



CENTER

FOR CIVIL

LIBERTIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Center for Civil Liberties
Annual report
of activities for the year 2013

Kyiv, February 2014

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1. About the Center for Civil Liberties

The Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) is a Ukrainian human rights NGO established in 2007 with the goal of promoting and upholding the concepts of human rights, democracy, and solidarity in Ukraine and the OSCE region to recognize and preserve the values of human dignity.

Mission of the Organization: We work to uphold the values of human rights in Ukraine and new independent states.

Our Values:

- Respect for Human Dignity
- Effectiveness and Professionalism
- Responsibility and Impartiality
- Transparency and Openness

Platforms:

Ukrainian:

- Coalition Against Discrimination
- Diversity Initiative
- National Platform of the Eastern Partnership

International:

- International Platform “Civic Solidarity”

Advisory:

- Expert Council with the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights
- Expert Council with the Human Rights Committee
- Expert Council with the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Public Council with the Security Service of Ukraine

2. International Advocacy

Since January 1, 2013, Ukraine began its chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). This period was significant for both Ukraine and the international community. To ensure active participation of civil society in the processes related to Ukraine's OSCE chairmanship, the Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations for Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 was established in September 2012 at the initiative of the CCL. Its goal was to propose recommendations on the priorities of Ukraine's chairmanship and actions needed to improve the implementation of commitments in the "human" dimension.

On February 7, 2013, an international roundtable was held in Kyiv addressing issues of freedom of peaceful assembly and association in the OSCE region. The event resulted in recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Notable proposals included: initiating the creation of a permanent OSCE Special Representative for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, enhancing the role of civil society institutions in OSCE activities and ensuring their participation in various events, and strengthening the monitoring of freedom of peaceful assembly. The recommendations were officially submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

On February 8, 2013, the Coalition held a press conference presenting the stance of civil society organizations and experts from various countries on the necessary measures to improve the situation regarding freedom of peaceful assembly and association in the OSCE region. Alexandra Delemenchuk, the Coordinator of International Programs at the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), emphasized the importance of civil society participation in Ukraine's OSCE chairmanship and called for effective collaboration with government bodies to achieve positive changes in fundamental freedoms.

In her video blog on Radio Svoboda, Alexandra Delemenchuk highlighted the issue of the consensus decision-making mechanism, established during the Cold War, which remains a problem for the OSCE as it hinders effective decision-making in contemporary international realities. [Link to the video blog: http://www.radiosvoboda.org/content/article/25155574.html](http://www.radiosvoboda.org/content/article/25155574.html)

From March 8 to 23, 2013, representatives of the CCL participated in the Human Rights Council session in Geneva. The CCL representative delivered reports and held meetings with international experts, diplomats, and other civil society organizations. The aim was to draw attention to human rights violations, particularly regarding freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and human rights defender activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

On September 25, 2013, the CCL participated in the OSCE meeting on the implementation of human dimension commitments and organized an event on the birthday of Belarusian human rights defender Ales Bialiatski. An informational stand dedicated to Ales Bialiatski, who remains imprisoned for his human rights work, was set up at the venue of the meeting. Participants were able to sign a letter of congratulations to the political prisoner. This initiative drew attention to the human rights situation in Belarus and the need to support human rights defenders in the region.



* The Center for Civil Liberties decided to remind the participants of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on Ales Bialiatski's birthday that he is still imprisoned for his human rights work.

In response to the use of violence against protesters on Maidan, the Center for Civil Liberties initiated the creation of an International Human Rights Group to address the situation in Ukraine. One of the outcomes of this group's work was that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, on December 5, 2013, proposed the establishment of an expert group to oversee the investigation of violence during the Euromaidan protests in Ukraine. The group is to include representatives from the opposition, the government, and the international community, with the Council of Europe having the right to propose the nomination of an experienced human rights expert. This decision was announced following Jagland's meeting with human rights defenders and relatives of those affected by the events on Bankova Street on December 1, 2013.

3. International Solidarity

Support for Human Rights Defenders in Danger. Information Center Kyiv

In Kyiv, an Information Center for Emergency Response has been established in response to the increasing persecution of human rights defenders in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. This particularly concerns the rise of authoritarian tendencies in the Russian Federation, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, as well as pre-election and post-election tensions in Armenia and Georgia, and the extremely difficult situation persisting in Central Asian

countries. The Kyiv Information Center was created to gather information and provide urgent support to human rights defenders in danger.

The Center conducts ongoing monitoring of the security situation for human rights defenders and disseminates relevant information among interested parties in the human rights field through websites, social networks, and mailing lists (<http://hr-nis.org/>; <http://www.mhg-nis.org/>; <https://www.facebook.com/HRCoalitionEurasia>). Over 450 activists and 60 organizations have been involved in various network platforms.

The Kyiv Information Center participated in the defense of the Association “Citizens Against Corruption” in Kyrgyzstan and the Association of Young Lawyers “Amparo” in Tajikistan. The Center joined campaigns in support of Ales Bialiatski and the Human Rights Center “Viasna,” the human rights house in Voronezh, NGOs under pressure in the Russian Federation, LGBT organizations in the Russian Federation and Georgia, the right to freedom of assembly in Armenia, and the commemoration of the murdered human rights defender Volodymyr Goncharenko.

Throughout 2013, a series of monitoring missions were conducted in various project regions, including Kyrgyzstan (spring 2013), Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan (February 27 - March 8, 2013); Kazakhstan (December 11-17, 2013); Belarus (February - March 2013); Russia (May 5-6, 2013); Moldova (June 8-10, 2013).

A report on the situation of human rights defenders was created and presented. The report collected information on various types of threats faced by human rights defenders due to their activities, including those that complicate their work and those that pose threats to their lives. Over 70 instances of pressure were documented.

The report was presented in Kyiv on May 17, 2013, in the presence of regional human rights defenders, representatives of international organizations, and the media. The report will be published in Russian and English and used for further informational work.

Several publications on the situation of human rights defenders were also produced. One publication addressed the worsening situation for minorities and the right to freedom of speech, specifically focusing on "The Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People in the Russian Federation." This publication was issued in 1,000 copies and distributed to the public.

Separate reports on specific situations of human rights defenders in the highest-risk countries were also prepared. One such report was on the results of the human rights monitoring mission in the Republic of Kazakhstan in connection with the events of December 16, 2011, in Zhanaozen and their consequences.

A series of educational materials were created and disseminated:

- A training course on “Human Rights,” designed for self-education and informal learning for activists interested in human rights issues.
- A compilation of legislative acts titled "Protection of Human Rights Defenders," serving as a resource for those involved in defending human rights defenders in accordance with international standards and practices.
- A collection of individual judgments from the European Court of Human Rights regarding the protection of fundamental rights.

Additionally, an International Human Rights School took place from January 26 to February 2, 2013, for leaders, activists, volunteers from human rights and civil society organizations, educators, journalists, and staff from human rights protection government agencies from CIS countries.

The school, under the guidance of experienced trainers, involved 60 participants.

An International Experts' Meeting on Freedom of Assembly was also organized in Kyiv from April 12-14, 2013, to provide an independent assessment of the events that occurred in Russia on May 6, 2012, during the rally on Bolotnaya Square in Moscow.

4. Education in the Field of Human Rights and Non-Discrimination

The Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) continues its active participation in the Coalition Against Discrimination in Ukraine (CAD). Established on April 5, 2011, CAD is a coalition of civil society organizations and independent experts working towards achieving equality for marginalized groups in society. A key focus of CAD’s work is educational and awareness-raising activities in the field of human rights. A representative of the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) plays a crucial role in the coordination council of CAD, contributing to the development and implementation of educational initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness of human rights, equality, and non-discrimination.



Monitoring Political Persecutions of Civil Society in Ukraine in Partnership with the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

The Centre for Civil Liberties tracked and documented instances of persecution against human rights defenders, civic activists, and journalists, using both legal and extralegal methods. These persecutions were driven by specific political motives, with the predominant motive being the preservation of power through the restriction of fundamental human rights and freedoms, particularly the violation of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.



*On August 7, 2013, during a court hearing regarding the charges against human rights defender Dmytro Groysman

Photo Contest "Human Rights in Ukraine" as an Educational Tool

One of the prominent examples of human rights education in 2013 was the photo contest "Human Rights in Ukraine," organized by the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL). The aim of the contest was not only to identify and showcase key trends in the field of human rights in Ukraine but also to promote educational activities through the art of photography. The contest helped to reveal important social issues and draw attention to matters such as freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, political persecution, discrimination, tolerance, torture, and the right to a fair trial.

The educational aspect of the photo contest lay in the fact that each photograph served as a visual means of communication, vividly illustrating the state of human rights in Ukraine. This allowed citizens to not only see but also understand the extent of human rights violations, thereby raising their awareness and prompting action. Furthermore, the photo contest became a platform for discussing crucial human rights issues at the national level.

The entries submitted to the contest were reviewed by a competent jury, which selected the best photographs that most accurately reflected the challenges in the field of human rights in Ukraine. The winners of the contest were:

- Irina Virtosu with the photo "Pussy Riot. Parallels: Mothers on Trial and Protesters" (1st place),
- Mykola Ivashchenko with the work "Freedom of Speech in Ukraine – A Phoenix Bird?" (2nd place),
- Olesya Bryazgunova with the photo "Bound by One Chain, Bound by One Goal..." (3rd place).

To further disseminate knowledge about human rights, a photo exhibition based on the contest entries is planned, which will first be presented in Kyiv and later in other cities of Ukraine. This will continue the educational work among a broader audience, fostering a deeper understanding of human rights and the need to protect them.

The award ceremony for the winners took place during the Ukrainian section of the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference in Kyiv, marking an important step in recognizing achievements in educational work and emphasizing the significance of art as a tool for human rights education.



* First place: "Pussy Riot. Parallels: Mothers on Trial and Protesters"
Author: Irina Virtsosu

Description: The photo was taken on August 17, 2012, in Kyiv during a demonstration in support of Pussy Riot members: Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Yekaterina Samutsevich, and Maria Alyokhina, in front of the Russian Federation Embassy.



*Second place: "Freedom of Speech in Ukraine: Phoenix or Bird of Prey?"

Author: Mykola Ivashchenko

Description: On September 16, 2012, concerned citizens gathered at Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Kyiv) to honor the memory of Georgiy Gongadze and all journalists who have been killed during Ukraine's independence.



*Third place: "Linked by One Chain, Bound by One Goal..."

Author: Olesya Bryazgunova

Description: The photo was taken on May 21, 2012, during a nationwide protest against the Labor Code and draft law No. 2450 concerning the regulation of peaceful assemblies.

5. Legislative Monitoring

In response to the increasing number of legislative proposals threatening human rights in Ukraine, the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) introduced a new area of activity—legislative monitoring. This area is focused on the timely identification and analysis of legislative initiatives that pose risks to human rights, ensuring that they are properly assessed for compliance with international human rights standards at the legislative proposal stage.

Monitoring and Analysis of Legislation. Regular review and analysis of all bills registered in parliament that may affect human rights. The Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) conducts continuous monitoring of legislation from the moment of registration until the bill is signed into law or rejected, providing expert assessments of bills for compliance with international human rights standards. This includes examining their content, identifying potential risks and human rights violations, and evaluating the possible consequences of their adoption.

In order to effectively monitor and address dangerous legislative initiatives that threaten fundamental human rights, CCL actively collaborates with government bodies, members of parliament, the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat, the Institute of Legislation of the Verkhovna

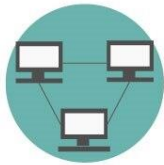
Rada, and non-governmental organizations. This includes participation in advisory councils, committees, round tables, and other events.

Following the monitoring of bills registered and posted on the Verkhovna Rada website, monthly bulletins were prepared. These bulletins included sections dedicated to newly registered bills, bills under committee review, bills presented at plenary sessions, etc. The bulletin was distributed through specialized mailing lists of civil society organizations, as well as among experts, deputies, and their assistants in both electronic and printed formats. Electronic copies of all bulletins can be accessed on the Center for Civil Liberties website.

Public Campaigns and Advocacy: In cases where bills seriously threaten human rights, CCL conducts public campaigns to raise awareness about the impact of the legislative initiative on human rights and demands the withdrawal or amendment of such initiatives.

For example, throughout 2013, a wide campaign was conducted to repeal the Ukrainian law "On the Unified State Demographic Register" (ESDR), adopted on October 2, 2012, and which came into effect on December 6. The adopted law violates the Constitution of Ukraine and international legal norms, particularly the rights to personal inviolability, freedom of movement, and privacy. The law creates risks of misuse of personal data by the state, including biometric data, and its transfer to foreign states and intelligence agencies, which threatens national security and violates the right to privacy. It also introduces movement tracking through a contactless electronic carrier, allowing real-time surveillance of citizens' movements, which infringes upon privacy and freedom of movement.





ЩО ТАКЕ ЄДДР?

Єдиний державний демографічний реєстр (ЄДДР) - централізована база даних, яка зберігатиме невичерпний перелік персональних даних про всіх громадян.

**ХТО
"СИДІТИМЕ"
НА ЦІЙ БАЗІ
ДАНИХ?**



Міністерство
внутрішніх
справ України

20 ЛИСТОПАДА 2012
закон був ухвалений
793,3 МЛН.

гривень виділено Кабінетом
Міністрів на на реалізацію закону

ЗАКОН СУПЕРЕЧИТЬ



1
Конституції
України

2
Конвенції про
захист осіб у зв'язку
з автоматизо-
ваною обробкою
персональних
даних

3
Закону України
"Про захист
персональних
даних"

ЧОМУ СТВОРЕННЯ ЄДДР НЕБЕЗПЕЧНЕ?



Загрожує недоторканності вашого життя.
Тотально порушує право на приватність.



Загрожує опозиційним політикам та громадським активістам.
Дозволяє збирати та акумулювати всю інформацію про них в одних ненадійних руках.



Загрожує бізнесу.
Завдяки коруптованості системи інформацію про вас може купити будь-хто та використовувати для рейдерства або для залякування.



Загрожує вільному волевиявленню.
Може використовуватися для тиску на окремих осіб або групи та для маніпуляцій із подальшим вкиданням бюлетенів.



Загрожує вашій безпеці та безпеці ваших рідних.
Правоохоронні органи можуть використовувати дані з ЄДДР для "покращення статистики розкриття злочинів".

ЯКА ІНФОРМАЦІЯ ПРО ВАС ЗБЕРІГАТИМЕТЬСЯ В ЄДДР?

відомості про ваших батьків та рідних
 реквізити виданих вам документів
 відцифрований зразок вашого підпису
 відцифрований образ вашого обличчя
 інформація про місце реєстрації, сімейний стан, власність
 додаткові біометричні дані, параметри
 інформація про вас із усіх баз даних держави

ТОБТО
ВСЕ, ЩО
ВЛАДА
ЗАХОЧЕ
ЗНАТИ
ПРО ВАС

Engaging the Public in Legislative Monitoring

Throughout 2013, the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) maintained ongoing media outreach, preparing and publishing approximately 50 articles related to legislative work in the field of human rights across various platforms (Radio Free Europe, Ukrainska Pravda, Left Bank, the newspaper "Den," etc.). In addition to preparing materials and publishing articles, CCL regularly invited journalists to specialized press events, such as press brunches focused on the risks associated with the Law on the Unified State Demographic Register.

Training Seminar: "Working with Legislative Proposals in the Field of Human Rights: Opportunities for Public Influence"

In 2013, four educational events were held for human rights defenders and NGO leaders to engage them in legislative monitoring. Two rounds of training sessions focused on legislative techniques, the importance of lobbying, and cooperation with parliament for better protection of human rights, were conducted in Kyiv, each gathering at least 50 participants.

Based on the training materials, a special guide titled "Working with Legislative Proposals in the Field of Human Rights: Opportunities for Public Influence" was published.



* Training Seminar "Working with Legislative Proposals in the Field of Human Rights: Opportunities for Public Influence," November 9-10, 2013.

6. Public Observation Group "OZON"

The Public Observation Group "OZON" was established in February 2013 with the goal of improving the situation regarding the freedom of peaceful assembly by monitoring peaceful gatherings in Ukraine. Throughout 2013, the "OZON" Public Observation Group monitored over 80 peaceful assemblies across Ukraine and set as its objective civic monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the right to peaceful assembly in Ukraine. (<https://www.facebook.com/OZON.monitoring>).



* Volunteers of OZON, September 2013, Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights

OZON: Court Monitoring

At the beginning of 2013, the judiciary faced a situation that could be characterized as nearly complete destruction of judicial independence and a significant undermining of the adversarial principle in cases against state authorities. This situation was facilitated by amendments to the law on the judiciary, which granted prosecutors the power to influence judges who disagreed with their position through the High Council of Justice. This outcome became particularly painful with the onset of protests on November 30, 2013. In response to the need for public monitoring of the judiciary, OZON volunteers began monitoring court proceedings involving participants in protest actions from the very beginning of such cases.

The main violations identified during the monitoring, as well as recommendations for addressing such violations in the future, were outlined in the report: *Report on the Results of Monitoring Court Proceedings Concerning Public Activists and Euromaidan Participants (December 2013 – February 2014).*

<https://ccl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/zvit-za-rezultatami-monitoringu-sudovogo-rozglyadu-sprav-shhodo-gromadskih-aktivistiv-ta-uchasnikiv-yevromajdanu-gruden-2013-lyutij-2014r.r..pdf>



7. Euromaidan Events: Creation and Work of the Human Rights Initiative Euromaidan SOS

On November 21, 2013, in response to the Ukrainian government's decision to suspend preparations for signing the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the first protesters began gathering at Independence Square.

On the night of November 30, a violent crackdown on a peaceful demonstration occurred at Euromaidan, during which participants were beaten. In response to these actions by the authorities, and with the coordination of the Center for Civil Liberties, a community of human rights defenders, activists, lawyers, journalists, and other concerned individuals from across Ukraine and beyond was established under the initiative named Euromaidan SOS.

The primary goal of the Euromaidan SOS initiative is to provide prompt and comprehensive assistance to those affected during Euromaidan. The initiative collects and analyzes information to protect peaceful protesters and provides temporary assessments of the situation. It offers legal support to victims, acts as an intermediary between Euromaidan participants and lawyers providing free legal aid, and distributes other forms of assistance to those affected by human rights violations.

Throughout the Euromaidan protests, the initiative operates around the clock to offer legal assistance to persecuted protesters. Through the Euromaidan SOS hotline, hundreds of incidents of beatings, torture, illegal arrests, disappearances, and deaths of Euromaidan participants in Kyiv and other regions are documented.



*December 4, 2013: Interfax Press Conference of Families and Lawyers of Detained Euromaidan Participants

8. Team of the Center for Civil Liberties

- Olexandra Matviychuk – Chair of the Board

- Nazarii Boyarskyi – Coordinator of Educational and Anti-Discrimination Programs

- Olexandra Delemenchuk – Coordinator of International Programs

- Valeriya Ryback – Coordinator of Public Monitoring

- Solomiya Bobrovska – Information Coordinator

- Maria Yasenovska – Regional Coordinator

- Maria Tomak – Editor

- Volodymyr Senko – Coordinator of Educational Events

- Liubov Honcharova – Accountant

9. Financial Report

2013 CCL Budget (in UAH)

Income (Grants and Donations by Sources)

European Commission	4837603
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National Endowment for Democracy	796742
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UNDP Ukraine	56025
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Open Sociaty Institute	356728
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International Renesance Foundation	272300
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Freedom House	76045
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People in Need	63944
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Moscow Helsinki Group	296100
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Netherlands Helsinki Committee	287676
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MATRA (Netherlands MIA)	983286
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Total Income	8026449
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EXPENSES

Travel Expenses for Staff and Volunteers	439 414
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Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events	1 558 333
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Communication Products (Websites, Social Media, Videos, Design, Visualization)	334 743
Honoraria for Experts, Trainers, Authors, Researchers	359 888
Publications	96 002
Translations	93 275
Subgrants and Direct Assistance	393 765
SUMMARY OF DIRECT EXPENSES	3 275 420
Personnel (Salaries, Taxes, Contributions)	2 821 606
Administrative Expenses (Rent, Office Supplies, Communication, Banking, etc.)	646 454
Equipment	53 092
Other (Audit, Consulting, Development, Membership)	117 156
Summary of Other Expenses	3638308
TOTAL EXPENSES	6 913 728
UAH/USD	7,99
UAH/EUR	10,61
UAH/GBP	12,51