increase in the number of attacks on human rights activists. Analyzing this problematic situation, we can see a positive trend of human rights activists becoming more outspoken about attacks and harassment, their increased confidence in human rights organizations working to protect them.

A separate area in the formation of a collective security system for the protection of human rights activists in Ukraine is the official communication between the Center for Civil Liberties and law enforcement agencies on violations of procedural deadlines, unjustified failures to open, openings or closures of criminal proceedings under the Law of Ukraine “On Access to Public Information”. Recently, there has been a negative trend of law enforcement agencies failing to provide the requested information within the framework of this Law, which indicates that the system is still closed despite populist statements to the contrary. Such circumstances facilitate development of new and more effective oversight mechanisms for law enforcement agencies.



In 2021, we kept working on a multi-year initiative to record cases of attacks on human rights activists, as well as stages of communication with law enforcement agencies and courts on the Interactive Map of Civil Society Harassment (<http://ccl.org.ua/map>). A special feature of the map is a graphical representation of up-to-date information on the state of pressure on human rights activists by time and region.

The Center for Civil Liberties initiated the development of an updated version of the legal self-help chatbot FightBack 2. Having analyzed user requests, we began work on improving the resource, focusing on legal aid in the first 24 hours after the incident and supplementing the answers to the most common

questions that arose during the use of the first version.

The human rights movement of Ukraine is in an active formation phase and needs special attention concerning the formation of a positive image of human rights activists and promotion of their work among ordinary citizens of this country, as well as at the international level. In pursuit of this objective, a campaign has been launched to create motivational interviews with human rights activists.

OZON PUBLIC MONITORING GROUP

The OZON Public Monitoring Group is a voluntary association of concerned citizens who are aware of the importance of quality public oversight of government actions as well as key processes that take place at the line of contact between society or individual and the state. The Center for Civil Liberties launched the initiative and coordinates its operations.

Public monitors are an independent party, they are always ABOVE the process. Their activity aims to improve the work of public authorities in the field of human rights through an organized system of independent oversight of them. Through their work, monitor groups promote the concept of government as a hired manager, where the effectiveness of government bodies is assessed directly by the people themselves. The special feature of the group's activities is the broadly-based involvement of "ordinary" citizens in public oversight, regardless of



their previous specialization and experience. The monitors' task is to record events happening in connection with peaceful protests and track violations committed during trials. The recorded data are then analyzed for compliance with national legislation and international standards.

OZON volunteers are visible to the public and easily

recognizable due to special yellow vests and ID cards with the words "public monitor".

During the year, more than 40 new volunteers from Kyiv and the provinces joined OZON. In total, more than 60 volunteers took part in public monitoring and public oversight activities in 2021. To attract new volunteers, we held 7 special trainings



26

cases of
monitoring
of peaceful
assemblies



12

thorough
assessments of
police work during
peaceful assemblies



4

cases of offline
monitoring
of court
hearings



42

appeals
to public
authorities



30

requests
for public
information



to assess police actions during peaceful assemblies, 2 briefings, 3 workshops and 3 volunteer parties in Kyiv and the provinces to improve skills and deepen volunteers' involvement in OZON activities.

In the first half of 2021, the OZON Public Monitoring Group operated without a national coordinator. The lack of coordination and systematic work on developing the group posed a serious challenge to

the functioning of the volunteer community. However, this situation showed that OZON could operate autonomously, and the volunteer community had the ability to self-organize. Between January and July, it monitored 11 peaceful assemblies and composed 6 thorough reports assessing police actions and offering conclusions and recommendations. Among other things, reports on the

monitoring of the rally in support of Serhii Sternenko (February 23) and the event Can't You Hear? You'll See! (March 20) were widely covered in the Ukrainian media, in particular Radio Svoboda and Hromadske.

The OZON Public Monitoring Group continues to grow and recruit new members. In the period from July to December, we revived the process of recruiting new

people to the ranks of public monitors and held trainings for new volunteers. Our network grew especially strongly last year in Kharkiv and Odesa, where the number of volunteers almost doubled.

Active monitoring of police actions during peaceful assemblies allowed us to identify the following most frequent violations:

- I. violations of the rules concerning wearing uniforms and personal identification (in the fall last year, we faced a new frequent problem with raincoats, which are part of police uniforms, because they completely cover all the insignia of the National Police of Ukraine);
2. poor quality of police officers' provision with uniforms and all necessary resources for proper performance of their duties (this problem is especially noticeable in Kharkiv, where a large number of the local National Police Main Directorate (NPMD)'s officers wear old worn-out uniforms, uncomfortable belts and shoes);
3. disproportionate use of force during arrests at assemblies;
4. insufficient communication with the organizers and participants of assemblies on the part of law enforcement agencies, which led to crisis situations, aggression or obstacles to holding peaceful assemblies;
5. unreasonable restrictions on the freedom of peaceful assembly (in particular, preventing participants from entering areas near administrative buildings).

The OZON Public Monitoring Group constantly communicates with law enforcement agencies and conducts advocacy work on all these issues. In many cases, we have been able to get feedback from the police on our recommendations, and the police representatives informed us that the recommendations had been incorporated in their



subsequent work, and they held additional trainings and provided instructive explanations to their employees.

On a separate occasion, we submitted complaints to the Odesa Oblast NPMD and the Mykolaiv City Territorial Office of the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) concerning the case of illegal use of physical force by a police officer (the incident of roughly executed arrest and possible abuse of power recorded during the monitoring of the Pride 2021 march in Odesa). By now, the Odesa Oblast NPMD has conducted an internal investigation, the results of which, together with our analysis, have been

submitted to the SBI for verification and action in accordance with applicable law.

Last year's challenge was the monitoring of court hearings under quarantine restrictions. To continue the group's work in this area, and in particular to continue monitoring the Maidan cases, we submitted 24 requests to a number of district courts to allow public monitors to enter the courtrooms despite the quarantine or provide alternative opportunities to monitor cases (such as online streaming). Unfortunately, our monitors have been allowed access only in two cases so far. We can state, therefore, that the level of openness of the courts has

greatly deteriorated under the pandemic conditions, which has become a big problem for public monitoring.

At the end of last year, about 15 OZON volunteers were organized in separate working groups to further enhance the visibility and capability of the initiative by working on a communication strategy, planning community education and leisure activities, and developing new tools for public oversight of law enforcement and local authorities. Experts from relevant fields have already been recruited for these working groups on a volunteer basis to advise volunteers.

3.4. Human rights training and education

The Kyiv School of Human Rights and Democracy is an educational platform of the Center for Civil Liberties, which for several years in a row has been conducting a number of interesting educational events in different parts of Ukraine and the Eurasia region that are free of charge for their participants.

In 2021, despite COVID-19 and in compliance with all established quarantine restrictions, we held more than 50 educational events, both online and offline.

We held 12 introductory first-level courses on human rights and a two-day second-level training, which were organized both for residents of Ukrainian cities and for people from Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and other countries.

Meanwhile, 4 Human Rights Weekends took place during the summer months, which were a series of lectures, trainings, film screenings and other human rights events held by the Center for Civil Liberties in different cities of Ukraine. The audience of such events is very diverse, but all attendees are united by a common goal to protect the rights of everyone in this country. We worked



with young people, children, university students, public figures and experts, non-governmental organizations and anyone who wanted to learn more about human rights or become a human rights activist.

At these events, we strive to convey information that is important to everyone:

- What are human rights and how to protect them?
- how to exercise one's rights in real life, and not just know that they exist in some document?
- What rights violations actually happen almost every day? And how to respond to them?

Last year we also launched an interesting and meaningful idea, namely started to produce and screen videos on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which highlight the essence, main message and practical aspect of each article of this international act. Thus, we discuss each article using simple language and exploring its practical meaning.

Over the past year, we actively continued Solidarity Talks, a series of international discussions of topics which are important for the Eurasia region. And now all our participants (human rights activists and human rights organizations of the Eurasia region) know that at 2 pm on the third Wednesday

of each month, we start our international discussion. It is a unifying and supportive coalition component that helps us to lend a hand in difficult times when one of our fellow human rights activists needs it. Therefore, we will continue this activity in 2022.

Also in 2021, we held 2 Citadel International Human Rights Schools in Georgia and Kazakhstan. We discussed during them what human rights are; where did they come from; whether a person may violate the rights of another person; how many rights we have and where to look for them; what human rights protect us from; how human rights activism and politics relate; who protects human rights, and much more.



3.5. Strengthening international solidarity

#BelarusWatch is a global solidarity campaign that, with the help of volunteers, has been collecting and organizing information on human rights violations in Belarus since the beginning of the peaceful protests there in August 2020. The initiative unites concerned people from different countries and includes activities and events in support of the Belarusian civil society and individual activists who have suffered from political repression.

#BELARUSWATCH

In 2021, about 10 large-scale solidarity events with the civil society of Belarus were held within the framework of the campaign. Their topics include solidarity with political prisoners, activists and human rights activists, collecting letters in their support, the problem of access to health care in prisons, responding to

acts of blatant human rights violations by the Lukashenko regime, and the protection of the rights of Belarusian children. As part of the events, we submitted an appeal to international bodies to draw their attention to these issues within Belarus and to involve the world community in protecting the rights of Belarusians.



Major Ukrainian media mentioned these events over 50 times. We also held educational lectures for Belarusian migrants in Ukraine.

A joint committee hearing on the security of Belarusians in Ukraine has been initiated within the framework of #BelarusWatch together with other human rights organizations.

We advocated for changes in Ukrainian legislation to improve the living conditions of Belarusian political migrants.

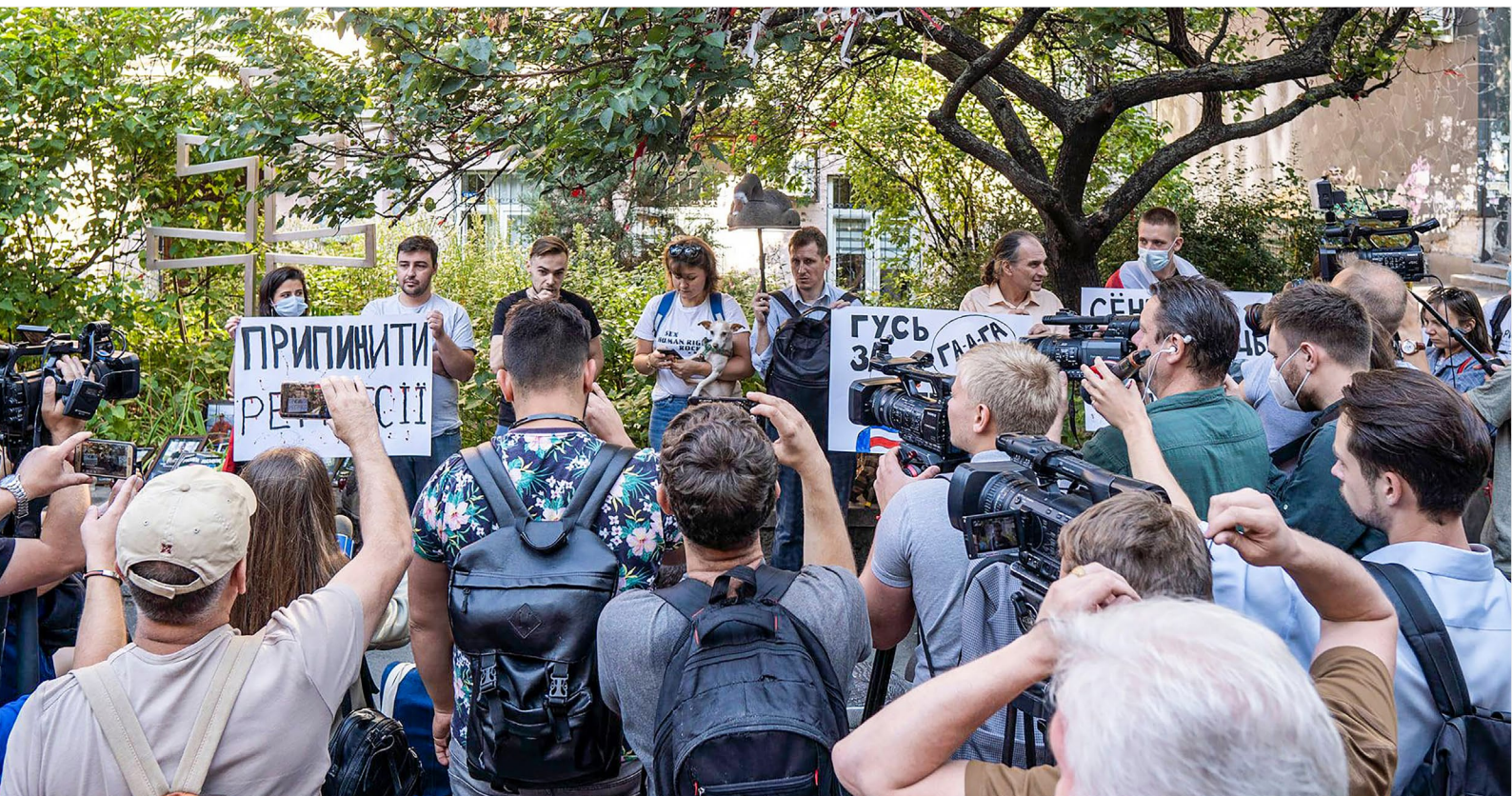
We started a large-scale international campaign of solidarity with Belarusian students expelled from their homeland for political reasons. The campaign was joined by universities



and student unions of democratic countries.

We also held several large-scale events to strengthen linkages within the Belarusian community and establish cooperation with

international and Ukrainian organizations that are ready to join the effort to protect the rights of Belarusians.



3.6. Organizational development

In 2021, the institutional development of the organization unfolded in several main areas that contributed to increasing the stability of the organization's operations.

For instance, the organization expanded the list of internal policies and procedures that are important for sustainable work and transparency. In particular, we developed the Privacy Policy on the use of personal data of website users and improved the Risk Matrix.

We developed a new website for the organization,

which allows us to use the latest tools to improve the organization's digital representation, which is becoming especially important in the pandemic era. The website includes a user-friendly search engine and a payment page that allows individuals to financially support our activities.

We developed the Fundraising Strategy for 2021-2023 with an emphasis on diversification of funding sources and launched a pilot project to attract non-grant funds entitled In the Shadow of Justice.

The staff of the organization has been significantly increased. Specialists in project and event management, PR and communications, and fundraising have joined the team.

We conduct regular staff training in the areas of communications, digital security, fundraising basics, project management, project budgeting, the use of remote communication and planning tools, which is especially important under coronavirus pandemic conditions.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS

1

Selection to the UN Committee against Torture. In June 2021, the chairperson of the CCL was selected a candidate for election to the UN Committee against Torture. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MPs and Ukrainian and international non-governmental organizations, Oleksandra Matviichuk conducted a public campaign.



2

Coordinating the Civic Solidarity Platform's work. The secretariat of the Civic Solidarity Platform has moved east of Vienna in the OSCE region for the first time since 2011. The next two years the Center for Civil Liberties has an important task as we will coordinate the work of an international platform that brings together about a hundred human rights organizations across Europe, Eurasia and North America.

3

The National Human Rights Non-Conference took place online. The event was held for the second time in a hybrid format, which made it possible to comply with all quarantine regulations. The stream of the panel discussions was

watched by 6,300 people, we invited 50 experts who took part in 16 panel discussions. The two-day conference was live-streamed for its entire duration of 15 hours.

4

The 2021 Euromaidan SOS Volunteer Prize had 278 nominees, a record number in all the years of the award's existence.

5



The Verkhovna Rada supported in the second reading the draft law No. 2689. Since the date of the draft law's adoption by the Verkhovna Rada, we kept calling on the President of Ukraine to sign it into law. We launched an

online campaign in which former prisoners called on the President to sign the draft law. We held a performance event entitled Waiting Kills outside the Presidential Office building on August 19 in support of the draft law No. 2689 on war criminals, which has been in a limbo for almost seven months. We keep up a public campaign pushing for the president to sign the Law No. 2689, which has been awaiting Volodymyr Zelensky's signature for the sixth month and counting.

6

Oleksandra Matviichuk was shortlisted for the 2021 Human Rights Tulip. She was nominated for her work on protecting freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and the fight against impunity and for accountability for international crimes.

7

Together with other human rights organizations, we held within the framework of #BelarusWatch a joint committee hearing on the protection of human rights of citizens of the Republic of Belarus seeking protection in Ukraine. In partnership with the Belarusian Students' Association, the #BelarusWatch campaign launched an international campaign of solidarity with

Belarusian students expelled from their homeland for political reasons. The campaign was joined by universities and student unions of democratic countries.

8

As part of the Human Rights Agenda platform, we conducted a public campaign with the participation of veterans and volunteers to push for ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The campaign got supported by Oleksandr Matiash, Dmytro Krykun, Alina Mykhailova, and Andrii Kozinchuk.

9

Jury trial. In 2021, the CCL initiated a coordination meeting of representatives of civil society institutions on the introduction of the jury trial in Ukraine. The organization prepared an analytical report on the draft laws Nos. 4190, 4191, 4192 that had been registered in the Parliament and presented the position of the CCL at the X Annual Judicial Forum on September 30. On November 5, the Committee on Legal Policy included draft laws Nos. 4191 and 4192 on the committee's agenda.

10

As part of the #PrisonersVoice campaign, we held about

50 online and offline events, teleconferences, round tables and conferences, the largest of them being the exhibition project Crimea. Summer Season: What They Can't Take Away from Us, side event Crimean Childhood: Occupation for the Youngest, international event #JournalismIsNotACrime, held in solidarity with imprisoned Radio Svoboda journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko and other journalists working in occupied Crimea and joined by over 30 Ukrainian journalists from 20 publications.

11

Reform of the Security Service of Ukraine. The organization initiated a systematic effort of the Human Rights Agenda coalition experts concerning all problematic issues of the draft law No. 3196-d. CCL experts prepared an analytical report on the danger posed for human rights by certain provisions of the draft law No. 3196-d. The report was supported by 24 organizations, and the conclusions of our experts were passed to the MPs, which made the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to postpone the vote on the draft law.

Thanks to our consolidated advocacy efforts, MPs voted in the first reading for Law No. 6104 concerning support for political prisoners of the Kremlin.

5. OUR TEAM



**Oleksandra
Romantsova**

Executive Director
aleksandra.romantsova@gmail.com



**Anna
Popova**

Project manager
anna.popova.ccl@gmail.com



**Serhina
Tarnavska**

Project manager
sergina.tarnavska.ccl@gmail.com



**Aliona
Bulba**

Project manager
alena.bulba.ccl@gmail.com



**Tymur
Levchuk**

Project manager
tymur.levchuk.ccl@gmail.com



**Liubov
Honcharova**

Accountant
lvgoncharova18@gmail.com



**Roman
Nekoliak**

Project manager
roman.nekoliak.ccl@gmail.com



**Tetiana
Kozachok**

Financial manager
tvkozachok2018@gmail.com



**Kateryna
Pomazanna**

Project manager
kateryna.pomazanna.ccl@gmail.com



**Aliona
Maksymenko**

Assistant Chairperson
of the Board
alona.maksymenko.ccl@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS



**Oleksandra
Matviichuk**

Chairperson of the Board
avalaina@gmail.com



**Iryna
Dumych**

Member of the Board
irynadumych14@gmail.com



**Alisa
Malytska**

Member of the Board
alisamalickaya@gmail.com



**Nazarii
Boyarsky**

Member of the Board
n.boiarskyi@gmail.com



**Ksenia
Shymanska**

Member of the Board
ksenya.shymanska@gmail.com

SUPERVISORY BOARD



**Tetiana
Mazur**

Independent consultant on organizational development of non-governmental organizations. Member of the boards of the Legal Initiative project and KyivPride NGO.



**Maria
Kravchuk**

CEO of Polimentor – digital advertising and contact-center



**Oleh
Martynenko**

Head of the analytical division at the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. Director of the Law Enforcement Research Center NGO. Doctor of Legal Sciences, criminologist.



**Larysa
Denysenko**

Lawyer, human rights activist, writer. Member of the board and presenter at Hromadske Radio. UNDP tolerance envoy in Ukraine. Member of the board at the International Renaissance Foundation.



6. FINANCIAL REPORT 2021



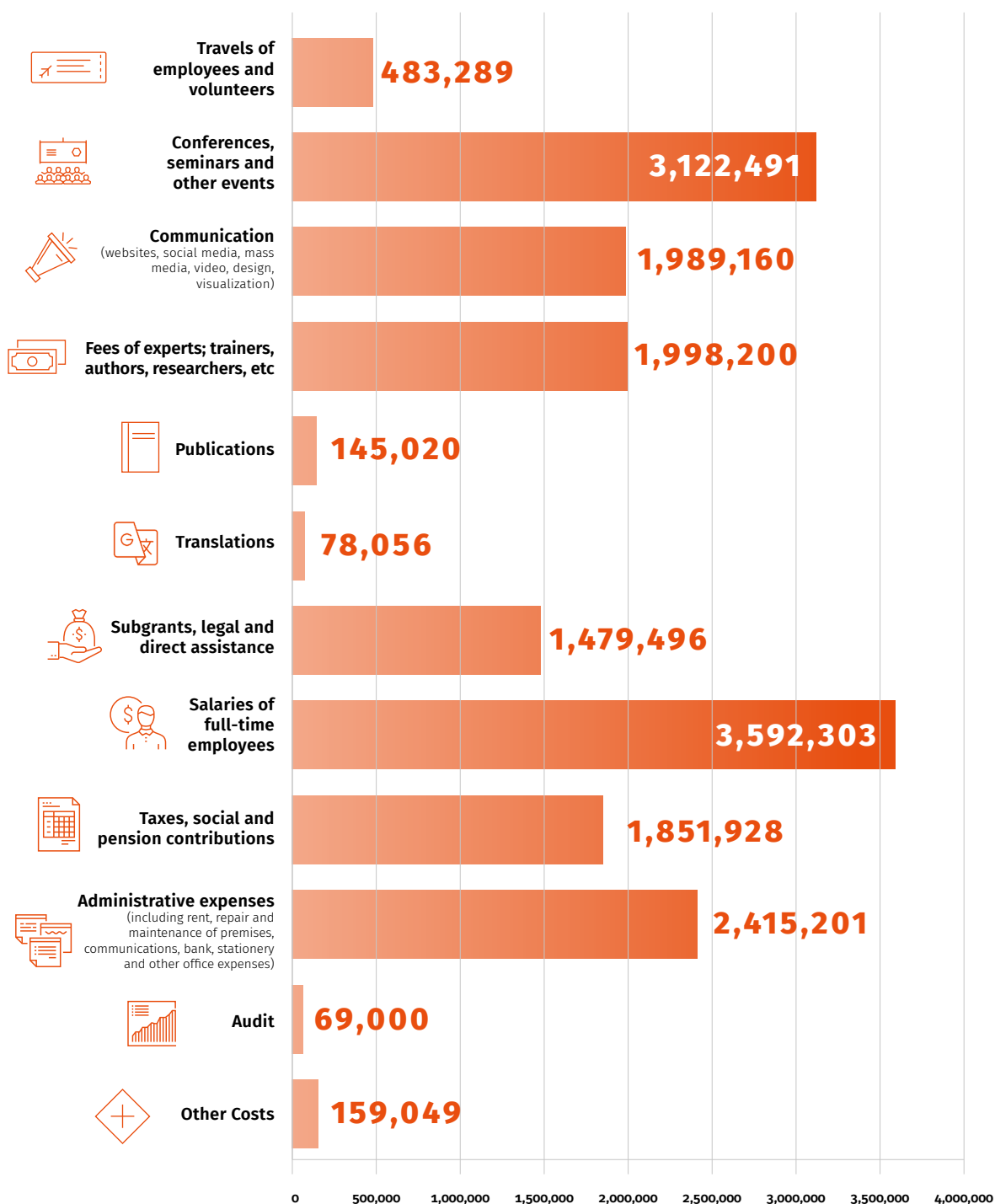
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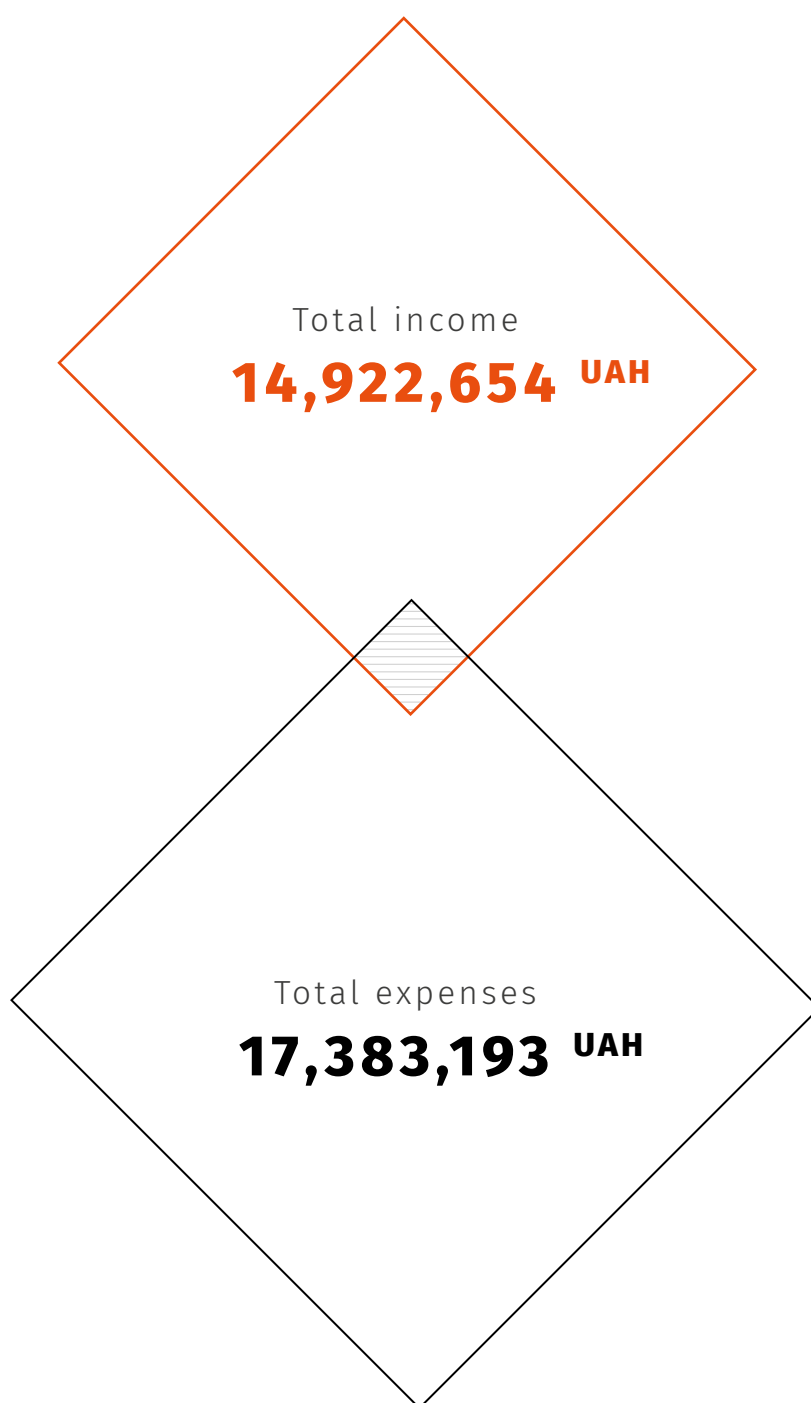
All amounts are indicated in UAH





EXPENSES (ALL AMOUNTS ARE INDICATED IN UAH)







Center
for Civil
Liberties