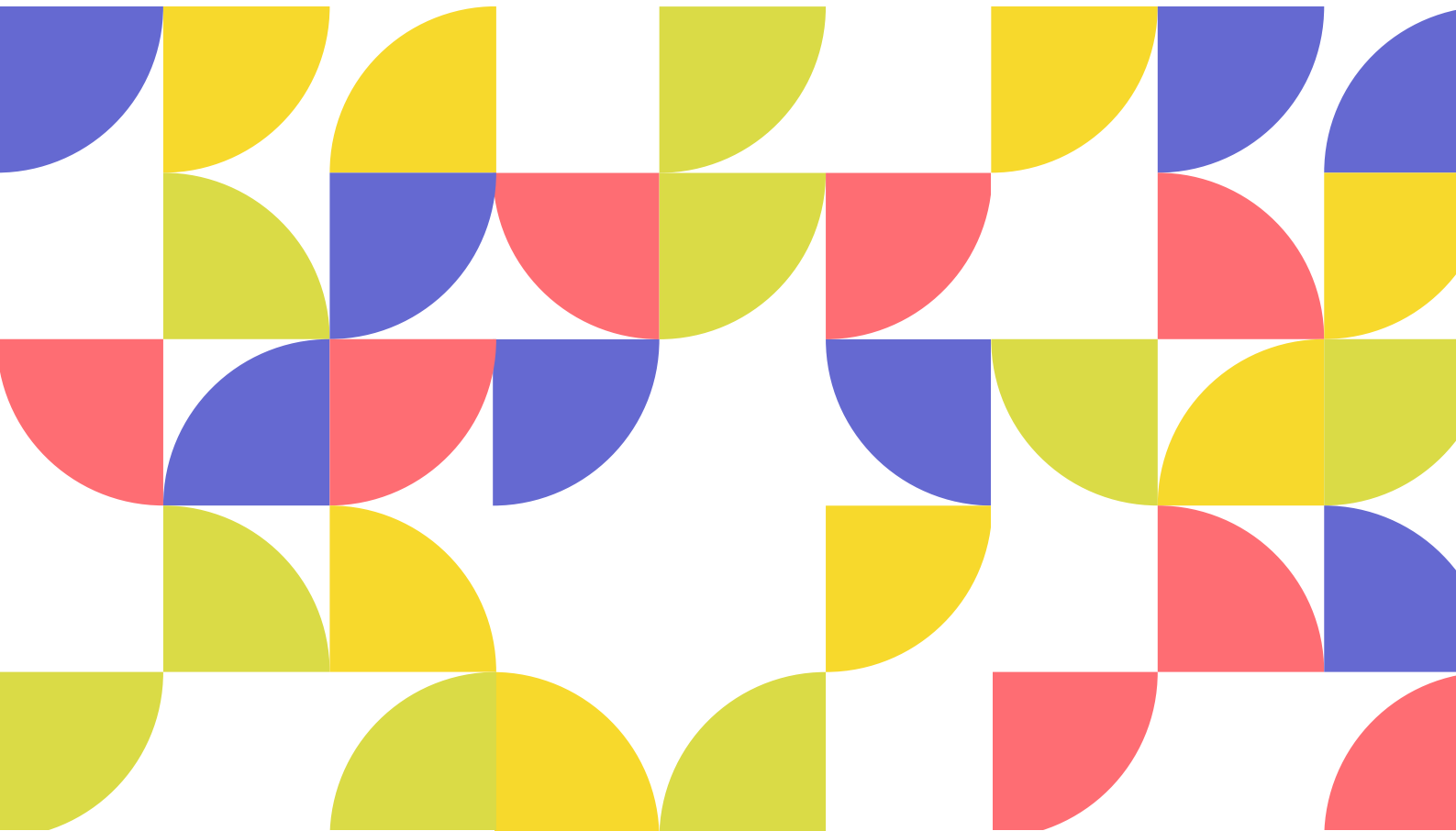


**2023**

# **ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN EUROINTEGRATION**

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Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily  
represent those of the Human Rights House Foundation



# About the project

Ukraine and Georgia historically went hand by hand in different aspects of the state development. Both nations have faced periods of foreign domination, yet their resilience has forged enduring bonds of solidarity. Throughout history, Ukrainian and Georgian intellectuals have exchanged ideas, literature, and artistic influences, enriching each other's cultural landscapes. In modern times, these two nations have stood together in pursuit of sovereignty and democracy, supporting each other in times of political turmoil and upheaval. Despite geographical distance, the historical affinity between Ukraine and Georgia remains a testament to the enduring strength of their friendship.

Civil society plays a pivotal role in the European integration processes of Ukraine and Georgia, serving as a catalyst for democratic reforms and societal progress. Grassroots movements, non-governmental organizations, and citizen initiatives advocate for transparency, accountability, and human rights, essential values in aligning with European standards. These organizations act as watchdogs, scrutinizing government actions and fostering public participation, crucial for building accountable institutions and fostering democratic governance. Through advocacy and civic engagement, civil society bridges the gap between citizens and policymakers, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard in the decision-making processes related to European integration. Ultimately, the vibrant civil societies in Ukraine and Georgia are instrumental in shaping their countries' paths towards closer integration with Europe, promoting shared values and democratic principles.

Thereafter the team of the project decided to build it around the cruciality of civil society in European integration processes which are crucial for both countries. The decision was made to introduce the main principles and values of human rights through a series of online trainings within a Advocacy school for community leaders, and follow up with practical sessions about advocacy which would help the participants to learn efficient ways of promoting human rights and importance of moving towards European values in Ukraine and Georgia. Together, we conducted an introductory webinar, 6 training sessions, 3 mentor meetings and helped participants conduct follow-up trainings in their communities.

# Partners



**Human Rights Vector** is a human rights organization based in Ukraine

**Goal:** to exercise and protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights through promotion of the norms and principles enshrined in international documents ratified by Ukraine and all other commitments of Ukraine in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Links:**

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/hrvector.org/>

**Instagram:**

[https://www.instagram.com/hrvector\\_official/](https://www.instagram.com/hrvector_official/)

**YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqjeimokzHuf4-v6TmfXZ5w>

**Website:** <https://hrvector.org>



**World of Tolerance** is a non-governmental organization based in Georgia

**Goal:** to educate young generations about the principles, values and importance of human rights in order to develop human rights culture in Georgia.

**Links:**

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/tolerorganization>

**Instagram:**

<https://instagram.com/worldoftolerance>

**YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8xB8lhKAjHTai7Kw4SucgQ>



**Valeriia Rybak**

**Head of NGO  
Human Rights Vector**

Today, Ukraine is fighting for itself and the entire free world, for freedom and the values of human rights. Such a complex struggle is possible thanks to the strength and unity of people within the country and the immense support of the international community. This solidarity is always inspiring and is an important value for many Ukrainians and for our organization, the NGO "Human Rights Vector." A successful example of joint action to strengthen the capacity of human rights activists is the systematic cooperation with our partners, the NGO "World of Tolerance." This is not only the combination of efforts of two organizations but also the mutual reinforcement of activist communities from different countries, the opportunity to see common points of intersection, and strengthening in the historical and cultural aspects of Ukraine and Georgia. I am extremely pleased and grateful to all participants of our project this year, who once again showed their willingness to improve this world, defend human rights, and strengthen their countries in the European integration processes.

Human rights defenders work tirelessly to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or any other characteristic. Their role was always at the forefront of social change, and now, when Georgia is so close to its historical goal of becoming an EU member state, their role can't be estimated. However, in the recent years, their courage and eagerness to bring change, cost them a lot, HRD face threats and defamation campaigns from certain radical groups, nevertheless, they never yield in the face of adversary and ardently carry on their work to bring positive change to their communities. This project emphasized their role once again, reminding to a broader audience about the results of human rights campaigns led by HRDs. The project emphasized role of independent media in democratic processes, importance of unity for social change and also provided examples of successful campaigns for societal change.



**Mikheil Lazginiani**

**Head of NGO  
World of Tolerance**

# Words from speakers



**Ketevan Bakhtadze**  
trainer of the  
**Advocacy School for  
Community Leaders**  
Lawyer  
NGO Tanadgoma

The immense role of human rights advocacy in Georgia's EU integration process cannot be understated. As the European Union is fundamentally built on the principles of human rights, democracy, and legal integrity, it is crucial for Georgia, in its aspiration to join the Union, to actively adopt and promote these values. This commitment extends beyond simply meeting EU criteria; it entails the development of a societal ethos that reflects these core principles. Human rights advocacy is instrumental in influencing policy, reforming institutions, and shifting the public mindset towards EU standards, thereby laying the groundwork for integration.

Human rights advocacy also plays a critical role in bridging Georgian ambitions with the broader European ethos. It empowers the marginalized, advocates for justice and equality, and fosters a culture of universal respect for rights. This is especially crucial for Georgia, situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, where advocacy is key not only for the technical facets of EU integration but also for the cultural shifts necessary to join a diverse, value-centric community. Active and enlightened advocacy forms the foundation of Georgia's successful integration into the European Union, marking its transition into a larger collective united by shared values and objectives.

Freedom, equality, democracy, and justice are the core values of the European Union. These values are not only fundamental to the EU's identity but also drive economic strength and prosperity for all its citizens. Human rights advocates play a crucial role in ensuring that these values are upheld, which is key to Georgia's integration, demonstrating its readiness to contribute to and benefit from the EU's collective wealth and development.



**Tornike Mandaria**  
trainer of the **Advocacy  
School for Community  
Leaders**  
Multimedia journalist  
Radio Liberty Georgia

# Words from speakers



**Maryna Hovorukhina, trainer of the Advocacy School for Community Leaders, expert in the field of strategic communications with over 10 years of experience.**

Advocacy is an integral part of human rights activity. It is a powerful tool that allows us to influence legislation, public opinion, and systems of power. Through advocacy, we move closer to realizing the principles of justice and ensure that no one is left outside the bounds of legal protection. Currently, advocacy is becoming a key instrument in supporting European integration processes. Our ability to influence laws and norms, defend citizens' rights, and ensure transparency in legal systems is a significant contribution to shaping an integrated and solidarity-based European community. Advocacy is the foundation for creating a society where human rights and European integration values become an integral part of collective reality.

Human rights are one of the fundamental components of modern society, recognized worldwide as inherent and immutable. Their significance grants each individual not only dignity and freedom but also forms the basis for building a just, developed, and democratic society. The importance of human rights becomes particularly relevant for countries in transitional democracies in the context of their aspirations towards European integration processes, which determine the country's development path and its deepening within the global community.

As Ukraine engages in European integration processes, it takes an extremely important step in recognizing and adhering to human rights standards accepted by the international community. This becomes a crucial prerequisite for successful interaction and integration into the European space. In such conditions, the importance of human rights protection in Ukraine is determined not only in ensuring dignity and freedom for all citizens but also in responding to specific challenges arising from the war. The national and international community must actively contribute to stopping violations and providing necessary resources for restoring the rights and freedoms of citizens affected by military hostilities.



**Oleksandra Romantsova, trainer of the Advocacy School for Community Leaders, executive director of the Center for Civil Liberties, coordinator of documenting war crimes and advocacy within the global initiative "Tribunal for Putin".**



# Context (Ukraine)

The issue of European integration is crucial for both Ukraine and Georgia, moreover, it is reflected as the main development vector in Ukraine's and Georgia's Constitutions. The role of human rights organizations in the European integration process is also crucial at various levels: they take active part in law-making processes, conduct educational activities, advise various governmental institutions on community issues, enhance or even undertake the functions of state in support to vulnerable groups, facilitate and support civil participation of minority groups etc., which certainly influences the society in a positive way making it more resilient. Anti-human rights narratives pose a threat both for the human rights defenders in particular as it makes them more vulnerable, and for the society as a whole.

Nowadays, on the background of military actions in Ukraine, the process of reforms, which are required for joining the European Union, is going on. On the one hand, Ukrainian society needs a better understanding of this process in order to provide support and public control, on the other hand, informational and physical attacks are being carried out by the Russian Federation on human rights defenders, since Ukraine's independence and joining the EU are not in the interests of Russia.

For example, the famous Ukrainian human rights defender, journalist Maksym Butkevych, who started serving in the Armed Forces after February 24, 2022, was captured by Russian forces in the summer of 2022 and this year, the so-called court of "LPR" sentenced him to 13 years in prison. All this time, Russian propaganda actively spread disinformation about the human rights defender.

On the other hand, we should not forget that there are problems within the country as well regarding the protection of the rights of human rights defenders. For example, in 2021, the NGO ZMINA documented 108 cases of persecution in the territory controlled by Ukraine, which is slightly more than in the previous year, 2020 (then 101 incidents of persecution were recorded).

The current situation requires further attention, analysis and support on the side of the Ukrainian civil society.

# Context (Georgia)

During the last few years, on the sidelines of Russian full-scale military invasion in Ukraine the EU-integrations processes for Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia accelerated. In its communication to European Parliament the EU Commission presented 12 recommendations that Georgia should fulfil in order to become a candidate state. One of the recommendations requires inclusion of civil society organizations in decision-making processes, however, instead of empowering civil society organizations, government of Georgia decided to confront it and discredit work of NGOs.

The biggest threat to civil society in Georgia appeared in the beginning of 2023, when the parliament attempted to adopt the law on agents of foreign influence which would have weakened civil society and caused negative stigmatisation of human rights defenders, activists, journalists and others working in civil sector. Due to the unprecedented consolidation of population and rallies held next to the parliament on 7 and 8th march, the bill was withdrawn. However, the defamation campaign against civil society has increased dramatically. Within one night, after the end of the rallies, posters of prominent civil society activists were spread all over the city with offensive titles such as “Spies, offenders of the church” or “Traitors without Motherland”.

The purpose of the anti-NGO campaign is to discredit civil society of Georgia and justify restrictive measures that could have been imposed over them after adoption of the bill on foreign agents. Consequently, there is a need to constructively address the defamation campaign. Communication with different society members about the importance of human rights defenders in the EU integration process, strengthening democracy and protection of human rights is vital. Drawing parallels and comparisons between civil societies of Ukraine and Georgia on the path of EU integration and highlighting the importance of their work will be a good message to the public which is generally not aware of the work of NGOs and their contributions to the wellbeing of the state. The project will also ensure provision of a unique space for exchanging experience between community leaders based in Georgia and Ukraine, since the human rights community of Georgia and Ukraine has always supported each other, and we see it as a crucial aspect of solidarity which we strive to strengthen with our project.



# Methodology

Project purpose is to combat anti-human rights narratives in Ukrainian and Georgian societies through creating a network of human rights advocacy educators. The goal of the project is to raise the level of trust to human rights defenders and NGOs and to show the importance of the above mentioned in European integration through teaching community leaders about advocacy and campaigning methods.

In this project, we conducted an online-school for local community leaders where invited experts and project team shared theoretical knowledge about the work of human rights defenders and their contribution to the European integration, as well as practical skills on advocacy and campaigning in order to spread the knowledge further in their communities. After the online-school, participants conducted follow-up workshops about ways of advocating for human rights and communicating the role of human rights defenders in the process of Eurointegration in their communities (schools, universities, minority centers etc.) with the help of school's mentors. In Georgia, the project team also payed visits to offline events organized by the school's alumni.

The project involved people who serve as focal points for their communities and have access to wider audiences, as well engaging a wide network of colleagues and supporters from non-governmental organizations and activists who pursue the same goal as we do into the large-scale advocacy campaign to bust the myths and fears of civil society, and to educate the population about the work of human rights defenders and NGOs.

Overall, 6 trainings were conducted within the school. Topics:

- Purpose and vectors of human rights work
- Human rights. Myths and facts
- Role of NGOs in EU integration
- Advocacy and ways to work with narratives
- Advocacy in Social media
- Multimedia tools in campaigning

Additionally, the school's trainer Oleksandra Romantsova conducted a webinar called "What is Ruscism?" for a wide audience.

# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/team of authors:** Stepan Shvedyuk, head of the Charitable League "Society".

**Name of the event:** lectures for high school students on the topic "Sexual violence and health".

**Format:** a series of offline lectures.

**Goal:** to improve understanding and awareness of sexual violence, to create a social space free from violence, to prevent its manifestation and to respond comprehensively. Attracting attention and mobilizing society regarding the problems of overcoming violence in the family and society, child abuse, combating human trafficking and protecting women's rights. The lectures were held within the framework of the all-Ukrainian campaign "16 days against violence", the purpose of which is to draw the public's attention to the urgent problem of combating domestic violence against women, child abuse, human trafficking, ensuring equal rights of women and men and activation of the partnership movement of state authorities, educational institutions, community organizations to the problems of violence in the family and protection of women's rights.

**Expected results:** the campaign "16 days against violence" is an opportunity to once again remind the public about the existence of these problems in society, to raise people's awareness of all forms of violence, to continue the process of creating a non-discriminatory space for the life, development and professional growth of every person.

**Target audience:** high school students.

**Obtained results:** 36 lyceum students, participants of the lecture, took part in a questionnaire about the problems of sexual violence in the community and the attention paid by local authorities to countering gender and sexual violence.

**Conclusions and insights from the results of the event:** The information received helped our team to set the right accents for the further creation (for the year 2024) of the gamified online quest "Take dogmas instead of illusions" aimed at raising the awareness of lyceum students about the types and manifestations of violence in relationships and the possibilities for reducing level of sexual violence and building a safe environment.

The conducted survey demonstrates that there are aspects that are still worth working on and carrying out enhanced educational and informational and preventive activities in educational institutions on the specified subject.

# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/author's team:** Oleksiy Hutsol, coordinator of journalistic investigative direction of "Zmist Tyzhnia" media (Crisis Media Center "Siverskyi Donets").

**Name of the event:** Master class for the editorial office of the regional media "Content of the Week".

**Format:** online master class.

**Purpose:** to teach the editors the basics of conducting advocacy campaigns (with an emphasis on the role of mass media)

**Expected results:** publication in the mass media (short-term result), in the long term - prepare to participate in advocacy campaigns.

**Target audience:** editorial team, readers of regional mass media.

**Total duration:** 9 hours

## Obtained results:

Acquisition of new knowledge and skills by the editorial team, publication of the article

<https://bit.ly/3S7tWuf>

## Conclusions and insights based on the results of the event:

"Events like the Advocacy School really contribute to broadening the worldview. Their main value is for the participants to receive information about the real experience and realities of conducting such campaigns. The trainers' team included representatives of other countries, cultures, and a different mentality. For me personally, this is an awareness of another level of opportunities for conducting public human rights campaigns, especially when we talk about the implementation of the European experience of defending human rights in our everyday life." - Oleksiy Hutsol, coordinator of investigative journalism of the "Content of the Week" media (Crisis Media Center "Siverskyi Donets").



## Як українські та грузинські правозахисники відкривають вікно в Європу

19.12.2023

Шукаємо правду

3273



Минулого тижня лідери держав Євросоюзу прийняли рішення розпочати переговори щодо вступу до об'єднання України та Молдови, а також надати Грузії статус кандидата в члени ЄС. Пройдено великий шлях, однак попереду ще багато роботи над собою. І перш за все – в плані захисту прав людини. Як спільнодія правозахисників з різних країн допомагає євроінтеграції – читайте далі.

### ПОПУЛЯРНІ МАТЕРІАЛИ

Шукаємо правду

Електронні повістки, військовий облік за кордоном та обмеження прав «ухилянтів»: основні

# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/author team:** Nataliya Korchak, coordinator of gender strategy and development of the Public Organization "Pravopolis", project manager.

Viktoriya Volska, human rights defender, trainer, volunteer, founder of the Public Organization "Country of the Free Society", youth worker.

**Name of the event:** training on the topic "Human rights in Ukraine and Solidarity."

**Format:** offline training.

**Goal:** raising awareness of human rights among the youth of Berehove, Zakarpattia Oblast, participating in peace building and establishing dialogue in the community. Promoting the involvement and cohesion of youth in the process of peace-building and establishing a dialogue in the middle of the community.

**Expected results:** 30 young people between the ages of 15 and 17, who study at the Berehove Lyceum "Platan", Berehove City Council of Zakarpattia Oblast, will increase their awareness/learn about human rights and their key role in peace-building processes and establishing dialogue in the community. In particular, the understanding of the tools of youth participation as an element of democratic governance and establishment of dialogue within the community will appear/expand.

## **Obtained results:**

30 teenagers took part in the event (14 girls and 16 boys, 6 people identified themselves as representatives of national minorities).

Young people had the opportunity to learn more about human rights and their contextual application.

As a result of the training, the group had the opportunity to:

- Ponder about the question "What are human rights?"
- Understand whether the rights of young people are violated and whether they are fully implemented
- Learn about mechanisms for the protection of one's rights.
- Find out if it is possible to participate in social processes through defending human rights
- Deepen into the concept of solidarity and how this concept is used today.
- Develop critical thinking. Analysis of the present context through human rights.

# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

## Conclusions and insights based on the results of the event:

The idea of holding this event was born after an exchange visit by our organization to a volunteer initiative working in Berehove. Just then, the English language teacher of the lyceum turned to us with a request to hold non-formal education events in their institution. This request became the inspiration for creating an opportunity to meet the youth of Transcarpathia and learn about their requests, hear their vision and have the opportunity to reveal their potential.

Some participants commented on the event:

"We would like to create an efficient non-governmental organization in our community"

"I would like to create an organization for teenagers"

"I want everyone to be equal equal, especially the attitude of some men to women"

The last comment made a very deep impression and it once again emphasized that young girls feel discriminated against. And this is a real great incentive to implement projects and implement measures for gender equality among young people.



# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/author team:** employees of NGO "VIS" Nataliya Korpan and Nadiya Linchuk.

**Name of the event:** training on the topic "Advocacy campaigns - concepts and implementation algorithm".

**Format:** offline training.

**Purpose:** to acquaint enterprising women of the Vinnytsia region with what advocacy campaigns are, so that in the future they can influence the resolution of problems in their communities.

**Expected results:** increase women's understanding of what advocacy is and why it is an important tool for solving socially important problems.

**Target audience:** women aged 35 to 65.

## **Obtained results:**

The event was held on December 9, 2023, during which 10 participants learned about what an advocacy campaign is, saw it as a tool that they can use to implement their ideas in order to change what is unacceptable to them in society.

One of the ideas proposed by the participants is real, they are considering the possibility of conducting an advocacy campaign in their region to preserve architectural monuments.

The training was conducted using the interactive methods, group and individual discussions and role exercises which allowed the participants to deeply learn about the basics of advocacy, and develop drafts of their own campaigns.

At the beginning of the training, for many participants, the advocacy campaign was connected with the activities of lawyers. At the end of the training, they already perceived it as a tool for changes in the system.



# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/author's team:** Denys Sukhotin, head of the unit at the public organization "All-Ukrainian Organization "Union of Persons with Disabilities of Ukraine" "Transcarpathian Regional Society of Persons with Disabilities"

**Name of the event:** round table on the topic "Role and action of the UN Convention "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" during war and when overcoming its consequences"

**Format:** offline round table.

**Goal:** increasing the level of knowledge about the rights of people with disabilities among the participants of the event. Coverage of problematic issues in compliance with the norms of the UN Convention "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", in particular: providing persons with disabilities access on an equal basis with others to the physical environment, objects of social and engineering and transport infrastructure (Article 9), access to justice (Article 13), involvement of persons with disabilities in the local community, participation in public life (Article 19, Article 29), social protection (Article 28), education (Article 24), the highest attainable level of health (Article 25), access to information (Article 21), participation in cultural life, leisure and recreation, and sports (Article 30).

**Expected results:** holding an offline meeting, with the participation of people with disabilities from various districts of the Transcarpathian region, representatives of the Transcarpathian Regional Council, the Transcarpathian Regional Military Administration, namely the Departments: Health Protection, Social Protection of the Population, the regional branch of the Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities, as well as representatives of partner organizations, public activists.

**Target audience:** people with disabilities from various territorial communities of Transcarpathia, representatives of partner organizations, volunteers, regional leadership, as well as a representative of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine's human rights representative in Transcarpathia region.

# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Obtained results:** during the round table held on December 4, 2023, the principles of continued effective cooperation between our organization, other public organizations and activists, relevant Departments of the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration, as well as the deputy corps of the regional council in the field of implementation of the norms of the Convention and national legislation on issues were worked out protection of persons with disabilities. The situation with the supply of persons with disabilities, in particular as a result of the war, with additional means of rehabilitation, the carrying out of repair work to ensure the accessibility of medical facilities, especially those where wounded military personnel undergo treatment and rehabilitation, and the shortcomings of the legislation were discussed. The proposals of the participants of the round table regarding changes in the legislation were submitted to Tetyana Lomakina, Advisor to the President of Ukraine on Barrier-Free Issues.

## **Conclusions and insights based on the results of the event:**

It is proposed to make changes to the list of rehabilitation aids, part of the cost of which is compensated from the funds of the Social Protection Fund for Persons with Disabilities, headphones with a wide frequency range, for mobile phones (smartphones) used by people with visual impairments, for orientation in space, sounding of screen programs access, voicing text messages, as well as providing the opportunity to receive a full range of services. The cost of this good-quality gadget reaches more than 1,000 UAH, which is a significant amount for many people with disabilities. Also, this list does not include hearing aids for people with hearing loss. Therefore, the mentioned list should be improved, including increasing the amount of compensation for the cost. A separate topic for conversation was the lack of a social taxi service in the region with specially equipped cars for people in wheelchairs. All remarks were brought to the attention of Tetyana Lomakina, Advisor to the President of Ukraine on barrier-free accessibility.



# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/author's team:** Valentina Chyrva, teacher of gymnasium No. 12, coordinator of the school Euroclub "Suchasnyk" (Kamyanske, Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukraine).

**Name of the event:** project of the school Euroclub "Human rights - a Crucial European value" (with the support of the EU Representation in Ukraine).

**Format:** mixed (both online and offline)

**Goal:** to introduce project participants to one of the main European values - respect for human rights, as the basis of the European worldview; teach students to understand the importance of human rights and the need to protect them using available legal opportunities; to lay the foundations of the European attitude towards respect for the rights of other people.

**Expected results:** project participants will gain knowledge about European values and their justification and application, learn about human rights protection mechanisms, apply important competencies (digital, communicative, informational), acquire or improve cooperation skills, and the process of forming a legal culture will begin.

**Obtained results:** The project aroused the interest of students, because it consisted of various activities for different age groups and levels of involvement. The participants of the project were active and joined the activities with interest. The project turned out to be important and relevant. Search activity caused surprise that there are human rights defenders in every city, the memory of such people lives on, there is someone to turn to for the protection of their rights. The participants expressed hope that they will be able to protect their rights and the rights of others if necessary. A participant's quote about the Vasyl Stus mural: "Every day I walked past this mural to school and didn't know who was depicted here. Now, thanks to the project, I know how difficult and dangerous it is to fight for people's rights. We need to know and respect our human rights defenders" (9th grade student).



# Participants' projects (Ukraine)

**Author/author team:** Alla Nitchenko, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Law Enforcement and General Legal Disciplines of the Law Faculty of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Law and Social Technologies of the Chernihiv Polytechnic National University.

**Name of the event:** webinars "Advocacy - one of the steps to change in the country" (held on 11.12.2023 for the Educational and Scientific Institute of Management, Food Technologies and Trade, Faculty of Social Technologies, Health and Rehabilitation of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Law and Social Technologies and 13.12 .2023 for the Educational and Scientific Institute of Economics), "Advocacy as a tool of influence" (held on 12.12.2023 for the Faculty of Law of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Law and Social Technologies).

**Format:** webinar

**Purpose:** - to provide knowledge to the youth leaders of the Chernihiv territorial community, regarding the organization of successful advocacy companies, to promote the involvement of young people in the dialogue with the authorities, in particular through the activation of youth work through the activation of blogging and information activities on the Internet.

**Expected results:** Increasing youth awareness of advocacy companies through the activation of youth work through the development of student projects, the activation of blogging and information activities on the Internet, in particular, the publication of posts on the platform of the Chernihiv blogosphere of Chernihiv Polytechnic University.

**Obtained results:**

Webinar participants increased their awareness of the algorithm of advocacy companies, including the specifics of conducting advocacy companies in social networks; within the framework of work on student projects, developed a project proposal that includes educational and advocacy activities. Also, the participants prepared and published on the Internet, in particular, on their personal Facebook pages, 58 reviews of the held webinar "Advocacy as a tool of influence" and 41 posts using the hashtag #School of Advocacy on the Chernihiv blogosphere platform with the aim of increasing information awareness on the topic of a wide range of citizens.

# Participants' projects (Georgia)

**Name of the author:** Elene Gogvadze

**Name of the event:** Aims and vectors of Human Rights protection

**Format:** offline discussion

**Goal:** Increase awareness about Human Rights Protection in students;

**Expected results:** Increased interest In Human Rights among schoolchildren. understanding human rights fosters a sense of global citizenship. Human rights education empowers young individuals by providing them with the knowledge and skills to understand and address issues related to social justice, equality, and fairness. Youth training can emphasize the interconnectedness of the world and the responsibility individuals have in promoting human rights both locally and globally. As well, Fostering an interest in human rights at a young age lays the foundation for lifelong learning and commitment to social justice. Youth training should emphasize the continuous nature of the learning process and the importance of staying informed and engaged throughout one's life.

**Obtained results:** Increased number of students interested in Human Rights. The increased understanding of importance of human rights in a democratic society. Reevaluation of values and the role of human rights defenders in promoting the importance of rights.

**Quote from a participant:**

"Through this meeting about human rights, I discovered the power of my voice and the responsibility I have to stand up for justice. It's not just about learning; it's about realizing the impact we can make when we unite for the rights of all. This training ignited a flame within me, inspiring a commitment to be a catalyst for positive change in my community and beyond."



# Participants' projects (Georgia)

**Name of the author:** Lasha Dzigrashvili

**Name of the event:** Influence of Eu-Integration on Occupation Process

**Format:** offline meeting

**Goal:** Raising the awareness of internally displaced persons on the processes related to European integration.

**Expected results:** More informed people in the target audience;

**Target audience:** Compactly settled IDPs in Tbilisi

## **Plan of the event:**

18:20 - Discussion about the problems of IDPs

19:00 coffee break

19:15 Discussion regarding social problems of IDPs

20:00 coffee break

20:15 Discussion on the topic: The impact of European integration on the de-occupation process

21:00 Summary and conclusion of the discussion

**Obtained results:** 7 young people who are highly informed and involved in the process of awareness raising.

## **Conclusions and insights:**

The participants of the meeting expressed their hope that similar meetings will be more frequent and expressed their desire to participate in other activities as well. They think that their voice is not heard in the society and they need some platform from which to talk about their problems and challenges.

The feedback from the participants was very positive. They noted that although many of them are law students, there was a lot of news for them at this training and the issue was presented in a more interesting and different way. They wanted to continue such meetings and I received a compliment that I have all the necessary skills and would be a good lecturer. The desire to organize an online meeting was also expressed, where it is possible to involve young people living in the occupied territory.



# Participants' projects (Georgia)

**Name of the author:** Nonna Mirzoeva

**Name of the event:** Advantages of ascension to EU for national minorities

**Format:** online meeting

**Goal:** Raising awareness among minorities about EU accession

**Expected results:** Increased interest among the youth of national minorities

**Target audience:** Young representatives of national minorities

**Plan of the event:**

- 1) Opening of the event, greeting
- 2) European standards for the protection of minorities;
- 3) Coffee break;
- 4) European Union framework conventions for the protection of minorities;
- 5) Judicial practice of the European Union;
- 6) Closing of the event.

**Obtained results:** The increased interest among the youth of national minorities in Georgia regarding the country's potential accession to the European Union reflects a broader desire for inclusive and progressive societal development. As these young individuals engage with the idea of EU membership, they recognize the potential benefits in terms of economic opportunities, political stability, and social advancements. Youth-led initiatives and forums serve as platforms for constructive discussions, allowing diverse perspectives to be heard and fostering a sense of unity in pursuing a common goal.

The prospect of Georgia joining the EU resonates particularly with national minorities, as they envision a future where cultural diversity is not only respected but celebrated within the European framework. Educational programs and outreach efforts play a crucial role in informing and empowering these youth, emphasizing the shared values and democratic principles that underpin the EU. This growing interest signifies a generational shift, where young people see EU integration not just as a political endeavor but as a pathway to a more interconnected and harmonious society that values the contributions of every citizen. Ultimately, the enthusiasm of national minority youth highlights the potential for a more inclusive and vibrant Georgia within the European family.

# Participants' projects (Georgia)

**Name of the author:** Shorena Gigolashvili

**Name of the event:** Importance of Citizenship

**Format:** offline lecture

**Goal:** Raising the awareness of the Armenian population in Samtskhe-Javakheti on the issues of obtaining citizenship, improving their access to relevant services

**Expected results:** Raising students' awareness, interest in the issue;

**Obtained results:** The participants were comprehensively briefed on the intricacies of Georgian citizenship, with a particular focus on addressing queries and concerns raised by the Armenian population, who made up a significant portion of the training audience. Notably, feedback from some of the Armenian attendees revealed an enhanced understanding of the citizenship mechanisms in place. One participant shared, "This training shed light on the nuances of Georgian citizenship, especially for us, the Armenian community. Now, I feel more informed about the processes and requirements, and it has clarified many misconceptions I had." The session successfully bridged gaps in understanding and facilitated a more nuanced comprehension of citizenship issues among the diverse group of participants, contributing to a more informed and empowered community.

## **Conclusions and insights:**

The participants expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback, acknowledging that despite being law students, they found the training to be incredibly informative and presented in a novel and engaging manner. Many remarked that the sessions provided fresh perspectives and introduced them to new aspects of the topic. Encouragingly, the participants expressed a desire for more such meetings, underscoring the value they placed on the unique approach taken during the training. Additionally, there was a flattering compliment directed at the organizer, praising their adept skills and suggesting that they would make an excellent lecturer in future endeavors. The positive reception affirmed the effectiveness of the training and the potential for further impactful educational sessions.

# Participants' projects (Georgia)

**Name of the author:** Nugzar Mosidze

**Name of the event:** Advantages of EU integration for religious minorities.

**Format:** offline training

**Goal:** Raising awareness among young people; highlighting the importance of joining the European Union;

**Expected results:** presenting a real image of the European Union in society;

**Conclusions and insights:** To a large extent, most of the public does not have complete information about the functioning of the European Union; Joining the European Union is considered by many to be an impossible story; There is a need to spread more information about the EU and its positive impact;

As the audience delved into the intricacies of EU policies and values, they not only comprehended the immediate benefits but also foresaw a future where the ideals of the European Union would shape a more prosperous and interconnected society. The sessions provided a platform for open dialogue, fostering a collective appreciation for the shared values that underpin the EU and the potential positive transformation it could bring to the lives of young people in the country. In retrospect, the dissemination of knowledge successfully kindled a sense of optimism and purpose among the present audience regarding the prospect of Georgia joining the European Union.



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