



NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION

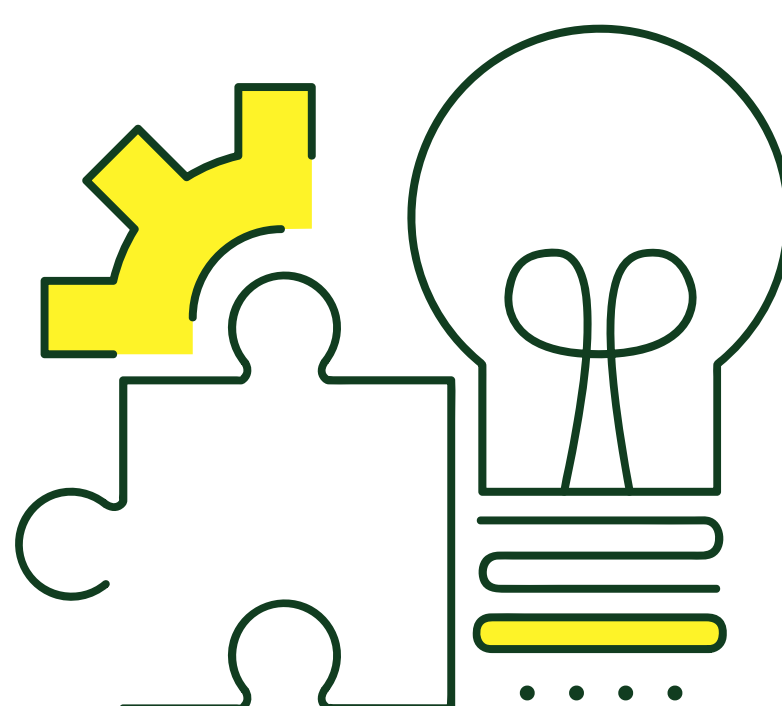
ANNUAL REPORT
2023

ABOUT US



NGO "Human Rights Vector"-
A human rights organization

31.03.2016
Official
registration



Our main courses of action in 2023



Strengthen the capacity of courts in communication activities for war crimes cases



Healing wounds of war in Ukraine: working on restoring and strengthening the mental health of the population, victims of war, legal counselling, legal education, and strengthening the capabilities of specialists (psychologists, psychotherapists, lawyers, representatives of NGOs, government bodies, local self-government bodies)



Promoting international solidarity

Activity of Human Rights Vector NGO

The year in numbers



33

online educational and advocacy events (trainings, webinars, round tables, masterclasses, discussions, conferences, facilitation groups, mentoring meetings, supervision sessions, support and experience sharing groups, etc.)

145 hours in total spent on events;

1347 people applied to participate in the events;

1096 event participants, of which 592 are unique individuals: psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers, doctors, lawyers, lawyers, mediators teachers, teachers, judges, judge-speakers, court press secretaries, court consultants, journalists, volunteers, students, deputies, facilitators, investigators, prosecutors.



4

publications (reports, educational materials, practice summaries);



3

studies conducted: on the coverage of war crimes court cases in Ukraine and abroad; and on the needs of Ukrainian psychological and legal assistance providers and the challenges facing them in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine;



1

international human rights contest;



301 579 *

views on video recordings and broadcasts of educational and advocacy events, and text and graphic materials, across social media and the Human Rights Vector website

* as of January 16, 2024.

Strengthening the capacity of the courts for communication activities in war crimes cases

The year of 2023 showed us that the enemy does not plan on stopping, and Ukraine is continuing to fight bravely, both on the battlefield and in the legal and informational fields.

Today, the courts can become a crucial point of support for people in winning the battle for the truth; a "war" for which they will continue for years, as trials continue. This is why the judiciary must prepare itself as much as possible to conduct long-term and balanced communicative activities that require an understanding of their importance, strategic planning, and coordinated action.

The cooperation of the government and civil society is important on this path - it will help achieve substantial and sustainable results. The Human Rights Vector NGO continues to work to ensure the right to a fair trial, in particular in the areas of the right to open hearings, establishing a dialogue between the judiciary and the public, and developing judicial communications. An important strategic direction is to increase the capacity of courts and other actors to cover war crimes trials.

This activity was carried out within the project "Court Communication of War Crime Cases," implemented by the Human Rights Vector NGO with the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the Justice for All Program. The Council of Judges of Ukraine acted as a permanent partner in these project activities.



Research: “Media monitoring and analysis of court websites in terms of coverage of war crime proceedings”



The team of experts in the «Court Communications of War Crimes Cases» project conducted a study and prepared the report, “Media monitoring and analysis of court websites in terms of coverage of war crime proceedings”, which is available at this link: https://hrvector.org/en/reports/24-02-20-monitoryng_

This report presents the results and conclusions from the monitoring of media and court websites regarding the coverage of war crimes proceedings. The research team investigated how war crime proceedings are covered in Ukrainian and foreign media,

how the proceedings are communicated, and how individual war crime proceedings are conducted by the courts of first instance and appeal. For this purpose, we analyzed publications on the courts’ websites regarding war crimes proceedings to understand whether the information is complete, accessible, accurate, and understandable for both the media and society at large. The findings and conclusions can help develop the Guidelines for the coverage of war crime proceedings for courts of first instance and appellate courts, as well as train court communication teams in their further communication work. Although the subject of the study is war crimes proceedings, the conclusions and recommendations on their coverage can be applied to other war-related cases.

The research period covered one year from March 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023. During the study, 6,080 media references were recorded and analyzed. These references were related to the court and trials of 25 individuals accused of war crimes, all of whom received judgments. Out of the total, 2,587 references were original materials, including courtroom reports, news articles, court announcements, and trial-related content. From monitoring court websites, 31 publications on war crimes cases were found and analyzed during the research period.

Strategic sessions with representatives of the judiciary and communication teams of courts where war crimes are heard to help establish communications work in war crimes cases

Representatives of the judiciary, government, judicial institutions and courts that have heard war crimes cases discussed the need for and ways to communicate these crucial, historic trials.

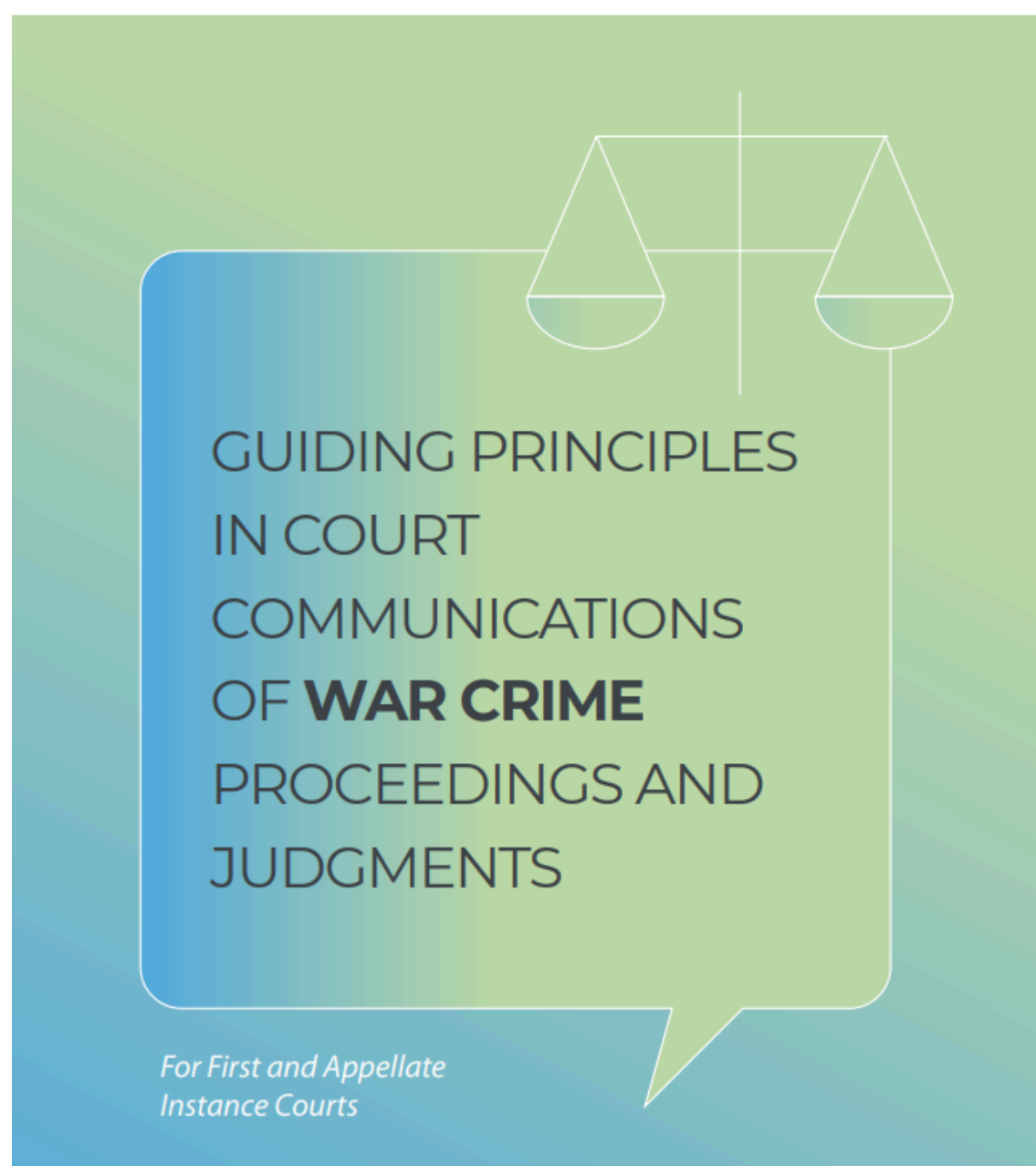
The meeting lasted for three days, July 26-28, 2023, and was held at the Council of Judges of Ukraine in offline and online formats. It was organized by the Human Rights Vector NGO with the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the USAID Justice for All Program.

A shared vision was discussed, and principles and methods for informing the public about war crimes cases were developed. These were outlined in the document titled “Guiding Principles in Court Communications of War Crime Proceedings and Judgments. For First and Appellate Instance Courts.”

We thank the representatives of the Council of Judges of Ukraine, the press services of judicial self-government bodies, the High Council of Justice, the National School of Judges of Ukraine, the Supreme Court, Solomyansky District Court of Kyiv for their active participation, Anastasia Rozlutska and Maksym Eligulashvili for facilitating this process, our partners and experts Vitalia Lebid, Olga Reshetylova, Oksana Rasulova, representing the Media Initiative for Human Rights, and donors for supporting this activity.



«Guiding Principles in Court Communications of War Crime Proceedings and Judgments. For First and Appellate Instance Courts»

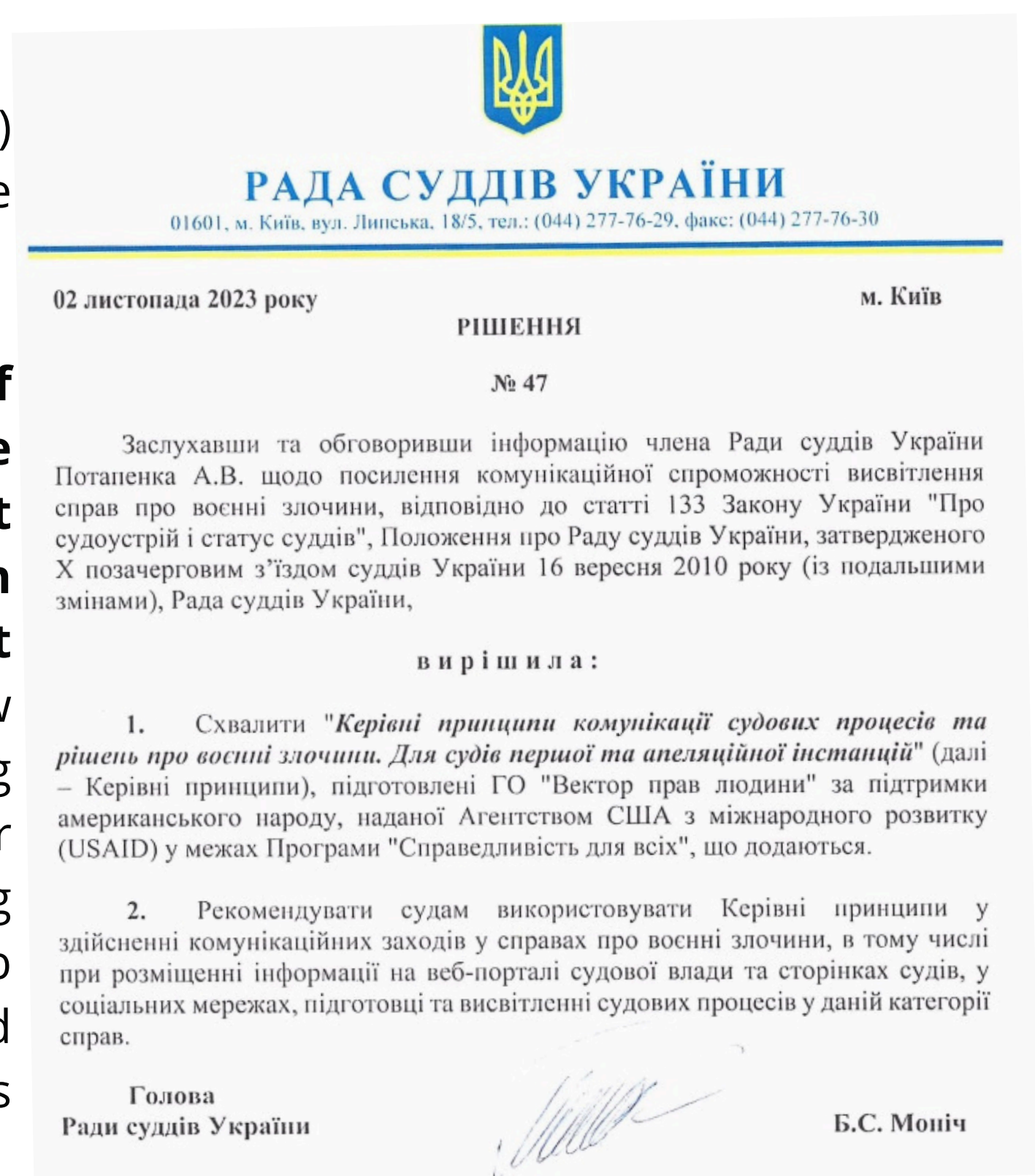


An important achievement of 2023 was the document **«Guiding Principles in Court Communications of War Crime Proceedings and Judgments. For First and Appellate Instance Courts»** / A. Rozlutska, in M. Yeligulashvili, V. Lebid, V. Rybak. The document was developed in cooperation with the judiciary and aims to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to carry out communications activities in war crimes cases, and serves as a guide for courts.

The authors used a comprehensive approach to allow for demand from various stakeholders.

If required resources (financial, human) are available, relevant changes could be made in a fairly short period of time.

On November 2, 2023, **the Council of Judges of Ukraine acknowledged the importance of communicating about war crimes cases. Through decision No. 47, it approved the document** and recommended that courts follow the guidelines when handling communication activities related to war crimes cases. This includes posting information on the judiciary's web portal, court pages, social media, and preparing coverage of trials in this category of cases.



Educational activities for court communication teams on covering war crimes trials

A prerequisite for the development of judicial communications is constant systematic training for specialists. Since 2016, the Human Rights Vector NGO has been developing a communications training system for court representatives, so we understand how important the educational component is for covering war crimes trials.

This year, within the framework of the aforementioned project “Court Communications of War Crimes Cases”, the Human Rights Vector NGO organized a training and mentoring program for court communications teams to improve the process of covering war crimes cases. This made it possible to provide the necessary basic theoretical knowledge and ensure its practical application.

Two three-day online trainings on “Communicating War Crimes Trials and Judgments” were held on September 11-13 and September 27-29, 2023. National and international experts worked with the participants. An overview of international and national practice of covering war crimes trials and judgments was conducted; representatives of court communication teams were trained to use the document “Guiding Principles in Court Communications of War Crime Proceedings and Judgments. For First and Appellate Instance Courts”. A total of 74 court representatives participated in the training, with 71 of them being unique individuals.

Between November 2023 and January 2024, 11 online mentoring meetings (9 group and 2 individual) were held, lasting 2 hours or more. A total of 148 participants attended, with 62 of them being unique individuals.

The coaching team of the training and mentoring program included:

Anastasia Rozlutska, government communications expert, project manager at Work.ua, Maksym Yeligulashvili, board member of the Institute for Peace and Understanding, representative of the Coalition “Ukraine. Five in the Morning”, dialogue facilitator; Vitaliya Lebed, Master of International Law, attorney, lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights; Olga Reshetylova, Head of the Media Initiative for Human Rights; Olga Kavran, Founding Director of IUSTICOM, researcher and PhD candidate at the Free University of Brussels, former Head of the Public Affairs Unit at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Deputy Public Affairs Coordinator at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and spokesperson for the Tribunal's Prosecutor; and Valeriia Rybak, Director of the Human Rights Vector NGO.

We thank our expert team and invite you to get to know them:



Anastasia Rozlutska (Ukraine), government communications expert, project manager.

Over 10 years of practical experience in implementing projects in the fields of communications, education, and public activities. She has experience in developing and implementing communication strategies, project management, curriculum development, and team building.

From 2015 to 2019, she coordinated the communication and educational projects of the E-Data project of the Ministry of Finance, from 2019 to 2020 she was an advisor to the Minister of Finance, responsible for the establishment and operation of the Ministry's Communications Department. She founded and implemented several successful national Ukrainian volunteer initiatives, including the educational platform for learning the Ukrainian language "E-Mova". Since 2023, she has been the head of the "Nazustrich" project for the employment of veterans, in cooperation with Work.ua. She holds a PhD in political science.



Vitaliia Lebed, Master's degree in International Law, lawyer.

From 2015 to August 2023, she was a lawyer at the Center for Strategic Affairs of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

From 2014 to 2023, she was a lecturer at the Department of International Law and Comparative Law at the Kyiv University of Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

In 2014-2023, she represented the interests of victims of the armed conflict at the national and international levels, including the European Court of Human Rights; she is one of the authors of two submissions to the International Criminal Court regarding violations of the Rome Statute during the armed conflict in Ukraine; she participated in the development of amendments to national legislation and the preparation of amici curiae to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on various aspects of human rights protection in Ukraine. She is the author of at least 10 publications in the field of international law and human rights protection.

Since September 2023, she has been a lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights.



Maryna Bondarenko, speaker judge of the Darnytsia District Court of Kyiv, PhD in Law.



Maxim Eligulashvili, member of the Board of the Institute for Peace and Understanding, representative of the Secretariat of the “Ukraine. Five in the Morning” Coalition.

Maxim has been working in the field of human rights protection and anti-discrimination since 2008. He focuses mainly on educational design, adult learning, anti-discrimination and human rights education.

Since 2012, he has been actively involved in social mediation, conflict resolution, and group process facilitation.

Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, he has been actively working to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law, both for specialists (Application of International Humanitarian Law in National Judicial Practice, Moot Court: Practical Study of International Humanitarian Law) and has developed products aimed at popularizing knowledge of IHL among the general population (online course: Studying International Humanitarian Law).

Since June 2014, he has been facilitating dialogue processes related to overcoming the consequences of war and building transitional justice. Through the support of dialogue platforms and groups, facilitating dialogue processes at the local/national/international level, working with conflicts in divided communities and cases of discrimination and violence. He develops and conducts analytical and sociological research in the field of conflict prevention and resolution, social cohesion and resilience.



Olha Reshetylova, co-founder and head of the Media Initiative for Human Rights, coordinator of the War and Justice program. She has long experience in journalism, including working as an editor of the regional network department at the socio-political newspaper “Day”.


In 2014, she co-founded one of the largest foundations in support of the Ukrainian army, Come Back Alive, where she was responsible for coordinating the foundation's work with law enforcement agencies and directly with the armed forces and others involved in the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine. During her numerous trips to the frontline, she encountered human rights violations in the context of hostilities. It was then that she decided to move to public control over the observance of justice in relation to the events of the war. In 2015, she left the foundation and focused on journalistic and civic investigations of violations in the security sector. In 2019, she was appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to the Commission for the Selection of the Head of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption.



Olga Kavran a fellow and PhD candidate at Vrije Universiteit Brussels and the Founding Director of IUSTICOM. From 2010-2020, she was the Head of Outreach and Legacy at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. She also taught Public International Law at the American University of Beirut. From 1993-2010, she worked for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as a translator, Outreach Deputy

Coordinator and Spokesperson for the Prosecutor. Before joining the ICTY, she worked for Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising. She holds an LL.M. in public international law from Leiden University and has published and taught on international criminal law.





Healing wounds of war in Ukraine - working on restoring and strengthening the mental health of the population, victims of war, legal counselling, legal education, and strengthening the capabilities of specialists

The horrific events of Russia's war against Ukraine, which reached unprecedented proportions in 2022, have had a tremendous negative impact on all areas of life, including mental health.

At the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Human Rights Vector team and I helped victims overcome the first wave of shocking and traumatic events. Later, we helped them adapt and become active in the face of a long-term war.

The population of Ukraine faces important challenges:

- overcoming the consequences of traumatic events of the war;
- maintaining psychological health to continue the fight, win the war and further restore Ukraine.

To this end, in 2023, we:

- held the first conference, bringing together specialists providing psychological, psychiatric, medical, social and legal assistance to discuss the best practices of the previous difficult period and identify common challenges that will arise in the next periods of war;
- published a collection of initiatives that provide such assistance and research on the needs and challenges of professional communities in this area;
- organized the educational and support program, “Helping Those Who Help”, for professionals of helping professions.

Conference "Helping Those Who Help: Challenges in the Work and Well-being of Professionals Providing Psychological and Legal Assistance"



Funded by
the European Union



On February 17th-18th, Human Rights Vector held a 2-day online conference **"Psychological and legal assistance for war victims: A year of experience following the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation into Ukraine and modern challenges"** on psychological and legal assistance for war victims, bringing together a group of NGOs from many countries to reflect on the past year working in the context of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The conference was live-translated from Ukrainian to English. Watch the English version here:

- Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZJz6nOtEr8>
- Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqX-UzGas94>

The conference brought together a group of psychologists, psychotherapists, medical workers, lawyers, mediators, helpline workers, social workers, representatives of Ukrainian and foreign non-governmental organizations, state authorities, local governments, donor organizations, and clients of the helplines and other projects providing psychological and legal assistance. **The conference was attended by 117 participants** over two days.

"We have experienced so many feelings and events that we could be discussing them throughout our whole lives, and what is there to say about the consequences that we have to deal with... Yet, at the same time, we still have a lot ahead of us", said **Valeriia Rybak**, organizer of the event and director of the Human Rights Vector NGO, during the event. Human Rights Vector, like many other Ukrainian organizations, quickly reformatted their work following February 24th.

There is often overlap in the kind of aid being provided by different organizations and initiatives, but each may have certain specialties and experiences. Valeriia Rybak organized this conference to see the bigger picture, with the hope that these different organizations can get to know each other better, learn from each other's experiences, and see room for cooperation moving forward, both before and after victory.

«I am extremely glad that the conference took place. It allowed me to see the work of others and my own with a new perspective and to be inspired by new ideas. It is important that during the event we discussed the challenges and needs of our professional communities.

So right now, I and the Human Rights Vector team are planning a number of activities for the specialists of the aid projects to increase their resilience and capacity.” — Valeriia Rybak, director of Human Rights Vector NGO.

Most of the participants at the event represented the non-state sector; on the first day, during which legal aid was discussed, 18% were participants from the public sector and 82% from the non-state sector. And on the second day, when psychological help was discussed, 10% of the participants represented the public sector and 90%, respectively, the non-governmental sector.

The event combined speeches by speakers, exchange of opinions from participants, practical advice to each other and offers of partnerships, surveys from the organizers.

During the conference, they discussed:

- successful examples of help lines providing psychological and legal assistance in Ukraine and abroad, offline and online work and initiatives of various organizations;
- the current most popular forms of assistance work and for which target audiences;
- difficulties and advantages of online legal and psychological lines and offline help in Ukraine for specialists and clients;
- methods of offering assistance;
- the most relevant legal and psychological requests in Ukraine and from citizens of Ukraine and abroad;
- how/if there was cooperation between legal and psychological assistance centers abroad and state and non-governmental organizations in Ukraine for the best help to people and what are the prospects for this kind of cooperation;
- what help do specialists and organizations need to provide legal and psychological assistance in modern conditions;
- how non-governmental and governmental initiatives can cooperate and how successful this kind of cooperation is.

Your wishes to the speakers and to each other

ВІТРИМКИ
миру та перемоги
НАТХНЕННЯ
thank you for your work
ресурсів
дякую за досвід
дякую за конференцію
оптимізму
більше зустрічей
взаємодії
дякую
світла
наснаги

The theme of the two-day event, the speeches of the speakers, group discussions and speeches of the conference participants, all reached the conclusion that despite the duration of the war with the Russian Federation, daily new challenges that resemble a race with obstacles, an increase in the number of requests from war victims, it is necessary to unite the efforts of state and non-state institutions to help all those in need. Equally important in the work of psychologists and lawyers is the constant improvement of knowledge, flexibility, systematic work with clients, the use of new forms of assistance and continuous educational work.

The challenges facing specialists and organizations providing psychological and legal assistance are similar, but there are some differences. During the conference, we conducted a survey of participants on this topic. The results were included in the publication **“Psychological and Legal Aid Online during the First Year of the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. An overview of the needs and challenges faced by psychological and legal aid providers. Part 1”** : <https://hrvector.org/en/reports/23-03-20-p1>

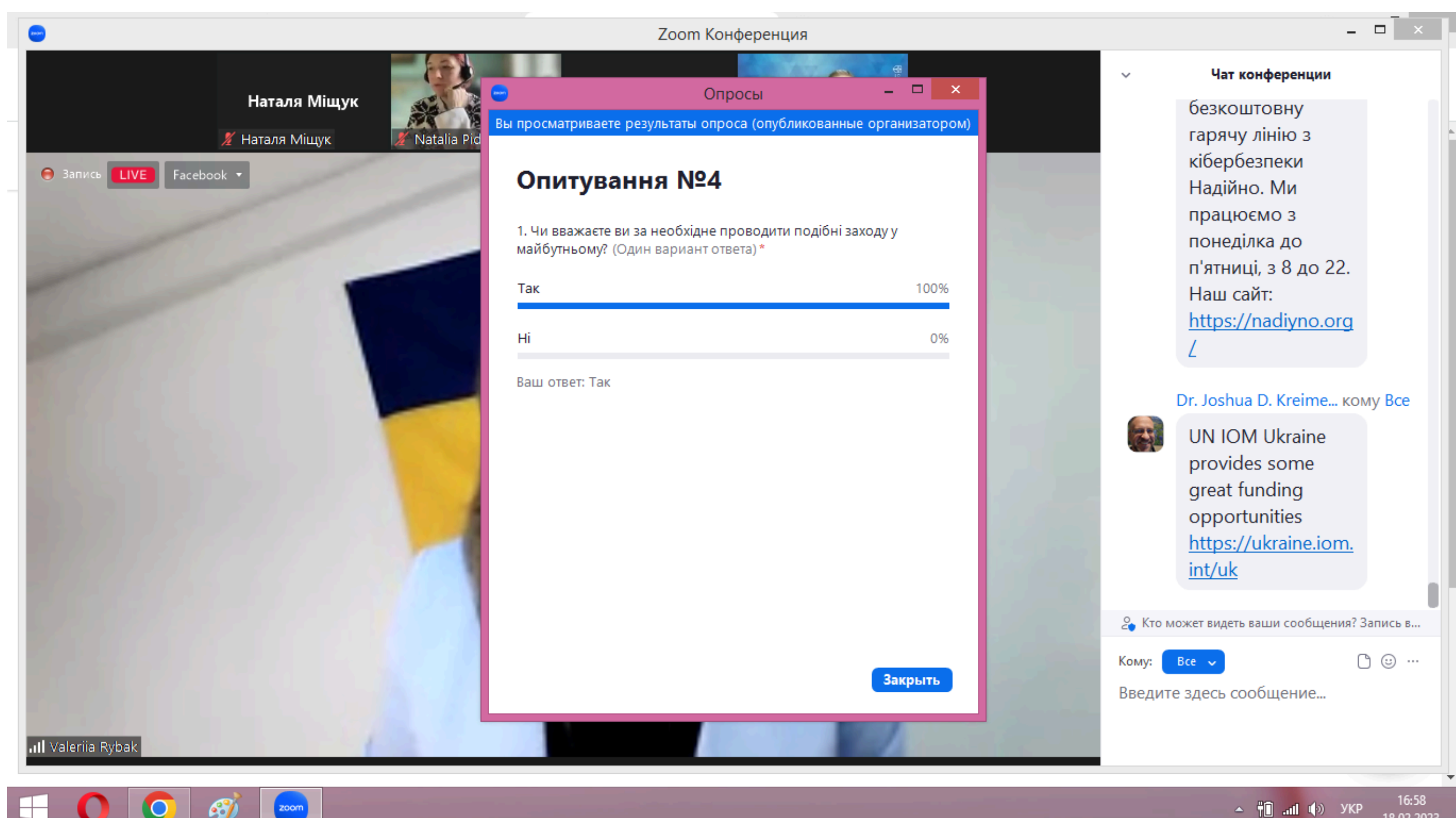
The speakers of the conference "Psychological and legal assistance for war victims: A year of experience following the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation into Ukraine and modern challenges" were Ukrainian and foreign specialists:

- **Iryna Ratzke-Rybak**, psychoanalyst, supervisor, Head of the Section of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy of Couples and Families of Association of Psychologists and Psychotherapists of Ukraine, a delegate of the EFRR, a full member of the GASI, EFPP (Germany-Ukraine);
- **Vivienne Harte**, group analyst and individual psychotherapist (Great Britain);
- **Tetiana Boiko**, psychologist, psychoanalyst, group-analytics, psychologist of the psychological and legal assistance help line from the Human Rights Vector NGO (Ukraine);
- **Hanna Mokrousova**, co-founder and psychologist of the Blue Bird NGO (Ukraine);
- **Natalya Pidkalyuk**, head of the "IPSI" NGO, psychiatrist, Trauma focus trainer (Ukraine);
- **Lilia Oliinyk**, lawyer, mediator, lawyer of the psychological and legal assistance help line from the Human Rights Vector NGO (Ukraine);
- **Natalia Marchuk**, Head of the Department of Ensuring Access to Legal Aid of the Coordinating Center for the Provision of Legal Aid (Ukraine);
- **Marta Zmysla**, lawyer and coordinator of "JurFem: support" program of the NGO "Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem" (Ukraine);
- **Yuliya Moriy**, director of the Legal Hundred NGO (Ukraine);
- **Mykhailo Shahmat**, member of the Board of the Association of Ukrainians in Poland (Department in Przemyśl);
- **Olena Zimnitska**, lawyer, mediator, co-founder of NGO "Mediation and Dialogue Agency of Chernivtsi region" and NGO "Open Bulgaria" (Bulgaria-Ukraine);

- **Iryna Fedorych**, lawyer, mediator, PhD, acting Chairman of the Board of the Association of Family Mediators of Ukraine, member of the Lviv Mediation Center, National Association of Mediators of Ukraine (Ukraine);
- **Anastasiia Iun**, Ph.D. Candidate in school Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, USA, MA, BCBA-supervisor (USA);
- **Olena Gayevska**, MA, IBA in training, Candidate of Philological Sciences (Germany);
- **Dr. Joshua Kreimeyer**, Ph.D., Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) (USA).

The conference is organized by the Human Rights Vector NGO within the framework of the project “Psychological and legal assistance to respond to and mitigate the impact of the war in Ukraine”. The project benefits from support through the EaP Civil Society Forum Re-granting Scheme (FSTP) for members, and is funded by the European Union as part of its support to civil society in the region. Within its Re-granting Scheme, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) supports the projects of its members that contribute to achieving the mission and objectives of the Forum.

Grants are available for CSOs from the Eastern Partnership and EU countries. Key areas of support are democracy and human rights, economic integration, environment and energy, contact between people, and social and labor policies.



Psychological and Legal Aid Online during the First Year of the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.



From January 17 to February 5, 2023, the Human Rights Vector NGO conducted a survey on the provision of psychological and legal assistance to war victims online after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

The main objectives of the survey are:

A) to collect experiences of providing psychological and legal assistance online in the context of the Russian war against Ukraine;

B) to compile a brief overview of the needs of Ukrainian psychological and legal aid providers and the challenges they face.

Based on the results of the survey, the team of the Human Rights Vector NGO prepared a two-part publication “Psychological and Legal Assistance Online during the First Year after the Full-scale Russian Invasion of Ukraine”:

- **«Psychological and Legal Aid Online during the First Year of the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. An overview of the needs and challenges faced by psychological and legal aid providers. Part 1»** - in Ukrainian — <https://hrvector.org/zviti/23-03-15-1> and in English — <https://hrvector.org/en/reports/23-03-20-p1> ;
- **«Psychological and Legal Aid Online during the First Year of the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Directory of psychological and legal aid providers assisting survivors of the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine. Part 2»** in Ukrainian — <https://hrvector.org/publikacziyi/23-03-15-2> and in English — <http://bit.ly/40OdMsw>



The directory of providers that provide psychological and legal assistance to victims of the Russian war against Ukraine describes in detail 31 initiatives and help lines.

Most of the providers (56%) who participated in the survey were organized in response to the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and were established after February 24, 2022.

These publications can assist in:

- providing better assistance to people affected by the war in Ukraine, e.g. by sharing additional information about the services of various initiatives;
- finding a helpline or initiative that provides relevant aid;
- finding partners for cooperation in Ukraine and abroad;
- sharing experiences in Ukraine and abroad;
- summarizing and recording experiences of providing assistance;
- looking for joint solutions to the new challenges;
- developing and conducting further in-depth research.

During the period from the date of publication of the materials to the date of writing the report (March 2023 - February 2014), **8772 visitors to the Human Rights Vector NGO website viewed the publications in Ukrainian and English** (only unique views were counted).

The Helping Those Who Help program is an educational and supportive program for professionals in helping fields.

Realizing that the war could drag on for much longer than first expected after the full-scale invasion, the team of the Human Rights Vector NGO decided to look for ways to increase the capacity and resilience of professional communities to help more people in general and contribute to the tasks currently facing Ukraine:

- overcoming the consequences of the traumatic events of the war;
- maintaining psychological health to continue the struggle, achieve victory and further restore Ukraine.

This is how the Helping Those Who Help project was created.

The project's activities are aimed at increasing the resilience and capacity of representatives of helping professions by A) developing and conducting educational events, B) providing specialized psychological support in supervision groups and groups for practice reflection and mutual assistance, and C) holding public events and preparing materials for sharing experiences.

A total of **629 participants** from the psychological, psychosocial, and legal fields **registered to participate in the Helping Those Who Help project**. This, once again, emphasizes the need to create and conduct projects aimed at supporting professionals in helping professions.

The project team included well-known Ukrainian and foreign (US, German and Israeli) psychologists, psychotherapists, supervisors, psychiatrists, and lawyers who developed a training program that included both theoretical and practical parts.

A total of 8 two-day online and offline trainings were held for specialists in legal, psychological and psychosocial specialities from June to September 2023.



Funded by
the European Union



[STIYKIST'
PROGRAMME]



During the theoretical and practical part, the participants familiarized themselves with and expanded their knowledge on these topics:

- ***“What is the “norm” in extreme and rapidly changing conditions”*** During the event, participants and trainers worked on personal resources for overcoming crisis/traumatic situations, as well as on cross-sectoral interaction of specialists in psychological and psychosocial assistance. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-06-11-online-training>
- ***“PTSD and Life in Prolonged Stress”*** was an offline training where psychologists listened to lectures by trainers on helping families of military and veterans, the Safe Place technique, the PTSD treatment protocol, and differential diagnosis of stress disorders. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-07-05-ptsd-training>.
- ***“Normal life in prolonged stress”*** During the training, the trainers discussed the risks of helping professions and the additional burden of dealing with trauma. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-07-12-online-training>
- ***“Adapting to new conditions. Accelerated Recovery and Accelerated Change”***, psychologists talked about the neurobiology and treatment of trauma, and studied the See Far CBT methodology. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-08-11-online-training>
- ***“Building Dialogue with Clients”*** during the training, lawyers worked on the interviewing scheme and the PEACE model and its effective application, as well as professional risks that lawyers may be exposed to. There was a lecture on psychological states depending on the period of traumatic experience and secondary traumatization of the lawyer. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-08-08-online-training>



- ***“Victim-centered approach: psychological aspects in the work of a lawyer”*** During the training, lawyers worked on the rights and needs of victims. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-08-15-16-online-training>
- **“Resilience and Recovery. Or how to continue living with “all of this””** Participants discussed the development of mental health services in communities and created their own map of mental health in communities in Ukraine. They also worked on personal and group resources for overcoming prolonged crises and situations. Read more about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-08-12-13-online-training>
- **“Resources for coping and resilience”** During the event, lawyers talked about informed consent as an element of resilience, and participants shared their own experiences by developing a map of legal and psychological assistance in the regions of our country. More about the event: <https://hrvector.org/en/events/23-09-14-online-training>

The participants of the trainings, practitioners who provide psychological and legal aid, also had the opportunity to participate in supervision groups and groups for practice reflection and mutual assistance as part of the Helping Those Who Help project. **During November-December 2023, 4 sessions were held in each group.** The groups were open to all participants who had received training previously within the project. During the events, there was an opportunity to consider case studies and individual cases of professionals who, like others, are experiencing the events of war.

The project resulted in an increase in the number of specialists who will be able to better assist war victims in current events and in the future in peacetime from other crisis events, such as natural disasters, and to promote reconstruction/recovery both at the individual level and for families, groups, and communities. **629 people applied to participate in the Project. In total, 246 specialists from the private, public and state sectors took part in training events and groups for supervision, practice reflection and mutual assistance.**

Among the statistics, we can note that out of 246 participants, 220 were women (89%), 24 were men (10%), and 2 wished not to specify (1%). 34 people also reported whether they belonged to certain groups, including 29 participants who reported that they were IDPs, 5 - veterans and military, 7 - people with disabilities.



We thank our expert team and invite you to get to know them:



Iryna Ratzke-Rybak (Germany-Ukraine), psychoanalyst, group analysis trainer, family therapist, supervisor. Iryna is the Head of the Department of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy for Couples and Families, a supervisor and training analyst at the Association of Psychologists and Psychotherapists of Ukraine (APPU), a delegate of the European Federation of Psychoanalysts and Psychotherapists (EFPP), a full member of the Group Analytic Society International (GASI).

She has more than 20 years of experience as a therapist and training analyst in individual and group therapy. An important aspect of her work is the training of specialists and supervision of other supervisors. She has international training in trauma work (Israel).

Iryna provides group psychological and psychosocial support to women and children who are forced migrants from Ukraine in Germany at EBW (Evangelical Academy).



Natalia Pidkalyuk (Ukraine), psychiatrist, Trauma Focus trainer (Institute of Neuropsychotherapy, Austria), head of IPSI NGO.

Natalya participates in educational projects on group psychoanalysis (APPU), clinical hypnosis (APPU), reconsolidation of traumatic memories (randrproject), and crisis leadership programs (Center for Humanitarian leadership).

Natalya has 20 years of professional experience, 12 of which she worked in a psychiatric hospital in various departments (acute conditions, neuroses, gerontology, she headed the department of coercive medical measures with enhanced supervision). In 2017, a center for medical and psychological rehabilitation of stress disorders was created as part of the polyclinic together with the local authorities. Since December 2021, she has been conducting private practice and is the head of an NGO: IPSI.

Since the beginning of the full-scale war, IPSI has provided psychosocial support services to people affected by the war, with individual consultations and group classes. In total, supporting more than 10,000 people. This work is done both on the grounds of the Center and in the Khmelnytskyi region. It also conducts trainings for people in aid professions on the prevention of professional burnout, and organizes educational events for psychologists.



Ruslana Rudenko (Ukraine), psychoanalysis-oriented psychologist working with children, adolescents, adults and families. Ruslana has additional specialization in trauma work and Jungian Sand Play therapy. Supervisor, teaching analyst at Odesa Psychoanalytic Society (OPS). Teacher at the Odesa Psychoanalytic Institute of Postgraduate Education.

Ruslana holds lectures for parents and OPS students on attachment theory, child psychology, play psychotherapy and child psychoanalysis, as well as non-analytic methods of trauma therapy. She participates in the organization of seminars and conferences of the OPS.

Social activities: organization of social projects for overcoming trauma and preventing psychological burnout for volunteers, servicemen, IDPs and social workers; psychological support for military personnel and their family members.



Lilia Oliynyk (Ukraine), lawyer, mediator, lawyer at the hotline for psychological and legal assistance by Human Rights Vector NGO.

Lilia is a participant in JurFem's support initiatives to help victims of sexual violence and all types of gender discrimination.

She has experience in dealing with conflicts in places of assistance to internally displaced persons. She is the author of several scientific publications and manuals on the observance of children's rights and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights.



Mark Sherman (Israel), head of the department of medical psychology of the northern district, Israel.

See Far CBT trauma and crisis expert. Supervisor. Teacher at Jaffa Academic College in Tel Aviv. Works with civilians, military and police in an integrated approach. Work and supervision in Ukraine from 2011 to the present.



Dr. Joshua Kreimeyer (USA), Ph.D., Certified Professional Counselor (LPC).

Joshua is a Board Certified Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), and a Supervisor approved by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

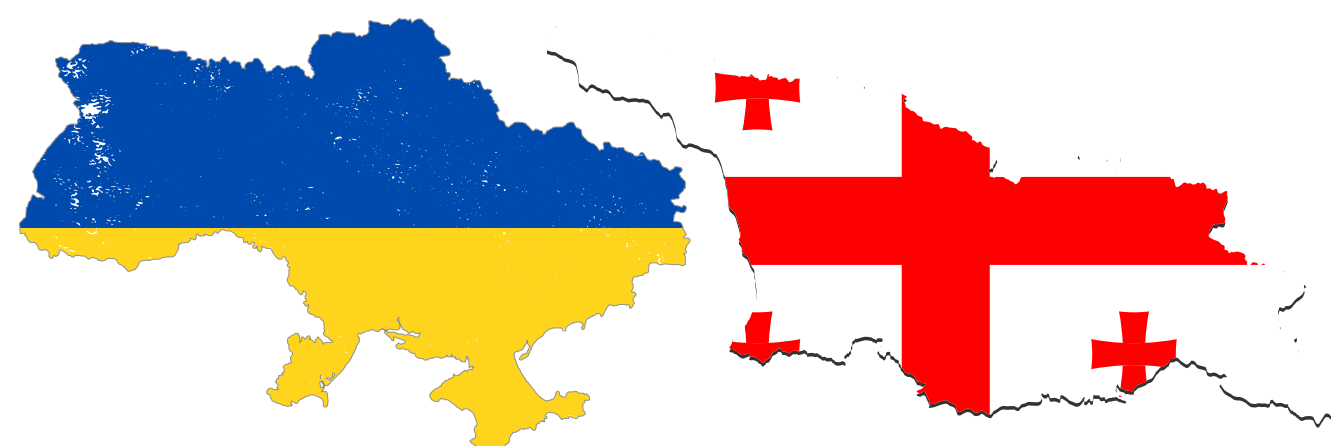
Dr. Kreimeyer graduated from Minnesota State University with a bachelor's degree in recreation. From there he joined the US Army as a linguist-cryptologist. He and his family served in California, Texas and Germany. He took part in combat operations in Kosovo (1999) and Iraq (2003). After an injury that made reenlistment impossible, he transitioned to civilian life and took advantage of a vocational rehabilitation program to retrain as a clinical mental health counselor. He also received a Post Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy and now practices in the US as a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Supervisor. He has worked in community outpatient clinics, private practice, the drug and alcohol hospital program of the US Bureau of Prisons, and for several years as an adjustment counselor and family therapist for the US Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Kreimeyer has taught family therapy since 2016, first as a faculty member at Regis University as coordinator of their Military Family Counseling Graduate Certificate Program, and most recently (January 2023) as an Associate Professor of Clinical mental health counseling at Colorado Christian University. Dr. Kreimeyer received his PhD in Counselor Training and Supervision from Regent University.

Dr. Kreimeier is committed to helping service members and their families navigate the transition from war and military to civilian life, as well as to mitigate the effects of trauma. While studying at Regent University, Dr. Kreimeyer participated in pioneering approaches to provide trauma-informed psychological counseling in Ukraine. He was part of the team that helped establish the International Institute of Postgraduate Education in Kyiv, Ukraine (americanprogram.net/) and its associated community service clinic (odukraine.com/). Since 2019, Dr. Kreimeyer has also conducted numerous trainings for Ukrainian psychologists, as well as facilitated retreats for Ukrainian military families through the International Office of the International Organization for Migration.

Promoting international solidarity

The project «The Role of Human Rights Defenders in Euro-Integration Processes»

Project purpose is to combat anti-human rights narratives in Ukrainian and Kartvelian societies by creating a network of human rights advocacy educators.



The goal of the project is to raise the level of trust towards human rights defenders and NGOs, and to show their importance for 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 the project team shared theoretical knowledge about the work of human rights defenders and their contribution to European integration, as well as practical skills for advocacy and campaigning 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 the school's mentors. In Sakartvelo, the project team also paid 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.

In total, **6 trainings** were conducted within the school.

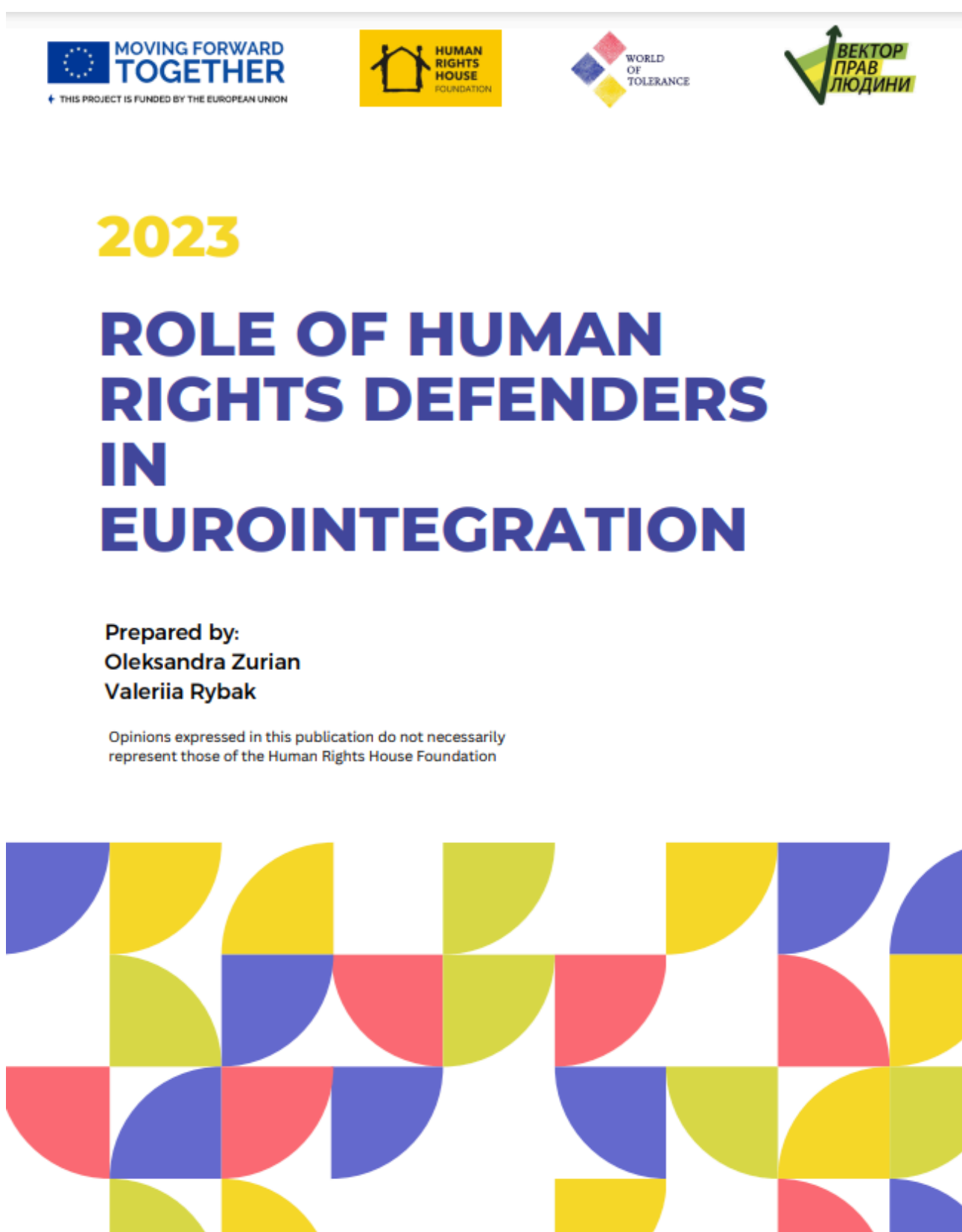
Topics:

- 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.

We invite you to watch the video on the YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@hrvector/videos>

The Advocacy School attracted 268 participants from Ukraine and Sakartvelo, including opinion leaders from universities, schools, religious and ethnic communities, influencers, civil society representatives, and public speakers. The number of places for participation in the School was limited, and there were so many applicants that it was decided to add activities for all registered participants so that as many people as possible could participate. Therefore, a total of 6 trainings were held and an additional webinar and meetings with participants were held.



The project resulted in the publication **«The role of human rights defenders in Eurointegration»**, which is available on our website here:

<https://hrvector.org/en/publications/24-02-12-30.01.24>

The publication contains information about the project "The role of human rights defenders in the European integration of Ukraine and Sakartvelo", introductory words of trainers and experts of the project, and a description of the activities that the participants from Ukraine and Sakartvelo implemented in their communities according to its results. We would be happy to use it to organize your events and would be grateful for sharing it with your target audience and partners.

Our team of experts:



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

Maryna's clients include international and governmental organizations, business representatives, and NGOs, including SKL International, Agency for Legislative Initiatives, LCF Law Firm, and Juscutum Law Firm, Ukrainian Academy of Leadership.

She has helped more than 50 NGOs, business representatives and international organizations develop their communication strategies.



Oleksandra Romantsova has been working at the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) since May 2014.

Her first project included monitoring and documenting human rights violations and political persecution in the occupied Crimea. From May 2014 until the end of 2016, Oleksandra coordinated a program to monitor human rights violations and war crimes in eastern Ukraine, and continues to monitor political persecution in the occupied Crimea.

Since September 2017, Oleksandra Romantsova has been the Executive Director of the Center for Civil Liberties and since February 24, 2022, she has also been working on coordinating the documentation of war crimes and advocacy within the global initiative “Tribunal for Putin”. Ms. Oleksandra also participates in field missions in the Kyiv region.



Salome Mezurnishvili, the founder and head of the Human Rights Development Fund, a member of the Committee on Human Rights and International Law of the Sakartvelo Bar Association, as well as an experienced and dedicated non-governmental sector specialist. Salome shared the experience of non-governmental organizations in Sakartvelian society, and also talked about the norms of international documents and their application in the implementation of human rights activities.



Keti Bakhtadze, an experienced lawyer, defender of women's rights with extensive experience in the field of non-governmental organisations.

Specialist in the field of civil law, legislation on civil rights, international law, policy analysis, issues of rights of people with disabilities, gender equality. Lawyer at “Tanadgoma” and Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG).



Tornike Mandaria has been working as a multimedia journalist for the Kartvelian Service of Radio Liberty since 2019. He mainly covers human rights, media, environment, and politics in Sakartvelo and the South Caucasus. He specializes in news reporting, writing articles, and producing feature and documentary videos.

Presentation of the situation in Ukraine at international events

The OSCE Annual Trial Monitoring Meeting. The event took place on November 22-23, 2023, in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia.



During the event, Ukrainian experts presented their achievements in monitoring trials that take place every day throughout Ukraine, often through hearings in absentia. Valeriia Rybak, Director of the Human Rights Vector NGO, presented the situation around the right to a fair trial through the prism of judicial communications, as well as the organization's achievements in the development and support of this right in war crimes cases.

"Today, there is a different practice of covering information about war crimes trials by the courts. We, as an organization that has been working for many years to establish a dialogue between the court and the community, help develop positive practices. We conduct research, develop documents together with the judiciary, and organize trainings and events to share experiences."

A positive example of the judiciary's understanding of the importance of working on this is the approval by the Council of Judges of Ukraine, according to decision No. 47 of November 2, 2023, of the document "Guidelines for Communication of Trials and Decisions on War Crimes. For Courts of First Instance and Appeal", prepared by the Human Rights Vector NGO in cooperation with the judiciary and with the support of the American people provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Justice for All Program.

At the same time, Ukraine needs constant support in the difficult conditions of war, which affect the courts as well as the entire Ukrainian society. It is important to remember that, today, the courts of Ukraine are fulfilling an important mission in ensuring justice and establishing the truth in this terrible war for both Ukraine and the whole world, for current and many future generations," said Valeriia Rybak, Director of the Human Rights Vector NGO, in her speech.



International training course GSC-54 for human rights defenders "Course on the UN Human Rights Council, International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law, International Procedures and Diplomacy", Geneva, Switzerland. The course lasted from September 18 to October 4, 2023.



The course consisted of a training component as well as a number of events, in particular during the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which was dedicated to highlighting human rights violations in the countries of the participants. **Valeriia Rybak, director of the Human Rights Vector NGO, addressed the session and presented Russia's violations against Ukraine since 2014 as part of Russia's war against Ukraine.**

The course also presented the actions of the human rights community protecting human rights during the war with the example of the Human Rights Vector NGO and various other Ukrainian NGOs.



"The violations that Russia has been committing every day in Ukraine for almost 10 years, since it started its war against our country, must be punished. International civil society, the legal community, and international organizations must be ready to take all appropriate actions to defend justice and fully understand what is happening in Ukraine."

The farther away from the immediate events of the war, the harder it is to imagine what is happening in Ukraine, and what the Ukrainian people are going through, so it is necessary to combine quantitative indicators, legal facts, with real stories, personal examples: how the windows in the apartment shake during the regular shelling of Kyiv, how a family was forced to leave their home in Kherson, how friends and relatives are fighting at the front."

Europeans must clearly realize that Ukrainians are defending their land and Europe from enslavement, that we are paying for their peace with our lives, among other things." - shared Valeriia Rybak, director of the Human Rights Vector NGO.

OUR SUPPORTERS

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS!

Grant projects

Project "Court Communications of War Crimes Cases".

10 March 2023 - 24 February 2024

1 460 483 UAH.

The project was implemented by the NGO "Human Rights Vector" with the support of the American people, provided through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the "Justice for All" Program.

The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of courts for communications activities regarding war crimes cases.



Project "Helping Those Who Help"

17 April 2023 - 16 April 2024

24 992 EUR

The project was implemented by the NGO "Human Rights Vector" with the financial assistance of the European Union within the framework of the "Stiykist" Program. The Stiykist' Program is a 30-month project funded by the European Union and implemented by ERIM (Equal Rights & Independent Media) in partnership with Black Sea Trust, Eastern Europe Foundation, Human Rights Houses Foundation and Human Rights House in Tbilisi. The project is aimed at strengthening the resilience and effectiveness of war-affected CSOs and civil society participants affected by the war in Ukraine, including independent media and human rights defenders.

The goals of the project are to increase the resilience and capacity of representatives of the helping professions by A) developing and conducting educational events, B) providing specialized psychological support in supervision groups and practice reflection and mutual aid groups, C) holding public events and preparing materials for the exchange of experience.



Funded by
the European Union



Project “Psychological and legal assistance to respond to and mitigate the consequences of the war in Ukraine”

19 October 2022 - 28 February 2023

17 100 EUR

The project was implemented by the NGO "Human Rights Vector" with the support of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership and is financed by the European Union as part of the support of civil society in the region. As part of its regrant scheme, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP Civil Society Forum) supports projects of its members that contribute to the achievement of the Forum's mission and goals. Grants are available to CSOs from Eastern Partnership countries and the EU. Key areas of support are democracy and human rights, economic integration, environment and energy, people-to-people contact, social and labor policy.

The goals of the project are to provide online psychological and legal assistance to people affected by the war, in the form of individual and group consultations, holding information and educational events (webinars, articles, infographics), as well as to increase the capacity and cohesion of psychologists and lawyers who provide assistance to people affected by the war by conducting online educational webinars and supervision groups, creating platforms for sharing experiences (conferences, descriptive materials).



Funded by
the European Union



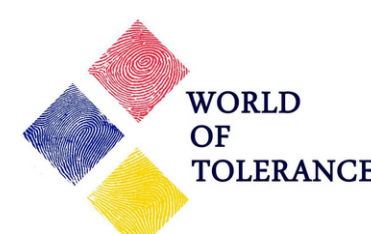
"The role of human rights defenders in the European integration of Ukraine and Sakartvelo"

15 July 2023 - 15 December 2024

17 642 EUR

The project was implemented by the NGO "Human Rights Vector", in partnership with the NGO "World of Tolerance" (Sakartvelo), within the framework of the project "The role of human rights defenders in the European integration of Ukraine and Sakartvelo", with the support of the Human Rights House Foundation and financed by the European Union.

The goal of the project is to increase the level of trust in human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations in Sakartvelo and Ukraine, as well as to show their importance in European integration processes by training community leaders and activists in advocacy and campaigning methods.



“BEHIND THE SCENES”

To make all these important activities happen, it took a lot of effort and inspiration from wonderful people: the expert team you met on the previous pages of our report, as well as professionals in the fields of management, accounting, design, linguistics, IT, and literature. Our deepest gratitude and love to all the co-creators of the Human Rights Vector NGO! 🥰

Galyna Osinska

Benjamin Murdoch

*Valentyn
Bobruiko*

*Oleksandra
Zurian*

Maryna Krutko

Iuliia Manukian

*Teona
Kohiani*

*Dinara
Kasymbekova*

*Oksana
Ati*

Svitlana Romanuk

Viktor Palnuk

*Borys
Zolotchenko*

*Natalia
Mishuk*

Olena Bondarenko

*Oles
Valeriia Rybak Kurivchak*

Myroslava Kosar



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