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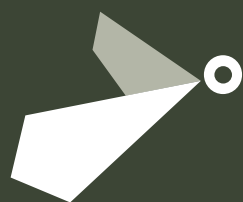
**FOR CIVIL**

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**LIBERTIES**

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ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**Center  
for Civil  
Liberties**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE CENTER  
FOR CIVIL  
LIBERTIES  
2023

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# OPENING REMARKS

Recently, I had a conversation with children at school, and they asked me about leadership. I told them: ‘Imagine you are walking down the street, and you see rubbish scattered next to a bin. You would be happy to ignore it because you are all dressed up and, in a hurry, but you stop and start cleaning it up. And then someone next to you, your friends or some strangers, ask: “Why make your life harder? Do you have to take charge

of everything?’ The moment you answer to yourself, “Yes, I do have to take charge of everything”, that’s when you become a leader. Because leadership is defined by responsibility, not by the number of followers on Facebook’.

Public intellectuals say that we live in the post-truth era. Personally, I think we live in the post-knowledge era. Having access to Google and being able to get the formula of aspirin in a second, people forget that this does not make them chemists. People around the world demand quick and easy solutions. We might have been able to afford it in more peaceful times. You can treat a runny nose with sit-ups; at least there will be no harm to your body. But if you are dealing with cancer, the price of simple solutions will be high.

Therefore, civil society needs to set the trend for complexity. And this is quite a challenge. Especially during the full-scale war of extermination that Russia has waged. And we don’t know whether we are in the middle, at the end, or just at the beginning of this war. That is why we do not have the luxury of postponing

the solution to tough problems until later. We must look for complex solutions now.

It is an illusion that war unites. War unites only at the very beginning, and then there are fissures on various grounds that threaten to tear the country apart as a social organism. Sociologists believe that the main criterion for dividing society is the different experiences of living through this war. And I am not talking about the divide between military, civilians, and refugees. Everything is much more complicated.

People with opposing views do not communicate, they are trying to cry out. People are hurt and very judgemental, they think in black and white, they hit those they can reach, and they easily exclude people and entire groups solely on the basis of an emotional reaction to an event.

But we don’t have the luxury of treating each other like that during a genocidal war, a war of extermination. Our task is to stitch the country together. There are two types of social capital. The first is called ‘bond’ and involves interaction within a group. But you can’t build a country that

*Our task  
is to stitch  
the country  
together*

way. Therefore, it is important to develop a type of social capital called 'bridge', which brings different groups of people together to achieve a goal.

We need to be able to build bridges between groups with different experiences, different visions, and different emotional responses. Because we all have the same goal: to build a country in which the rights of every person are protected, which has a successful economy, which is able to protect its citizens from external aggression.

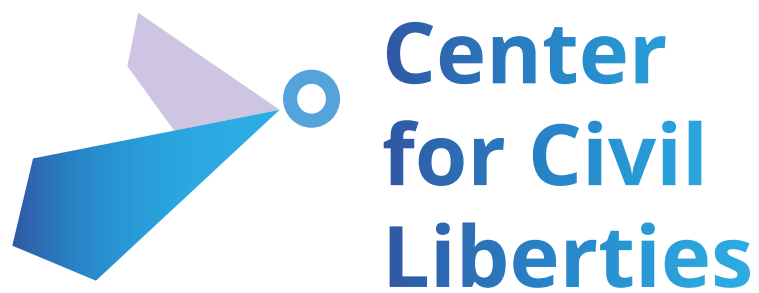
Victimhood is dangerous, especially for oneself. When we work with victims of war crimes, we don't say that they have a war trauma, we say that they have a war experience. Yes, this experience is terrible, and I would very much like us all to avoid it. But it is what it is. We should not be locked in victimhood. We should move on.

Dramatic times provide people with the opportunity to show their best qualities. We can never choose the country we are born in or the time we are born, but we can always make a choice and take responsibility.

**Oleksandra  
Matviichuk**

Head of the  
Organization  
Center for Civil  
Liberties





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# 2. ABOUT THE CENTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Center for Civil Liberties (hereinafter referred to as the CCL) is a Ukrainian human rights organization founded in 2007. The CCL deals with documenting political persecutions, recording human rights violations and war crimes, monitoring and analysing draft laws

for compliance with human rights standards, exercising public oversight of the activities of law enforcement, courts, and local authorities, investigating crimes committed during EuroMaidan, as well as conducting awareness-raising campaigns in the field of human rights and

democracy, international solidarity programmes, and so on. Since the onset of the full-scale Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, the CCL has been documenting war crimes perpetrated by the Russian army and actively advocating the prosecution of war criminals at the international level.

## 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 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.*

# 3. WORK WITHIN STRATEGIC AREAS AND HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES

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

1. Developing the human rights movement and supporting reforms.
2. Overcoming the consequences of the international armed conflict.
3. Getting the public involved in the human rights work.
4. Human rights training and education.
5. Strengthening international solidarity.

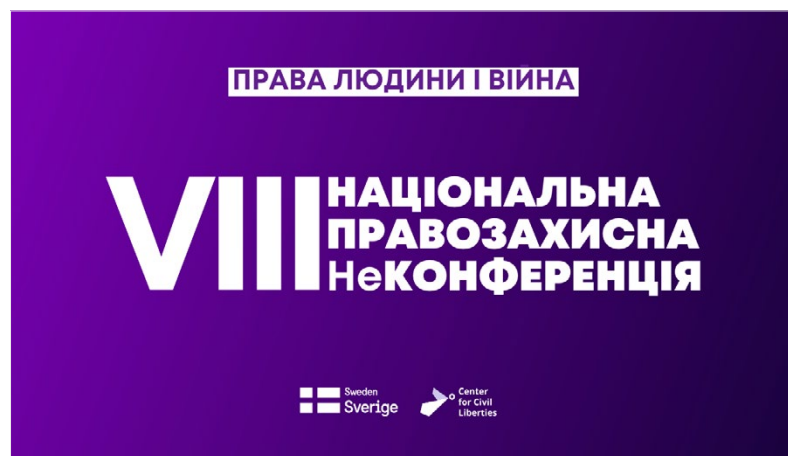
COALITIONS AND INITIATIVES  
COORDINATED BY THE CENTER  
FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES





## 3.1. Developing the human rights movement and supporting reforms

Russia's full-scale invasion, now in its second year, remains one of the biggest challenges for the development of the human rights movement and its consolidation, but reduced opportunities do not mean reduced necessity. Numerous war crimes committed by the Russian aggressor have prompted Ukrainian civil society organisations to join the national resistance and defence, expanding their traditional functions. Together with the co-founders of the global 'Tribunal for Putin' initiative and over 20 regional organisations, the Center for Civil Liberties is collecting



evidence of war crimes, building on its experience of documenting since 2014, and focusing on further advocacy, which is an important

condition for the inevitable punishment of war criminals.

We organise regular events, such as roundtables and human rights clubs, to





consolidate human rights organisations and initiatives, discuss pressing issues, and develop a common position. Here, experts can discuss pressing issues and develop certain recommendations that will be further used for joint advocacy at the national and international levels.

One of the large-scale events of the Center for Civil Liberties, which allows us to unite various human rights organisations and initiatives,

is the Human Rights Non-Conference. This is a cross-sectoral platform for discussing human rights issues and ways to address them.

On 10 December 2023, on International Human Rights Day, it was held for the eighth time. As the event was again held in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, this year's topic was **'Human Rights and War'**. Human rights activists, representatives of international

organisations, and government officials joined the discussion in person and online. The opening panel was devoted to discussing the human rights framework in the lives of Ukrainians in conditions that test their resilience and humaneness on a daily basis. The war poses challenges to the ideology of human rights as the basis of a democratic society in a variety of areas: political, legal, economic, and so on. Therefore, the panellists agreed that it is crucial for public figures to maintain this framework and promote human rights principles. Especially in these difficult circumstances, when the people are resisting the aggressor. The working panels discussed the problems of implementing the Rome Statute in Ukraine, improving international humanitarian law, national practice in war crimes cases, and so on.





Founded by the Human Rights Agenda platform, the **National Human Rights Award — 2023** was traditionally presented at the Not-Conference. The award winner was human rights activist Maksym Butkevych, who is

known for his twenty years of human rights work to combat discrimination and help refugees and displaced persons. After the outbreak of full-scale war, Maksym joined the Armed Forces to defend Ukraine, and in June



2022, he was taken prisoner. The award was presented to the human rights activist's father, Oleksandr Butkevych

As part of the Not-Conference, a Volunteer Congress was held for members of the OZON Civic Monitoring Group, which was attended by more than 30 volunteers from different cities in Ukraine.

The CCL continues to work on spreading knowledge about international humanitarian law. On 17 July 2023, in honour of International Criminal Justice Day, the Center held the Ukrainian International



Criminal Justice Week. This year, it consisted of 3 panel discussions in Ukrainian and 5 academic lectures in English. These events brought together prominent lawyers, researchers, experts, government officials, and representatives of international and regional civil society organisations, who reaffirmed the importance of fighting impunity in Ukraine and around the world.

We believe that justice for victims of war should not depend on how and when the hostilities end. The legal problem of the Russian invasion is the accountability gap. The International Criminal Court does not have jurisdiction over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a crime of aggression. So,

who will guarantee justice for all the victims? Who will give a chance for justice to the hundreds of thousands of victims who will not be lucky enough to be selected by the International Criminal Court? We seek to increase the capacity of state authorities to effectively deliver justice in armed conflict by ratifying the Rome Statute and working on the universal jurisdiction issue.

In order to prepare the human rights movement's talent pool in Ukraine, the Center for



Civil Liberties offers internships at its office in Kyiv to students and recent graduates of law, political science, international relations, journalism, or other Humanities courses. The internship usually lasts 1 to 3 months. Interns are involved in the implementation of our ongoing programmes and events and provide information assistance. This year, 10 young professionals, including those from the United States, France, and Argentina, became our interns. The organisation's database of active volunteers has been expanded with dozens of new names, professions, and personal stories.

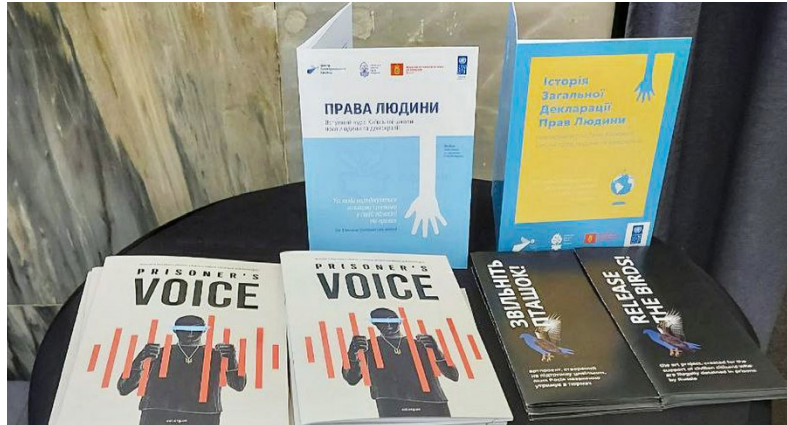
The weekly **Human Rights Digest** is the CCL's information product that covers current and acute human rights issues in Ukraine and worldwide. The digest is published in Ukrainian and English every Monday. Much attention is paid to the topics of international

humanitarian law, countering disinformation, investigations of Russia's war crimes in Ukraine, and the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression.



We also launched a new educational campaign this year. It is called **‘Human Rights: A Book and a Film’**. Every weekend, our social media followers receive a recommendation: a film and a book featuring a human rights message. The materials are carefully selected by the Center’s team from the most interesting works of world classics to introduce readers to the philosophical concepts and imaginative world of the works, as well as to the political and social context of the 17th and 18th centuries.

2023 is in a way a jubilee year for our organisation. 10 years ago, we started the **EuromaidanSOS** volunteer initiative. A few hours after the students on the Maidan were dispersed, we created a Facebook page and posted our first message. It read as follows: ‘If you have been beaten, lost contact with your relatives, or have been arrested, let us know, and we will provide you free legal assistance’. At that time, there were legal counsels among us, but not a single lawyer. So, the second post was a call to lawyers who were ready to help for free. And it worked. We launched hotlines to help the victims on the night of 30 November 2013. Later, the number of people in need of help increased, and we worked 24 hours a day for several months. We provided help and support to over 16,000 people. Beaten, illegally detained or



arrested, tortured, accused in trumped-up criminal cases, relatives of the injured and missing — Euromaidan SOS became a one-stop shop for all persecuted protesters in different regions. Even after ten years, the community of Euromaidan SOS volunteers is still active. This is one of the proofs that the volunteer movement is extremely effective in human rights.

The CCL continues to be a platform for informal interaction between regional organisations even during the war, in particular, within the framework of educational activities of the Kyiv School of Human Rights and Democracy. They are an excellent platform for networking and sharing experiences while gaining new knowledge and deepening understanding of the concept of human rights and related topics.

## 3.2. Overcoming the consequences of an international armed conflict

In 2023, the CCL team continued its activities within the framework of the global ‘Tribunal for Putin’ initiative. Together with the co-founders — the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group — we have developed a comprehensive and holistic approach to collecting information about international crimes committed by Russians, their subsequent documentation and analysis, assisting law enforcement agencies in investigating these crimes, and providing assistance to victims.

More than 20 civil society organisations have been involved in the documentation process, and over 60,000 episodes of international crimes committed by the Russian military have been recorded. The initiative’s network approach allows it to collect facts throughout Ukraine. The data obtained is entered into a special database. It is structured there, assigned a tentative classification under the Rome Statute of the ICC, and evidence (media files, text documents) and personal information of participants in



the events (victims, witnesses, attackers) are stored. Based on the analysis of the collected materials, these crimes are tentatively classified as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

The summarised information is submitted to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the form of an exhibition. The initiative participants have already submitted four exhibitions that classify the actions of the Russians in Mariupol as genocide, unlawful deprivation of liberty, and extrajudicial executions as crimes against humanity; and shelling of civilian facilities and civilians as a range of

war crimes. The exhibitions were presented in a series of three events in media centres in Kyiv and Kharkiv.

This year, the CCL continued its awareness-raising activities on documentation. Each monitoring visit was accompanied by a group of journalists from the world’s leading media. And together with the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, we organised the War Crimes Documentation School. The training was attended by 26 journalists, most of them from the de-occupied territories and local media near the frontline. A total of 7 training events were held this year.

Special attention was paid to documenting abroad. The CCL initiated an expert discussion on this topic involving organisation representatives from 3 countries that collect evidence from Ukrainian refugees. Later, 7 foreign volunteers were trained at the CCL office and then took part in monitoring visits to the scenes of action in Kyiv Oblast. In total, about 15 such visits took place during the year. At the same time, the total number of settlements in Kyiv Oblast, where documenters recorded alleged war crimes, increased by 40 places compared to last year. It amounts to 166 settlements. The number of cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions is also significant. As of the end of the reporting period, more than 4,131 such cases were recorded in the T4P initiative.

In 2023, the Center for Civil Liberties carried out more than 50 advocacy trips to meet



with officials of states and international institutions. Their goal was to promote the establishment of a special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression, to expand the capacity of the International Criminal Court to prosecute war crimes committed by the Russian army, to strengthen the national judicial system by including international experts, and other issues related to overcoming the consequences

of the war and restoring justice for victims of Russian war crimes. These activities covered European countries, the United States, Canada, countries of Asia, Africa, and South America.

Founded in 2014, the Prisoner's Voice campaign continued and scaled up its work. The CCL has information on 988 cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions. Over 100 consultations were held for relatives of civilian victims of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions during the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

When studying these cases, we managed to verify and find the places of detention of civilians who were later falsely accused and convicted in Russia and in the temporarily occupied Crimea.

In addition, we recorded cases of civilians released from unlawful detention who were subjected to abuse, torture, and ill-treatment





by the Russian military and those involved in unlawful detention (employees of pre-trial detention centres and correctional facilities).

On 28 February 2023, the CCL launched an information and advocacy campaign to help free civilian hostages, ‘**Release Without Conditions or Exchange**’, which aimed to unite the efforts of the international community to release civilian prisoners as a result of Russian aggression in Ukraine. The event featured a presentation of the art exhibition **Free the Birds**, followed by a screening of the film *Victoria’s Voice*, which testified to the enforced disappearances of civilians and detention conditions during unlawful imprisonment. Later, the **Free the Birds** art project was presented and exhibited in Kyiv at the Artistic Passage (38 Khreshchatyk Street). The protagonists of the art project were six civilians who are held in Russian captivity as political prisoners and



unlawfully detained Ukrainians: Valentyn Vyhivskyy, Iryna Danylovykh, Serhii Tsyhipa, Nariman Dzhelialov, Riza Izetov, and Iryna Horobtsova. The project reveals the whole drama of the captives through the images of birds in captivity, which may die without our deliberate support.

On 28 April, a **performance** took place in the centre of Kyiv to draw attention to this crucial topic, both for our society and the European one. It focused on the return of unlawfully detained civilians home — **WITHOUT CONDITIONS or EXCHANGE**. The performance was based on evidence of abuse, torture, and ill-treatment of civilian Ukrainians released from captivity. On 24 June, as part of the **Release Without Conditions or Exchange** campaign, the 11th International Book Arsenal Festival hosted a discussion titled ‘**WOMEN’S VOICES: a confession story of released women prisoners of war about Russian captivity**’. The event was held as part of the Prisoner’s Voice global initiative.

During Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, over







45 civic initiatives and organisations focused on protecting the rights of prisoners of war and civilian victims of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention were formed amid the growing problem of illegally imprisoned civilians and victims of arbitrary detention. The CCL took an active part in their training and interaction.

In April and October 2023, the CCL team and partner organisations held a number of side events at the Human Dimension Conferences in Vienna and Warsaw. During the side events, the following topics were presented: ‘Forced displacement and deportation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, by the Russian Federation,’

‘Filtration and forced relocation: examining Russia’s violations of international law’ and ‘Torture of civilian prisoners of war and prisoners of war after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine’. The events were based on numerous violations of international laws by the Russian Federation, which cover three legal dimensions: international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law. These violations were reported by those who have been unlawfully imprisoned, tortured, and ill-treated in places of detention in the Russian Federation and





in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.

The Center for Civil Liberties held a joint side event Victim-Centred Justice: Ukraine's Experience in New York as part of the meeting of the Assembly of States of the International Criminal Court. The meeting focused on the detention of civilians in Russia and the occupied territories, improper detention conditions, filtration, and torture. They also discussed the need for an international investigation and the need to develop legal mechanisms to return civilians to Ukraine from the Russian Federation.





During the first quarter, the CCL organised and conducted a three-module training on International Humanitarian Law and its implementation at the national level for the staff of the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

Over the year, three human rights clubs were held with experts and civil society organisations to protect the rights and freedoms of civilians unlawfully detained as a result of Russian aggression, to respect the rights of prisoners of war, and to advocate for their release.

On 27 July 2023, the Center for Civil Liberties, together with the NGO **Military Medics of Ukraine**, launched a large-scale information and advocacy campaign to ensure the rights of captured medics as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war. According to International Humanitarian

Law, it is prohibited to humiliate, torture, and abuse prisoners of war! The campaign was widely publicised, we held meetings with international organisations and the international community and sent an appeal to the UN Human Rights Committee.

We held more than 15 meetings with representatives of international organisations, with whom we discussed and cooperated on the protection of all victims of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. We provided them with information about the abuse, torture, and ill-treatment of civilians and prisoners of war by the Russian Federation.

As part of the campaign for the release of prisoners, more than 500 letters from relatives of prisoners of war and illegally detained civilians from Crimea and other regions of Ukraine were delivered to the Pope.

The Center for Civil Liberties was one of the NGOs that initiated the **creation of a mechanism of mixed medical commissions**, as prescribed by the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and informed the state executive authorities of its readiness to work.

On 30 August, International Day of Enforced Disappearances, the Center held an **action in support of civilian prisoners named 'VOICES' on Mykhailivska Square**.

The Center for Civil Liberties is aware of more than 150 penitentiary institutions in Russia and the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine where civilians are being held without any grounds for detention and abducted during the occupation from their homes, on their way to the store, or from their workplace. They are tortured, starved, subjected to psychological pressure,



and placed in an information vacuum; and innocent people are subjected to moral and physical abuse. For the Russian Federation, the practice of enforced disappearances has become one of the most common methods of intimidating citizens in the occupied territories.

During the year, the CCL, together with human rights organisations in Ukraine, published 11 statements on new waves and detentions of Crimean Tatars in the temporarily occupied Crimea, Russia's disregard for international humanitarian rights, arbitrariness, and crimes against humanity.

The December report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights focused on the system of violations by the Russian Federation of the detention conditions of prisoners of war, including medical personnel, violations of the Geneva Conventions, and the illegal detention of civilians in places of imprisonment in Russia and the temporarily occupied territories, and the use of torture and ill-treatment against all categories of detainees. The report was based on materials provided by the Center for Civil Liberties.

In 2023, the Center for Civil Liberties undertook more than 50 advocacy visits to meet with officials of states and international institutions to promote the establishment of a special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression, to



for Civil Liberties' professionals and the status of the Nobel Peace Prize winner allows us to meet directly with decision-makers, to convey information about the horrific human rights violations and international crimes committed by the Russian army, facilitating accountability for war crimes and helping recover justice for the victims of Russian military aggression.

expand the capacity of the International Criminal Court to prosecute war crimes committed by the Russian army and to strengthen the national judicial system by including international experts. These activities covered European countries, the United States, Canada, countries of Asia, Africa, and South America. The expertise of the Center

# 3.3. Getting the public involved in the human rights work

**In 2023, the OZON Civic Monitoring Group** continued to work on expanding opportunities for ordinary people to engage in civic monitoring, and also qualitatively deepened the practices started in 2022.

In particular, OZON focused on three monitoring mechanisms:


- monitoring of police actions at peaceful assemblies,
- monitoring of court hearings,
- monitoring the arrangement of civil protection facilities by local authorities.

One of the most important and consolidating events was the roundtable discussion ‘Civic monitoring during the war: how to

prevent the curtailment of democracy’, which was joined by leading Ukrainian organisations engaged in civic monitoring of the authorities. During the event, we publicly discussed the situation with civic monitoring as of the beginning of 2023 in various areas (judiciary, anti-corruption, peaceful assembly, reforms, and more).

In 2023, we finalised the results of the first shelter monitoring campaign through a public dialogue with the authorities and by publishing reports and recommendations. One of the results was a large communication campaign in cooperation with the Centre for Strategic Communications and Dovidka.info: a series of videos that answer questions about the right to use shelters.

In response to the tragic events (deaths in Kyiv near the closed entrance

-  **16** cases of monitoring of peaceful assemblies,
-  **3** cases of court monitoring
-  **50+** visits of monitoring groups to shelters
-  **6** lectures on Civic Monitoring
-  **13** pieces of training on shelter monitoring



to the shelter) and new regulatory documents issued by the authorities (namely, Presidential Decree No. 353/2023), OZON launched the Second Shelter Monitoring Campaign to track improvements or no changes in the protection of citizens.

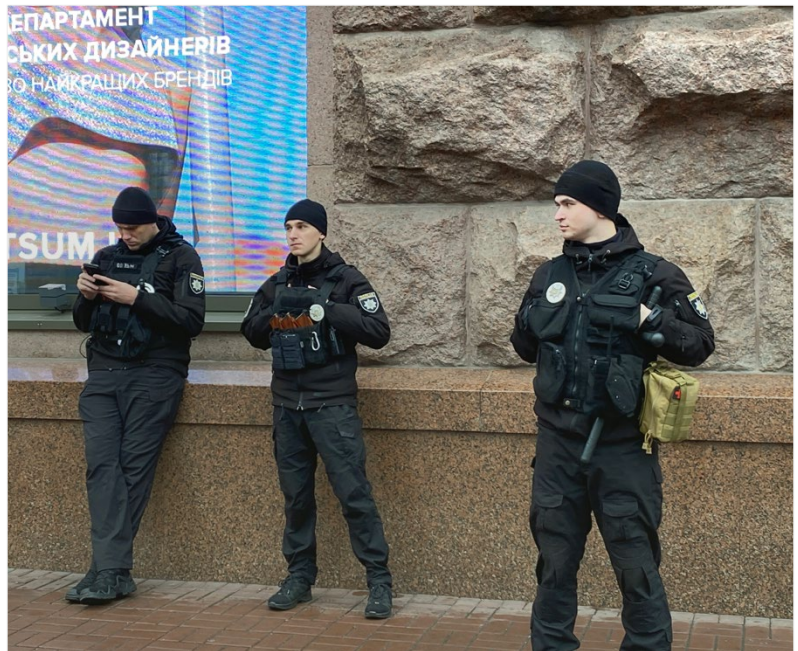
Education has also become an important area of our activity: lectures on civic monitoring and state-building from the perspective of civil society, training sessions on monitoring shelters, monitoring police actions, as well as training for NGOs

and initiatives on organising peaceful assemblies under martial law. In 2023, the OZON Civic Monitoring Group also started a good tradition — the annual Volunteer Congress to summarise its activities and plan for the next year.

## MONITORING OF POLICE ACTIONS AT PEACEFUL ASSEMBLIES

In 2023, the OZON Civic Monitoring Group monitored peaceful assemblies 16 times. Following two days of monitoring of the assembly and counter-assembly near the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra on 31 March and 1 April, OZON prepared a comprehensive report describing the events and providing the assessment of the on-site work of law enforcement agencies and actions during conflict situations.

OZON also monitored 11 peaceful assemblies held near the Kyiv City State Administration regarding



the use of the city's budget for military needs. We published reports on the results of individual actions on social media and posted a comprehensive report on the entire marathon of meetings on our website. In particular, during the monitoring, the volunteers noted a positive practice on the part of the Dialogue Police and the Special Purpose Police — carrying

personal first aid kits. The Civic Monitoring Group is in constant communication with the National Police regarding the recorded violations of the rules of wearing uniforms and personal identification and the involvement of municipal guards in the protection of peaceful assemblies. Thus, at the end of the year, OZON volunteers met with employees of the Preventive Communication Department (dialogue police) to discuss common problems and challenges and establish better communication. The NPU also received a comprehensive monitoring report and recommendations for improving police work in the field.

OZON also conducted two training sessions related to freedom of peaceful assembly:



- training on monitoring the actions of law enforcement agencies at peaceful assemblies — for new volunteers;
- training on organising peaceful assemblies under martial law — for civil society organisations and initiative groups to

improve their awareness of the legal framework and debunk the myth that peaceful assemblies are prohibited during war. This training was useful, in particular, for newly established organisations dealing with the issue of military and civilian prisoners.

### MONITORING OF COURT HEARINGS

In 2023, it will be ten years since the start of the Maidan cases, which have faced enormous challenges over this time. In February, the initiative organised the human rights club ‘Maidan Cases’ to discuss these issues and find a common ground, which was joined by specialised organisations and initiative groups, as well as relatives of the victims. This discussion was important and raised the issue of seeking justice for those killed during

the Revolution of Dignity and how the public can help.

In 2023, OZON volunteers monitored 3 court hearings:

- the case of Korban v. Roman Ratushnyi and the NGO ‘Protect Protasiv Yar’ in the Kyiv Court of Appeal;
- the case of the closed shelter in the Kyiv Court of Appeal (twice).

Based on the results of the monitoring, volunteers prepared reports that OZON published on its social media.

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

This year, the volunteers of the OZON Civic Monitoring Group took part in the Seminar on Freedom of Expression for Young Experts in Utoya and the World Forum on Freedom of Expression in Norway. These events were aimed at highlighting the challenges

to one of the fundamental freedoms and finding solutions in the large international community. The events were attended by participants from all over the world: from Argentina to the Philippines, from Ukraine to Iran, from Myanmar to Yemen.

For our volunteers, it was a good opportunity to learn about the experience of freedom of peaceful assembly in other countries and share our practices of monitoring law enforcement actions.

## NATIONAL MONITORING OF CIVIL PROTECTION FACILITIES (SHELTERS)

On 23 November, OZON announced the start of the National Shelter Monitoring Campaign, which lasted until March 2023.

The goal of the campaign was to learn the overall condition of shelters, existing problems, and areas for improvement through monitoring.

Develop recommendations for law enforcement authorities on how to act if the shelter is unavailable for passers-by / closed / unapproachable.

In the spring of 2023, the OZON Civic Monitoring Group publicly summed up the results of the campaign by holding a joint press

conference with the Director of the Department of Municipal Security of the Kyiv City State Administration, the Head of the Department for Organisation of Civil Protection Measures of the SES in Kyiv, and the Housing Cooperative Association in Kyiv. During the event, the results of the campaign and the challenges of providing quality protection facilities for the population were made public. OZON developed recommendations





at the local and national level, the implementation of which will significantly improve the accessibility and basic quality of shelters. In total, the first campaign involved about 130 volunteers and 7 cities: Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa (and the city of Rozdilna in Odesa Oblast), Cherkasy, Mykolaiv, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhia.

Having conducted such a thorough study of the problems of shelter accessibility, OZON, together with the Centre for Strategic Communications and Dovidka.info, launched a national communication campaign — a series of videos that answer the questions regarding the right to use shelters: Can I enter the shelter of a building I do not live in? Can I let strangers into the shelter? Who should I call if the shelter is closed? And many more. These videos have received the status of social advertising and are broadcast on Intercity trains, on Suspilne and Espresso.

In the summer, Kyiv suffered a tragedy: three people died near the closed door to the shelter. After that, Presidential Decree No. 353/2023 put into effect the NSDC decision to ensure round-the-clock unimpeded access to shelters. To check whether the situation with accessibility and basic quality of shelters has improved, the OZON Civic Monitoring Group launched a second shelter monitoring campaign, which has already involved more than 150 people in 8 cities: Kyiv, Lutsk, Lviv,



Odesa, Mykolaiv, Cherkasy, Shostka, and Uzhhorod. In particular, about 150 shelters were checked in Kyiv, and all shelters intended for sheltering local residents (excluding businesses and educational institutions) were checked in Cherkasy, Shostka, and Lutsk. The results of the campaign will be shared with local authorities in the cities and published along with recommendations in early 2024.

The Shelter Monitoring Campaign has become a powerful tool for engaging ordinary people in the practice of civic monitoring of the authorities, as well as identifying systemic problems in the important area of civilian protection.

Among the important monitoring products is the development of a step-by-step guide 'How to Check Your Shelter Yourself?' which

volunteers actively distributed in their cities, as well as the publication of a methodology for civic monitoring of civil protection facilities. This methodology was based on OZON's experience and the Requirements for the Organisation and Operation of Civil Protection Facilities. Both documents are publicly available and can be used by organisations or initiatives to assess shelters independently.

During the year, OZON managed to engage new people in the practice of civic monitoring, which is extremely important for democracy in times of war. Volunteers join the monitoring of shelters, courts, and police to help highlight problems, improve the situation, and be the creators of changes that help keep the state within the framework of quality public service.

## VOLUNTEER PRIZE 2023

This year, the Center for Civil Liberties held the tenth-anniversary ceremony in honour of ‘ordinary people doing extraordinary things’ as part of the Euromaidan SOS initiative, once called the Volunteer Prize.

The All-Ukrainian Volunteer Prize initiative is a national non-governmental award for a particular contribution to the volunteer movement in Ukraine in honour of ‘ordinary people who do extraordinary things’. The Prize was founded in November 2014 by the EuroMaidan SOS initiative and guided by the Center for Civil Liberties when a large-scale volunteer movement became a decisive response to new challenges. In February 2022, the whole of Ukraine became a reliable volunteer



home front: a few united into thousands, and the volunteer movement exploded with powerful initiatives, while almost all clusters of social life manifested unity, mutual support, and assistance. Volunteering has become part of the new Ukrainian culture.

This year’s award was special. For the first time, we have

abandoned the procedure of nominating volunteers, because the contribution of one person and a large charitable foundation alike is important in wartime and necessary for our Victory. Instead of awards, ratings, long and short lists, we have created a website where people can leave words of gratitude to each and





every person who volunteers for the benefit of Ukraine.

On 5 December, International Volunteer Day, we gathered more than 200 volunteers and leaders of volunteer communities to say thank you to them.



The Volunteer Prize 2023 was jointly organised by the Center for Civil Liberties, the Ukrainian Volunteer Service, and the Ukrainian Women's Battalion. The award ceremony took place as part of the 12th Civil Society

Development Forum on 5 December 2023 with support from ISAR Ednannia. Our partners, Media Center Ukraine, provided information support and created a documentary film about the history of the Volunteer Prize *From Tens to Millions*.

## 3.4. Human rights training and education



Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has significantly changed the interaction formats of the Kyiv School of Human Rights and Democracy (KSHRD) and our audience. Every month, all our students have to overcome the challenges of war together with us: interruptions in training during air raids, transition to online or mixed form of our events, prolonged power outages,

and security challenges for speakers and participants. However, these challenges only made us better and improved our educational products and procedures.

KSHRD is an educational platform of the Center for Civil Liberties, which has been conducting a series of useful and practical free educational events in various parts of Ukraine and the Eurasia region for

several consecutive years now. In 2023, we held more than 80 educational events, both online and offline, and started to practice a mixed format to facilitate the participation of people from different regions and countries. However, martial law in Ukraine facilitated the change of vector of selected topics for our events, as we also held a series of training sessions on documenting war crimes.

Also, for the first time this year, we launched thematic courses. In 2023, we held 3 different ones:

**I. VIACHESLAV LIKHACHOV'S AUTHOR'S LECTURE COURSE 'ENEMIES OF OPEN SOCIETY', WHICH STARTED ON 18 MAY AND INCLUDED 8 ONLINE LECTURES EVERY THURSDAY, COVERING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

- **FASCISM.** What does this term actually mean, and can the current Russian regime be considered fascist?
- **FUNDAMENTALISM.** How radical religious and political movements are trying to fight for influence in the post-secular world.
- **POPULISM.** Right and left: why it is gaining popularity in the last decade and what threats it poses.
- **CONSPIRACY THEORIES.** How belief in behind-the-scenes power undermines democracy.
- **ORIENTALISM.** Post-colonial criticism and its challenges.
- **ANTI-GENDER.** Why has the idea of gender equality become a trigger for the conservative part of society?



- **NATIONALISM.** Enemy, companion, or ally of democracy?
- **LEFT-WINGERS.** What went wrong? Why does the movement for equality and justice increasingly find itself on the same side of the socio-political barricades as the most obscurantist conservative movements?

Viacheslav Likhachov, the author of the course, is a member of the Expert Council of the Center for Civil Liberties and the author of over sixty scientific papers and books. He studies ethno-political conflictology, xenophobia in the post-Soviet space, the ideology and activities of right-wing radical movements in Russia and Ukraine, political extremism, the theory of nation and nationalism, the history of anti-Semitism, the history of the revival of Jewish

communities in the post-Soviet space, and interfaith relations.

**II. MYKHAILO SAVVA'S AUTHOR'S COURSE 'MODERN RUSSIAN POLITICAL REGIME', WHICH STARTED ON 27 JUNE AND INCLUDED 7 LECTURES HELD ONLINE EVERY TUESDAY AT 6 P.M. AND COVERED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

- The political regime of modern Russia: authoritarianism, fascism, neo-totalitarianism.
- The real system of Russian power: can it be called usurpation?
- Russian state ideology: the ideological basis of mass war crimes.
- Ukraine in the official Russian state ideology: why are they afraid?

- The system of official Russian propaganda: how effective is it and why?
- Formats of human rights violations by the Russian authorities in Russia and abroad: how can we fight it?
- Centrifugal tendencies of Russian regions: what is the potential of separatism in Russia?

The author of the course is Mykhailo Savva, Doctor of Political Science, Professor, member of the Expert Council of the Center for Civil Liberties, Professor at the Free University (Latvia). In the past, he combined teaching at the university with practical work — monitoring human rights and managing programmes to support civil society in Russia. The FSB awarded him with criminal cases for his successes and achievements, forcing him to move to Kyiv. He has mastered the Ukrainian language and now, with his experience in Russia, he can easily break down Russia's current political regime.



III. VIACHESLAV LIKHACHOV'S COURSE 'NATIONAL MINORITY RIGHTS: INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND UKRAINIAN CONTEXT', WHICH STARTED ON 14 SEPTEMBER, IS RELEVANT AND IMPORTANT IN TODAY'S CIRCUMSTANCES. EVERY THURSDAY, THERE WERE 4 DIFFERENT LECTURES ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Why are national minorities important?
- National minorities, ethnic communities, and indigenous peoples: understanding the concepts
- Ukrainian realities and Ukraine's international obligations
- What's next? Options for addressing the challenges facing our country

We held 4 introductory level 1 human rights courses in Kyiv and online. 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, university students, public figures and experts, non-governmental organisations, civil servants, and anyone who wanted to learn more about human rights or become a human rights activist. During these events, we also strived to convey the following information:

- What are human rights, and how to protect them?
- How to use your rights in real life, not just know that they are on paper somewhere?
- What violations of rights actually happen almost every day? And how to respond to them?

In the summer, we also held the 2nd level of the Human Rights Course based on international human rights standards, which was called ‘Human Rights and Solving Social Problems: Challenges, Strategies, and Guidelines for Action’. The trainers of this stage were Oleksandra Matviichuk, Oleksandra Romantsova, Mykhailo Savva, Volodymyr Yavorskyi, Viacheslav Likhachov, and Kostiantyn Zadoia.

In November, the Human Rights School brought together people from different regions of Ukraine around this topic. The School’s goal was to train the next generation of human rights defenders.

Despite the circumstances, this year we continued Solidarity Talks – an international discussion of important topics for the Eurasia Region. All our participants (human rights activists and human rights organisations of the Eurasia Region) know that we start our international discussion at 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. 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 continue this activity in 2024.

## HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDE

In 2023, the CCL, in partnership with the Latvian organisation Baltic Human Rights Society and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, launched the first online Ukrainian-English Human Rights Guide in Ukraine. This educational tool provides information about human rights on specific topics, legislation, examples and useful resources, and information on where to go for help. The guide will be extremely helpful for law students and young lawyers who are learning the profession of human rights and human rights activists; and it will be of interest to representatives of the public sector, non-governmental

organisations, and academia. Developed for a Ukrainian audience, the manual takes into account the specifics of national legislation and correlates it with European law, which is especially important in light of Ukraine’s progress towards EU membership. The guide was launched by the Baltic Human Rights Society, a Riga-based NGO, and has already been launched in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Slovakia; and this year, it will be launched in France, Croatia, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine.



## 3.5. Strengthening international solidarity



Since the first days of the Russian invasion, the CCL has been systematically working to expand its participation in international human rights mechanisms: UN conventional mechanisms, the ones of OSCE, the Council of Europe, and other inter-governmental institutions, and to engage Ukrainian organisations to put Ukraine on the global agenda.

The CCL takes an active part in international networks and solidarity events to protect human rights in the OSCE region.

For the second year in a row, the Center has been acting as the **Secretariat of the Civic Solidarity Platform**. Together with its colleagues, the Center organised the OSCE Civil Society Side Event on 29 November

in Skopje, on the eve of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

The event was aimed at liaising and building partnerships between civil society organisations, representatives of state institutions and international organisations, and at presenting a Declaration entitled "The OSCE and its participating States should overcome the organisation's paralysis, stop continued





aggression, ensure justice, respond to expanding conflicts and growing repression, and reflect on the future of the Helsinki process?

The Center was also an observer at the annual meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council on 30 November, where we met with a number of ministers and heads of delegations of OSCE participating States. In particular, we discussed plans to develop proposals for OSCE reforms in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act in 2025.

As the Secretariat, the CCL works to support the platform's internal and external communication, horizontal cooperation between member organisations, and sharing of experience between different generations of human rights defenders in the OSCE region. It promotes the effective implementation of the human rights agenda and represents the voice of



civil society during the turbulent events of this year.

Russia's actions have targeted civilians and undermined international law. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine demonstrates that impunity in Ukraine gives a green light and emboldens the worst destructive forces in other parts of the world.

The Secretariat's work is important for repelling the aggression by consolidating more than 100 human rights organisations and CSP members on the OSCE platform during the Parallel



Human Rights Conference and the Committee of Ministers meeting.

It is important to mention the Center's participation in reforming the Council of Europe system within the CURE network. Both organisations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, were criticised after Russia's full-scale invasion and failure to help. Together with its partners, the CCL works to address the investment concerns of these organisations caused by Russia's invasion in order to develop and promote new regional security systems.

Together with the American Bar Association Centre for



Human Rights, the CCL prepared a report titled ‘Russia’s War in Ukraine: Filtering and Forced Relocation of Civilians Constitute Gross Violations of International Law’.

The report provides an overview and analysis of the evidence gathered on the practice of filtering based on field research conducted

both in Ukraine and abroad. The analysis focuses on three categories of filtering-related violations: arbitrary detention and deprivation of liberty, inhuman treatment and torture, and forced displacement and deportation. These actions are in direct violation of multiple international laws that span three legal frameworks: international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law.

As the first Ukrainian organisation to win the Nobel Peace Prize, the Center has the opportunity to speak at the Nobel movement’s venues, such as the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo.

Oleksandra Matviichuk joined the campaign for the release of Narges Mohammadi, the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize winner, for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran. At a time when authoritarian regimes are cooperating, **people fighting for freedom must support each other.**



## 3.6 Organisational development

In 2023, the Center for Civil Liberties developed an updated 2024–2026 Strategy, which is the organisation’s response to the challenges of Russia’s ongoing military aggression and the general weakening of European and international security mechanisms. At the same time, Ukraine has gained new opportunities for European integration, which require increased attention from human rights defenders in the adaptation of

Ukrainian legislation, which was also taken into account. Particular attention is paid to organisational development and strengthening the organisation’s capacity to respond to challenges and adapt its work to constant change.

A psychological support system is in place for the organisation’s team, voluntary medical insurance has been introduced, and a number of trainings have been held to improve skills and teamwork.

This year, the Center for Civil Liberties communications team worked extremely effectively, and the structure of the team itself has changed. Currently, the organisation’s communications department consists of a coordinator, a press secretary, an SMM manager, and a writer. A clear division of areas of responsibility allows for excellent performance of a particular job, as each team member is a professional in her field.

### 3.6.1. COMMUNICATIONS



This year, the Center for Civil Liberties has been engaged in various communication activities aimed at spreading information about the importance of human rights protection. The communications

team used a variety of channels, including its website and social media, as well as press releases, engaging media partners to cover public events and creating publications.

### MEDIA

The Communications Department actively cooperated with various national and international media, providing them with information and expert opinions on human rights, war crimes, prisoners of war and civilian prisoners, civic monitoring, and education and awareness.

According to the Semantic Force monitoring system, the Center for Civil Liberties was mentioned in Ukrainian and English **more than 13 thousand times** in various media and



13 000+

mentions of the Center for Civil Liberties in Ukrainian and English in various media and online platforms.

online platforms during the year. Also, according to this monitoring system, Oleksandra Matviichuk was mentioned in **almost 9 thousand publications.**

Over the year, the Center for Civil Liberties team members made thousands of comments and gave hundreds of interviews to national and international media.

In particular, the leading **national media** interviewed Oleksandra Matviichuk, the Head of the organisation, and Oleksandra Romantsova, the Executive Director of the organisation, and published numerous materials about civilians held in Russian captivity, including women and medical workers. The media also reported and filmed the work of our initiative, which monitors shelters, and all the cities where the monitoring began in 2023 published news stories about the OZON.

Information and analytical materials about the Center for Civil Liberties were also published in many **global media.** Throughout the year, we continued to inform the international community about the war crimes committed by the Russian army, the need to establish a tribunal for Putin, Lukashenko, and other war criminals, and to ensure justice for all victims of the war. Among the world's media, our work has been covered by Time, Associated Press, El País, The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Independent, Al Jazeera, The Guardian, and hundreds of others.

The Center for Civil Liberties also held a number of press conferences and briefings for the media, including on the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Putin and Lvivova-Belova, the need for civic monitoring in various areas during the war, war crimes against media professionals, and the state of shelters in Ukraine. The media broadly covered the organisation's public events, including the presentation of an exhibition dedicated to civilian

Ukrainians forcibly detained by Russia and a rally outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, which was broadcast live by one of Ukraine's most famous streamers, Bohdan Kutieпов. We also presented the National Human Rights Award, the Volunteer Prize, and the Human Rights Guide.

BLOGS

The head of the Kyiv School of Human Rights, Alona Bulba, started a blog on



TIMEING-LEADERS

Oleksandra Matviichuk  
RECORDING WAR  
CRIMES

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

A renowned Ukrainian human-rights lawyer at just 39 years old, Oleksandra Matviichuk has devoted her life to protecting democracy. Oleksandra and her team at the Center for Civil Liberties—a human-rights organization based in Kyiv—have strived to make Ukraine more democratic and document Russia's war crimes against civilians. Last year, she jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize—the first ever awarded to a Ukrainian citizen or organization. Violence against civilians is a crime against society, democracy, and humanity. Yet it is too often perpetrated with impunity, particularly against women and girls. That's why the work that Oleksandra and her organization are doing is so urgent and important. By documenting Russia's atrocities so perpetrators can face prosecution, she is proof that women are not just victims of war; they can be agents of peace and justice.

Clinton, a Democrat, is a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State



JOE BIDEN  
Driving change  
BY BRIAN BENNETT

Joe Biden likes to say that it's never a good idea to bet against the American people. Ron Klain, his first chief of staff, has a different take: "It is never a good bet to bet against Joe Biden." As he ramps up for a likely re-election campaign, Biden can point to a crowded scorecard of accomplishments: hundreds of billions of dollars to combat climate change; capping annual drug costs for Medicare holders; historic investments in roads, bridges, and broadband access; ushering the first black woman onto the Supreme Court; passing the first gun-control law in a generation;

human rights education and awareness on the Sho-Tam youth resource, and the head of the OZON Civic Monitoring Group, Ivanna Malchevska, became a regular contributor to the national news agency Ukrinform, where she talks about the importance of civic monitoring. The leading online media outlet Ukrainska Pravda continued to publish a column by Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of the Center for Civil Liberties.

PARTNERSHIPS

This year, thanks to the efforts of the communications team of the Center for Civil Liberties, we have acquired many valuable media partners in our work for both national and foreign audiences.

In particular, in partnership with the Media Center Ukraine, we released a documentary about the history of the Volunteer Prize titled *From Tens to Millions*, and 1+1 and ICTV TV channels became media partners of the event, broadcasting it on their digital platforms, which brought the total number of viewers to over 10,000. Another TV channel with which we have established ongoing cooperation is Suspilne. The national broadcaster and its regional branches aired a video demanding the release of all civilian prisoners without conditions or exchange and a series of videos answering the most common questions about shelters. Espresso, Hromadske, and Hromadske

with which we released instructions for relatives of prisoners of war, civilian hostages, and missing persons and a series of videos about shelters, which together have received more than 1 million views on YouTube alone.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Communications Department successfully developed the presence of the Center for Civil Liberties in social media. The Facebook page reached 472 thousand followers over the year, which is 18.7% higher than in the previous year. The Instagram page reached over 706 thousand users over the year.

The communications team also developed the pages of the Center for Civil Liberties' projects on social media. For example, the Facebook page of the Kyiv School of Human Rights reached 52 thousand users (+289.2%), Prisoners Voice 163 thousand (+43.3%), the public monitoring group OZON 15 thousand, and Euromaidan SOS 289 thousand. Over the year, the Kyiv School of Human Rights' Instagram page coverage reached almost 25,000, Prisoners Voice's page 97,000, and the OZON Civic Monitoring Group 66,000.

In addition, the Center for Civil Liberties has a YouTube channel and X (Twitter). During the year of work, the communications team used different types of content to promote the work

Radio were also media partners in our various events.

Another partner of ours was the Dovidka info portal made by the Center for Strategic Communications,



of the organisation and co-operated with other pages; for example, jointly with the Ukrainian-language resource Svidomi, we published a post about shelters, and the English-language resource ukraine.ua was involved in promoting the issue of women in captivity, where only one post collected over 20 thousand reactions.

#### WEBSITE

During the year of work, we have radically changed the work of the Center for Civil Liberties website. Today, it is an information resource where news about everything the organisation does appears promptly. We also published a number of analytical articles, statements, and reviews. According to Google Analytics, the website reached 78,000 unique users over the year, and the articles were read more than 508,000 times.

#### PRODUCING CONTENT AND ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS

A separate product created by the communications team is the documentary *Victoria's Voice: Diary of an Abducted Teacher*, which tells the story of a female maths teacher from Chernihiv region who was held in Russian captivity for nine months. We presented the film to different audiences, including the Ukrainian TV premiere on the Espresso channel, and 14,000 people watched the film on the YouTube channel of the Center for Civil Liberties. The film has 216,000 views on the YouTube channel of Ukrainian journalist Volodymyr Zolkin, who is known for his interviews with Russian prisoners and whose product is aimed at the Russian audience. The English version of *Victoria's Voice* was also presented at the World Peace Forum in Barcelona.

This year, the communications team actively engaged volunteers in its work, including creative tasks. Thus, illustrator Valeriia Dakhovych drew the cover for a brochure with 50 stories of civilian prisoners, and artist Nato

Mikeladze designed a sticker pack for the Volunteer Prize. The communications team also created a series of thank-you videos for the volunteers for this event.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS DIGEST

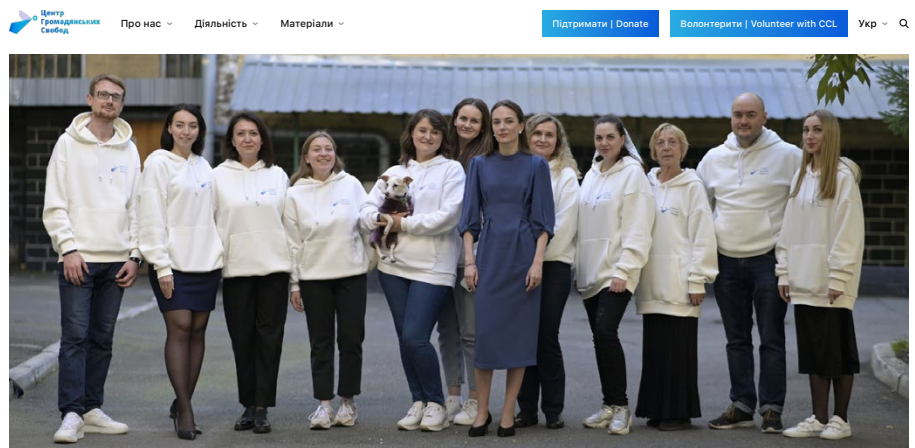
This year, the communications department produced a human rights digest, which is published in two languages: English and Ukrainian. Every week, national and foreign media, as well as various institutions and partners, received the digest, where we talked about the biggest news in the field of human rights in Ukraine and shared expert opinions electronically through the Send Puls system. According to the system, the open rate of the digest is on average 25%, which is good.

This year, well-coordinated teamwork, active cooperation with the media, successful development of the social media presence, and creativity in disseminating information laid solid foundations for further development and increasing the impact of the Center for Civil Liberties on society.



78 000+

unique ones users of  
the CCL website



## 3.6.2. PARTNERSHIPS

This year, the Center for Civil Liberties cooperated with the **European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine** on civilian security sector reform.\* And with the **International Commission on Missing Persons** to coordinate efforts to search for missing non-combatant civilians.

We continued our systematic work in the following coalitions: CivilM+, FIDH, PIL-PG, SUN, Genocide network, Parliamentarians for Global Action, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and human rights groups. Together with the Promote Ukraine initiative, we conduct joint advocacy campaigns in the European Parliament.

The Head of the Center, Oleksandra Matviichuk, is the Vice-President of FIDH, the oldest international network of human rights organisations. Our organisation is actively involved in the work of the network. The solidarity of 192 organisations from 117 countries has significantly increased the visibility of Ukrainian civil society and allowed us to influence the activities of international and intergovernmental organisations, such as the Council of Europe, PACE, OSCE, and the UN, in alternative formats to shape a new system of



global security in the wake of Russia's brutal aggression.

Special events included a series of meetings of Oleksandra Matviichuk and Oleksandra Romantsova at the Council of Europe, PACE, European Parliament, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, UN structures, and embassies of Ukraine's partner states. And at world-famous forums, such as the Munich Security Conference and the Davos Economic Forum.

In the course of advocacy work with politicians and opinion leaders in the EU and the United States of America, it is worth mentioning Ms Matviichuk's separate meeting with Didier Reynders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, and Hillary Clinton.

The CCL works with more than 40 embassies

and permanent missions of international organisations in Ukraine.

The Center has also acted as a consultant to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the EU Advisory Mission, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the EU Delegation, the OSCE Human Rights Office, and other organisations.

The Center's analytical findings were submitted to the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for Eastern Europe, Daniela de Ridder, to be included in a report that was later presented at the OSCE conference in Vancouver.

Our report to the OSCE included information on intentional killings, torture or inhuman treatment, and intentional attacks on civilian objects: cities, villages, residential buildings, or

\* The civilian security sector comprises law enforcement and rule of law institutions, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the National Police, prosecutors, the Security Service of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service, the courts, and anti-corruption agencies. Civil society and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine also play an important role.

houses. Intentional attacks on buildings used for religious, educational, artistic, scientific, or charitable purposes, historical monuments, hospitals, and places where the sick and wounded are located. Forcing citizens of the opposing party to participate in hostilities against their own country, intentionally committing acts that expose the civilian population to starvation as a method of

The CCL provides analytical support to its partners. We share our experiences, knowledge of the local context, and our network.

We strive to increase the capacity of state authorities to effectively ensure justice in the context of armed conflict through a legal tool in the form of legislative amendments and clarification of the Rome Statute as the foundation for international coop-

unification meetings with PILPG, Redress, Justice Rapid Response, Asser Institute, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Georgetown Law, European Movement Ukraine, PAX, and other organisations.

This year, the Center was visited by Mykhailo Lotman, Member of the Estonian Parliament. The CCL also met with representatives of the largest political parties in the Bundestag — SPD (Social Democratic Party), CDU (Christian Democratic Union), FDP (Free Democratic Party), Die Grünen (the Greens), and Die Linke — who, since 24 February 2022, have been fully supporting the sovereignty of our country, the principle of immutability of borders, and compliance with international law.

The Center pays special attention to the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as we share common problems and security risks. That is why Oleksandra Romantsova, Executive Director of the Center for Civil Liberties, attended as part of the Ukrainian delegation the 147th meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the Angolan capital, Luanda.

The meetings with Syrian and Taiwanese activists are worth special mention. The Center is a member of the Syrian-Ukrainian Network (SUN). On 16 and 17 October, a conference entitled 'Justice and



warfare by depriving them of the items necessary for survival. This includes the intentional creation of obstacles to assistance, as provided for in the Geneva Conventions, in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Luhansk, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, Chernihiv Oblasts.

eration and as a guideline for strengthening the system of international criminal justice.

The full-scale invasion has consolidated not only the population of Ukraine but also foreign politicians and activists representing the democratic world. The Center held a series of



Accountability — New Ways of Thinking’ was held in Kyiv in cooperation with the network. They discussed issues of importance to Syria and Ukraine, including the consequences of war crimes and crimes against humanity, politicisation of the humanitarian sector, geopolitical insecurity, lack of an adequate response from the international community, combating disinformation, threats to regional and global security and international law and order, and more.

On 24 April in Warsaw, during the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, the CCL held an event dedicated to the forced displacement and deportation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, by the Russian Federation.

During the OSCE **Warsaw Human Dimension Conference** (WHDC), which took place from 2 to 13 October, the CCL representatives held 2 events on ‘Filtration and forced relocation: examining Russia’s violations of international law’ and ‘Torture of civilian hostages and prisoners of war after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine’, as well as 12 advocacy meetings on countering Russian aggression, releasing Ukrainian hostages in Russia, the ICC’s cooperation with Ukraine, and more.

At these and other events, the CCL organised separate events to inform diplomats from various OSCE member states about the problems

caused by Russia’s armed aggression against Ukraine.

The CCL uses all tools provided by international institutions to address **specific issues** that we have been working on throughout the past year, namely:

- documenting war crimes and facilitating the international system of criminal justice;
- promoting legislative changes according to the principles, best practices, and standards of human rights protection and aligning Ukrainian legislation with EU standards;
- monitoring the detention conditions of political prisoners and civilian hostages to subsequently release them from the territory of Crimea and Russia, as well as from places of unlawful detention in the territory of Ukraine which is temporarily not controlled by Ukraine.

# 4. ACHIEVEMENTS



Author John Thys—AFP/Getty Images

1

## Time 100

Oleksandra Matviichuk has been named to the prestigious Time 100 list. She was recognised for her many years of work and the work of the Center for Civil Liberties to build Ukraine’s democratic future and document war crimes committed by the Russian Federation in order to bring war criminals to justice.



2

## A Speech to Europe 2023, Oleksandra Matviichuk ‘Speech to Europe’: No Peace without Freedom, no Justice without Law

This year, Oleksandra Matviichuk delivered a speech on the Judenplatz square in Vienna on Europe Day. She called for a united front, arguing that shared values, not geography, define Europe’s identity. A global alliance should be built to defend fundamental rights in a world constantly facing threats.

3



This year, Oleksandra Matviichuk became the Human Rights Ambassador of the UN Global Compact Network Ukraine. This is

the Ukrainian network of the world's largest community of responsible businesses. Respect for human rights is at the heart of the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact Network, so Oleksandra Matviichuk's human rights expertise will strengthen the Compact's impact in Ukraine and promote the readiness of Ukrainian businesses to support the human rights value framework in Ukraine.

together the world's leaders to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world. Oleksandra Matviichuk spoke about the need to defend democracy and bring the top leadership of the Russian Federation and all war criminals to justice for war crimes committed in Ukraine. Oleksandra Matviichuk also called for continued support for Ukraine's struggle for its democratic choice.

# 5

## Online Human Rights Guide

Together with its partners, the Baltic Human Rights Society has developed the first in Ukraine online Human Rights Guide in Ukrainian and English. The guide explains human rights in an easily understandable way using everyday situations as close as possible to the realities and needs of Ukrainians. It is filled with examples from

# 4

This year, the Head of the Center for Civil Liberties spoke at a number of influential international events: The World Economic Forum in Davos, the Munich Security Conference, the Warsaw Security Forum, which bring





human rights cases, stories, fragments of legislation, and has an intuitive interface. The guide is intended to raise awareness of every citizen — from school-children to lawyers — and will be updated with new relevant information.

6



**The Sunflower Declaration**  
Together with other 2022 Nobel Peace Prize winners and human rights organisations, the Center for Civil Liberties created the Sunflower Declaration as a call for the protection of human rights defenders in danger. Citing research, the document

outlines this need and makes specific recommendations for governments, international and donor organisations, cities and universities.

7



**The film Victoria's Voice:**  
The Center for Civil Liberties team created a documentary film *Victoria's Voice: Diary of an Abducted Teacher*, which tells the story of a female maths teacher from Brovary who survived Russian captivity. The film premiered on the Espresso TV channel, and the total number of views on YouTube was 231,647 thousand in 9 months. The team also presented the film at three international venues: the Helsinki Book Fair and the World Peace Forum in Barcelona, as well as the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Barcelona.



8

Together with the Centre for Strategic Communications and Dovidka.info, the OZON Civil Monitoring Group created a series of videos that answer questions about the right to use shelters. These videos have received the status of social advertising and were broadcast in the Kharkiv metro, Intercity trains, on Suspilne and Espresso. The videos have been viewed on YouTube for over 1 million views in 5 months.

9

This year, more than 120 educational events were held as part of the KSHR training, as opposed to the previous year, which had more than 40 educational events. The school team also attracted 4,026 thousand participants who attended KSHR events for the first time.



# 5. OUR TEAM



**Oleksandra Matviichuk**

Head of the Organization  
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9,181,573.35

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA



8,245,368.00

Pact Inc (USAID)



3,415,813.90

US State Department

SIGRID  
RAUSING  
TRUST

3,157,106.83

The Sigrid Rausing Trust



3,118,636.50

National Endowment  
for Democracy



2,751,832.75

Foundation Open  
Society Institute



Auswärtiges Amt

1,443,533.60

German MIA («Austausch»)



# 6. FINANCIAL REPORT



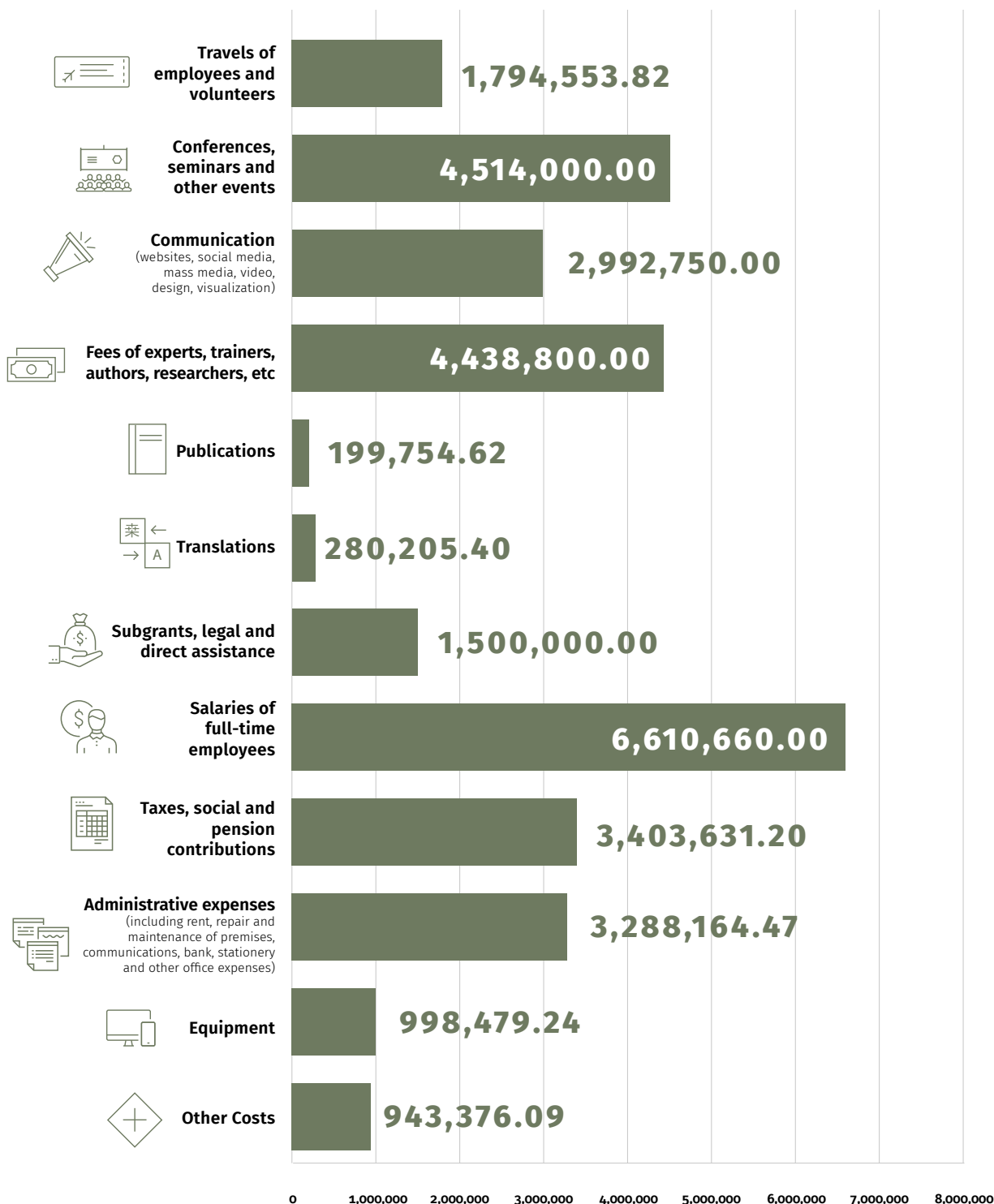
SUPPORT RECEIVED IN 2023:

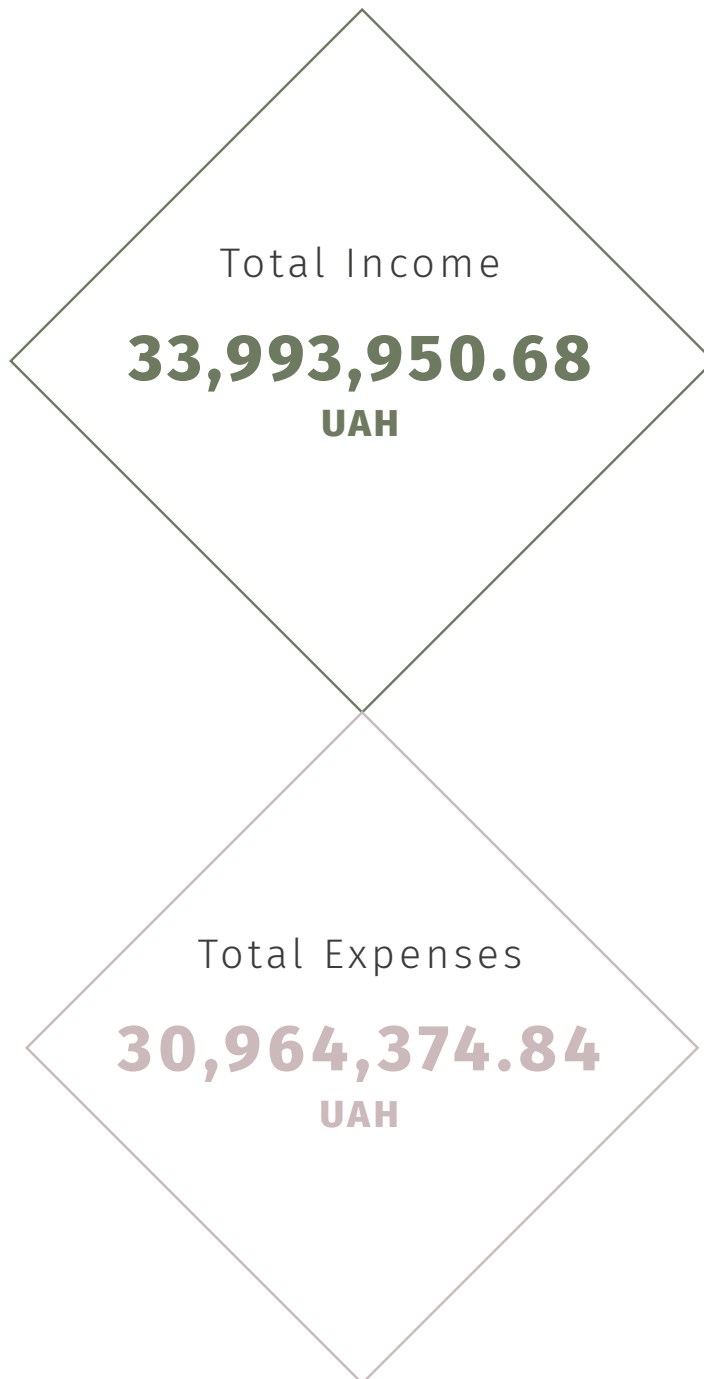
All amounts are indicated in UAH

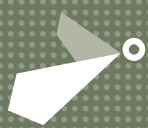




**EXPENSES** (ALL AMOUNTS ARE INDICATED IN UAH)







Center  
for Civil  
Liberties