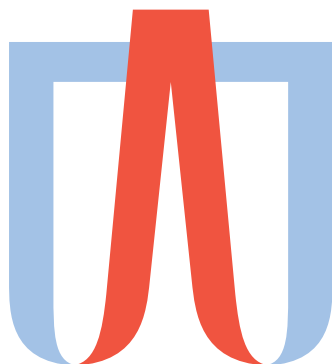


Annual report 2015

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights





**UKRAINIAN HELSINKI
HUMAN RIGHTS UNION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

«Pacta Sunt Servanda»



Arkadiy Buschenko,

*Ukrainian Helsinki
Human Rights Union
(UHHRU) Executive
Director*

LAST YEAR was a challenge for the Union. The country is at war; a part of its territory is occupied; the rhetoric of hatred becomes widespread; the request for rapid changes and simple solutions feeds populism. Under these circumstances, we still kept promoting never popular ideas within the concept of the rule of law. Of course, the modern challenges changed the content of our activity. We paid much attention to the problems of conflict at East and Crimea. However, we did not leave unattended our traditional areas.

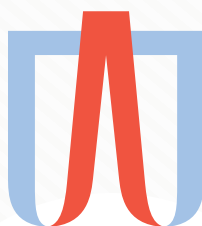
UHHRU continued to work based on the understanding that only comprehensive and concerted activities – analysis of the situation, legal processes, education, advocacy at both national and international levels – could preserve a thin layer of human rights respect culture or at least to decelerate its destruction. It, in fact, provides the content to the Ukraine's struggle in many directions.

In order to be able to work with the new challenges and to maintain our traditional areas of work, we had to organize the Union more efficiently, and to make its results more noticeable. These required significant internal restructuring of work methods, shifting of the work paradigm, and devoting a great deal of effort from the organization's employees.

We thank our partners – non-governmental organizations, Ombudsman office, authorities, experts, lawyers and public figures – for cooperation and assistance in the implementation of numerous projects and ideas.

FOCAL POINTS

- #Alarming trends in the legal profession
- #National Strategy on Human Rights #International Humanitarian Law
- #Protecting victims from Crimean occupation policy
- #Property rights in ATO zone #War and human rights
- #Investigation into Euromaidan events
- #Slave labor in penitentiary colonies
- #Soldiers' and military reservists' rights #Independent and fair trial
- #Human rights certification of areas
- #Rome Statute #Rights of persons with mental disabilities
- #Implementation of international judgments
- #Law and Ecology #Transitional justice and reconciliation
- #Documenting human rights violations
- #The right to know own rights
- #Promoting public activity
- #«Kremlin Prisoners» #Life imprisonment
- #Prisoners of war #Legal empowerment
- #Right to liberty # Personnel development
- #Migration Legislation #Hate crimes
- #Historical memory
- #Decommunisation
- #Hate speech
- #Minority rights
- #Children and War
- #Discrimination
- #Free legal aid
- #Lustration law
- #Roma rights
- #LGBT Rights
- # Fight against
- #Penitentiary system
- #Right's of internally displaced persons
- #Responsibility for war crimes #Domestic and gender-based violence
- #Human rights in formal education #Volunteers' rights
- #Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- #Protecting victims from anti-terrorist operation #Children's Rights
- #Development of educational technologies
- #Education for settlers in the occupied territories



UKRAINIAN HELSINKI
HUMAN RIGHTS UNION





STRATEGIC LITIGATION

This year the Union provided legal assistance in more than 140 strategic cases. **Lawyers of the Union won 11 cases in the European Court.**

The Strategic Litigation Center was implementing several programmes related to legal aid to victims of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine:

- ▶ Assistance to persons who were captured in eastern Ukraine. 98 applications were submitted to the European Court complaining about torture, arbitrary detention, and the lack of effective legal protection. New materials were added to 44 previously submitted applications (project "Prisoners of War UA").
- ▶ Assistance to those who were injured in a result of fighting in eastern Ukraine, and to relatives of victims. There were 72 complaints filed in the European Court; another 7 cases are being considered at the national level. In general, 113 people have received legal aid.
- ▶ Property interests protection of those affected by the fighting. 63 people received legal assistance. 28 complaints (some of them - collective) were sent to the European Court. Lawyers and experts of the Center have prepared an instruction of individual property rights protection for those affected by the fighting in eastern Ukraine. It contains a detailed algorithm and model documents.

UHHRU also provides legal assistance in the case of death of 49 soldiers after the transport aircraft IL-76 was shot down by so-called Luhansk People's Republic paramilitary forces. Meetings and press conferences were held when working on these cases. An application to the European Court was submitted.

The Union continued to protect the rights of persons who reside in the occupied territory of Crimea. Ten complaints relating to violations of the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of speech,

and persecution for pro-Ukrainian views, etc. were filed in the European Court. In particular, in the case when Russia banned entry to Crimea to Ismet Yuksel, a representative of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, the lawyers challenged the ban in court. Now the lawyers of the Centre are preparing the submission of a complaint to the European Court. The submission raises the question of actual deportation of the applicant, his property rights violations, intrusion into the personal life of another, and freedom of movement.

Two “Crimean” cases due to the joint efforts of lawyers have achieved a positive result in the occupation courts on the stage of exhaustion of means of legal defense: two persons were acquitted by the courts of appeal. The fines assigned to them by the courts of first instance were canceled.

OUR LAWYERS HAVE WON **11 CASES** IN THE EUROPEAN COURT

-  CASE of **KOTIY v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **KULYK v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **KUSHCH v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **KIRPICHENKO v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **YAREMENKO v. UKRAINE** (№2)
-  CASE of **LUTSENKO v. UKRAINE** (№2)
-  CASE of **TEMCHENKO v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **BARYSHEVSKYY v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **SAVINOV v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **OGORODNIK v. UKRAINE**
-  CASE of **YAKOVENKO v. UKRAINE**



The Union also provides legal assistance in «The case of February 26», wherein the Russian authorities criminally prosecuted Akhtem Chyyhoz and other participants of a peaceful protest for supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The protest took place in front of the Verkhovna Rada of the ARC on February 26, 2014. Akhtem Chyyhoz was unlawfully arrested for his political activities and public position on the integrity of Ukraine. The complaint is being prepared of violation of Articles 5, 11 and 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Center of the Union also provided assistance in some cases of “Kremlin prisoners”, including the so-called «Chechen case» of the Ukrainians Klyh and Karpiuk, in particular, violation of their right to an attorney, failure to provide medical assistance and unlawful imprisonment.

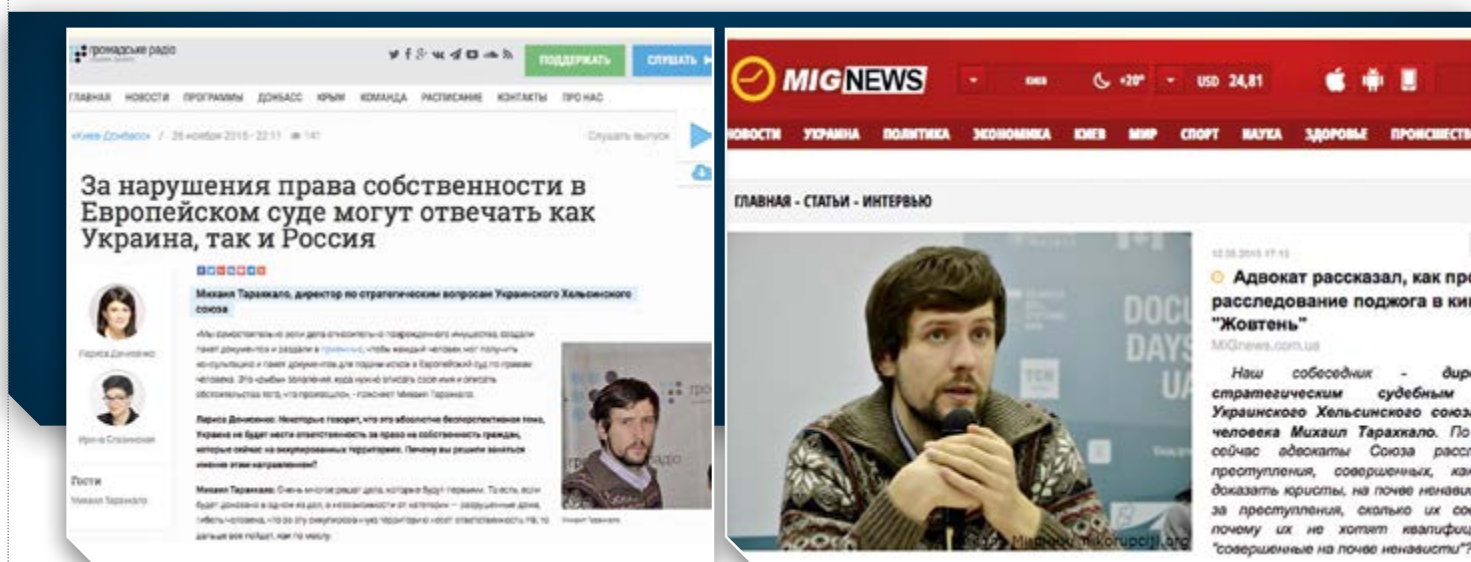
The Union assisted in 6 cases to protect the rights of internally displaced persons. Two cases have resulted positively at the national level and achieved the change of law enforcement about registration and payment of childcare benefits if there is no possibility to get original documents from the uncontrolled area. In two other cases, complaints were sent to the European Court of Human Rights against Ukraine with the justification of violation of the right to trial as the courts refused to hear cases because materials were left on the uncontrolled territories.

The Union also continued to work on the case of invalidation of the resolution № 99 of the National Bank of Ukraine, which equates Crimean residents to non-residents.

The Strategic Litigation Center of the Union paid attention on the wave of deaths on the territory of military units if police refused to conduct a proper investigation.

The Center prepared a complaint to the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and materials for application to the European Court. One of the main causes of the problem - a lack of an authorized body to investigate such crimes – was revealed. The finding was mentioned in the report “Human rights in Ukraine - 2015.”

The Center supported a number of cases related to the protection of rights of children, of older persons and other vulnerable people: protection of retirees from arbitrary behavior of banks, protection of the right of children and their parents to live together as a family, protection of rights of prisoners and population protection from arbitrary construction.



In the majority of cases, significant progress at the national level was achieved. With our support, we managed to prevent resettlement of children of a citizen of Ukraine to an orphanage in Poland. It was possible to break the negative practice of violation of the right of widows of Chornobyl veterans to get pension. The courts of first instance delivered the positive judgment in the case of “Oshchadbank” (Savings Bank), whose employees robbed customers.

The Center also started to fight against slave labor in penitentiary colonies. The significant analytical and legal work was done. It resulted in the preparation of complaints to the European Court. Lawyers of the Center also filed a complaint with the Prosecutor General’s Office, demanding investigation of the use of slave labor in Bila Tserkva Penitentiary.

The Center continues to work on the cases sent to the European Court. Overall, in 2015 seven responses were prepared and submitted to communicate the cases with the Government concerned.

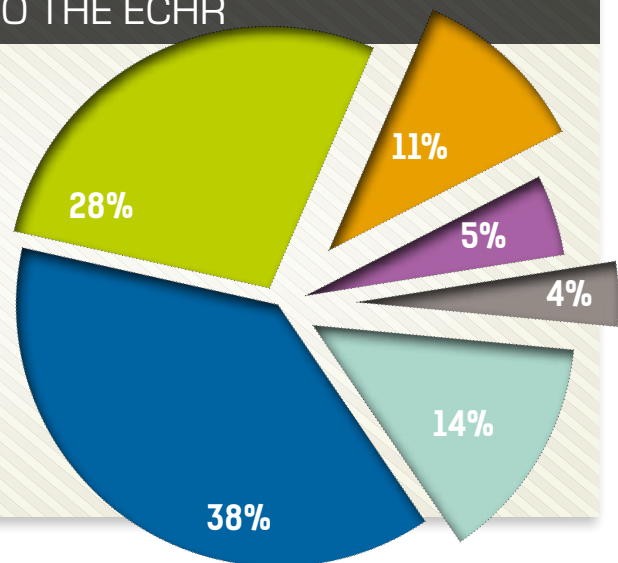
This year the European Court sent the combined case against abductions, torture, and killings of people in Donbas to be communicated with the Governments of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. It first raised the question of responsibility for the actions of paramilitaries so-called LPR/DPR within the ATO zone. The lawyers of the Center represent three applicants in the Court.

Also, the Court sent the case regarding the events on Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) in Kiev in 2013-2014 to be communicated. It was initiated by the applications of 33 citizens of Ukraine for beating and illegal detention of protesters. Later UHHRU supported 21 cases at the national level and filed eight complaints with the European Court. The Center contacts with lawyers and organizations involved in these cases in order to come up with a common legal position on this issue.

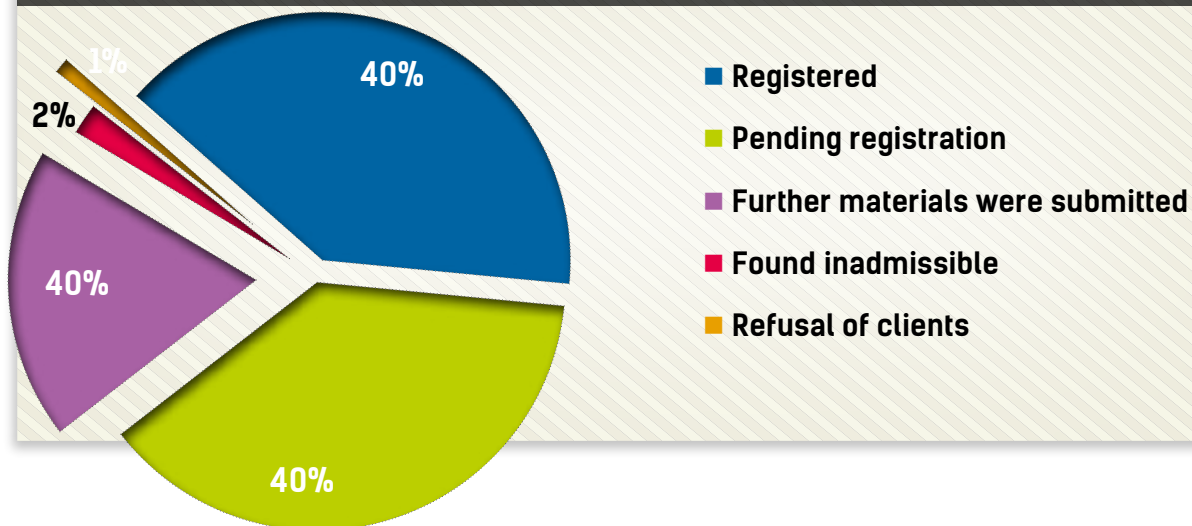
In June 2015 the European Court delivered a judgment in the case of Ruslan Yakovenko v. Ukraine, which is an important precedent for the judicial system of Ukraine: for the first time the European Court of Human Rights found the violation of the right of appeal for a decision in a criminal case. The European Court drew attention to the existing problem of acute deprivation of

CATEGORIES OF APPLICATIONS TO THE ECHR

- Prisoners of war
- Violations of civilians' rights
- Property damage caused by military operations
- Use of slave labor
- Human rights abuse in Crimea
- Other



255 APPLICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE ECHR



the right of convicted persons to appeal the verdict in the criminal cases in a result of manipulations of national courts.

A significant achievement is a success in the dramatic stories in the case of Yaremenko, which lasted from 2001. Only in a result of the second judgment of the European Court in his case (Yaremenko v. Ukraine (№2)), the Supreme Court reversed the verdict, which was based on illegally obtained evidence. The Court sent the case back for a new trial to a court of first instance.

The lawyers of the Center sent 13 submissions to Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Ukraine's implementation of the European Court's judgments. They highlighted the real state of implementation and provided his vision of the necessary measures. The Government of Ukraine replied for the submissions and in several cases prepared the Action Plan.

With the participation of NGOs and government agencies, a roundtable on the implementation of decisions of the Court was held. It covered a wide range of problems in this area and proposed solutions. Based on the presentation of the case of Chanyev v. Ukraine, a bill on improving legislation on detention was developed.

By request of the Constitutional Court, the Lawyers of the Center prepared expert opinions concerning compliance with certain provisions of the Law «On Cleaning Power» and Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine «On Psychiatric Care» with the Constitution and international law.

COOPERATION WITH THE SYSTEM OF FREE LEGAL AID IN UKRAINE

UHHRU continued fruitful cooperation with the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision. Specifically, the lawyers of the Strategic Litigation Center of UHHRU monthly jointly prepare articles and notes to the Information Digest of free legal aid system in Ukraine entitled “European Practice of Legal Protection.” All these articles are being published on the websites: legalaids.gov.ua and precedent.in.ua.

Європейська практика правового захисту*

***Розділ підготовлено у співпраці із Українською Гельсінською спілкою з прав людини**

Олена Соложнікова, адвокат, юрист Фонду стратегічних справ Української Гельсінської спілки з прав людини, редактор та аналітик сайту precedent.in.ua


Чи є перемогою в справі рішення Європейського суду з прав людини?

Так, що ж робити після отримання рішення Європейського суду з прав людини (далі – Європейського суду)? Продовжувати відстоювання своїх прав за національною процедурою, чи зупинитися після отримання від держави справедливої фінансової сатисфакції в очікуванні, що вона самостійно якось змінить законодавство, поліпшить систему в цілому, а потім покращення прийде і у конкретну справу? У ході роздумів над цими питаннями заявник або адвокат, чи представник в його інтересах, можуть зіткнутися з дилемою, яку можна ніколи і не розв’язати. Або заплутатися у суперечливих положеннях чинного законодавства, «махнувши рукою» та очікувати коли запанує нарешті порядок в державі, зокрема, запрацює належним чином виконавче провадження. Як варіант, можна спробувати відштовхуватися від судової практики Європейського суду та національних судів, створюючи нові українські прецеденти та змінювати країну за країною таким чином правову систему із середини адвокатськими руками задля недопущення ламання усього грубими руками революційних ідей одного дня.



Адвокат Олена Соложнікова

**БЕЗОПЛАТНА
ПРАВОВА
ДОПОМОГА**



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

FIFTH SECTION

CASE OF SAVINOV v. UKRAINE

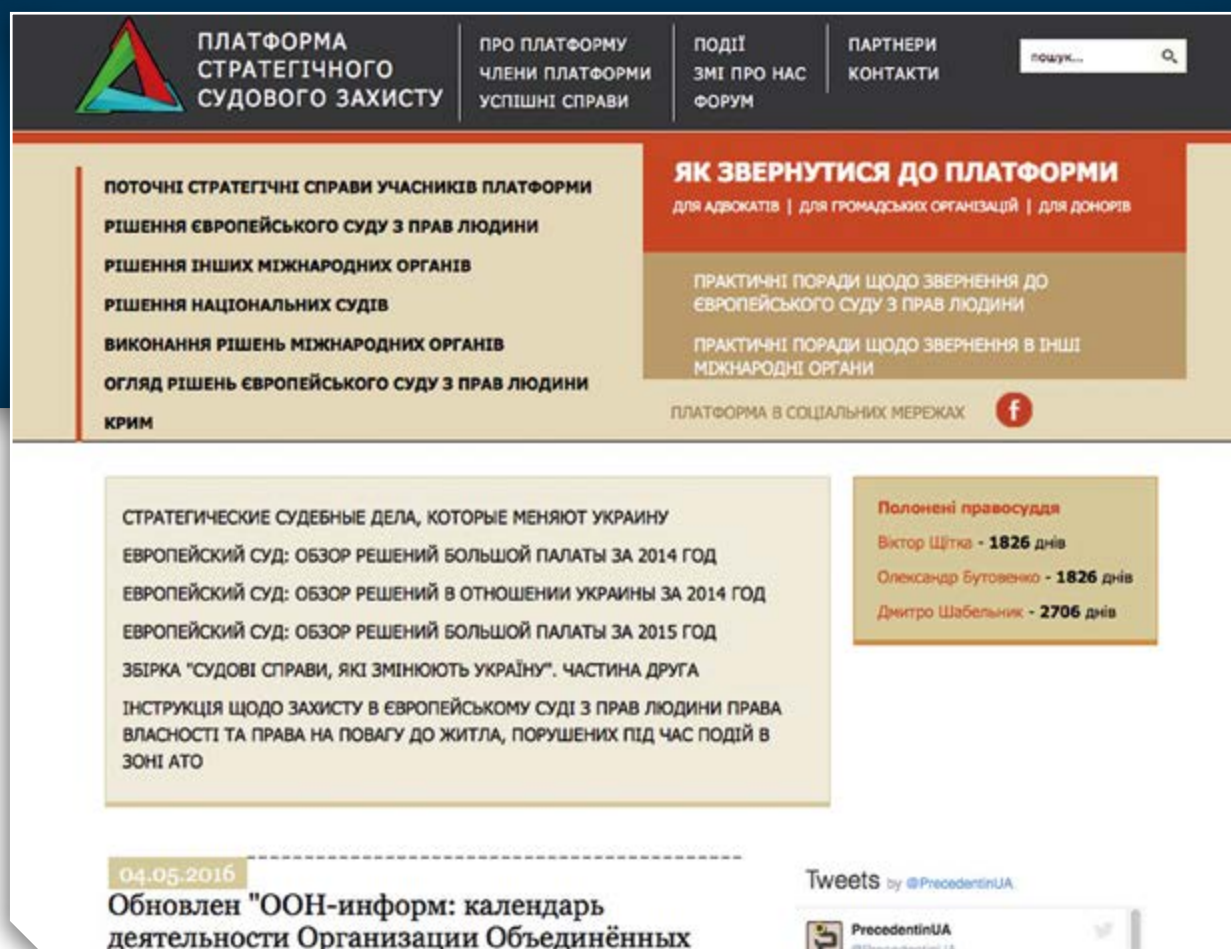
(Application no. 5212/13)

PRECEDENT UA WEBSITE

The website is a convenient tool for attorneys, judges, other lawyers, teachers, and students (precedent.in.ua). It is permanently updated and contains reviews of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and other international agencies, full-text translations of selected judgments, analytics, information about cases that are conducted by the Strategic Litigation Center of UHHRU and our partners.

This year the Union improved the website:

- ▶ Site navigation and separate pages navigation became more convenient.
- ▶ Short annotations to all translations of ECHR judgments together with translation were added.
- ▶ Reviews of all ECHR judgments against Poland and Russia in 2014 were published. In particular, review of decisions against Russia was presented at a press conference in December 2015.
- ▶ Reviews of decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee against Ukraine were published for the first time.
- ▶ The section “UN-inform: Calendar of the United Nations’ Activity in the Field of Human Rights” was added.
- ▶ Short notes on all current decisions of the ECHR started to be posted;
- ▶ A series of success stories of international graduates of distance learning courses Human Rights Education for Attorneys (held in cooperation with the Network of Human Rights Houses) (13 stories were published);
- ▶ Twitter profile was created, and Twitter broadcasting of current events in strategic cases was organized;
- ▶ A series of court reports on strategic litigations of the Union that got published in other media was added.



Cooperation with the web portal of European Court of Human Rights was renewed. Overall, 17 translations of the Union were posted on the ECHR portal hudoc.echr.coe.int. The portal forwards to the PRECEDENT UA website as a source of information about of Court's work in Ukrainian and Russian.

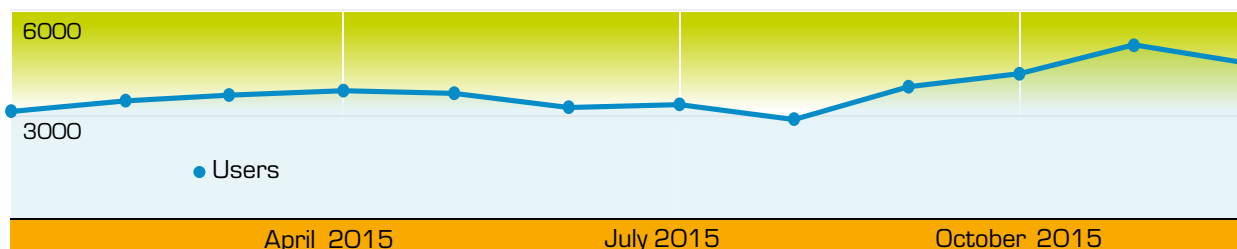
The work on the website was integrated and synchronized with the Facebook-page of the Strategic Litigation Center.

Last year precedent.in.ua published:

- ▶ 32 analytical articles on various topics: on protection of IDPs, prisoners and persons held in psychiatric institutions, on the implementation of judgments of the European Court, etc.;
- ▶ 67 full-text translations of judgments of international bodies in an easy to navigate format;
- ▶ Notes on approximately 400 judgments of the European Court;
- ▶ About 200 reviews of judgments of the European Court.

The site became more graphically filled. A new structure and design of the site were developed. The start of a new version of the site is planned in 2016.

The number of visitors increased to 40 000 due to the Union's teamwork in 2015.





THE NETWORK OF PUBLIC ADVICE CENTERS

The Network of Public Advice Centers brings together resources of many organizations - members of UHHRU. It aims to help people in defending their rights and achieving positive changes in the field of human rights in Ukraine. Special attention is drawn to cases related to violation of human rights by governmental bodies: from the Pension Fund or Social Security authorities to the Government. In these cases, people often encounter numerous obstacles to defend their rights and remain alone with the problem.

Today the Network plays a key role in providing free legal aid to the population of Ukraine. Often the Center provides the only professional legal assistance for a person (regardless of their status or profession).

This year the Network's capacity has increased to a historic high 26 Centers in Ukraine. They did everything possible to ensure access to free legal aid. During the year, the Network has provided such assistance to more than 30 thousand people. Among the cities, where the Network provided aid, are Kherson, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kirovohrad, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Severodonetsk (Lugansk Oblast), Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Konotop (Sumy Oblast), Zhytomyr, Dnipropetrovsk, Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk Oblast), Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne, Zaporizhia, Irpin (Kiev Oblast), Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, Krasnoarmiisk, Mariupol, Artemivsk (Donetsk Oblast), Odessa and Kyiv.

A huge number of people with an incredible range of legal issues arising from the armed conflict in the East became a challenge for the Network. Therefore, this year one of the priorities was legal and information assistance to settlers, soldiers, and victims of human rights violations in the East.

The majority of the Centers appointed some lawyers to provide help to IDPs both in the Centers and during weekly visits to places of compact residence of IDPs.

Information materials to bring important legal information to a wider audience were prepared.

The Centers employed military lawyers to support soldiers effectively. Also, the Network began to cooperate actively with “Yurydychna sotnya” (“The Legal Hundred”). They specialize in legal assistance and operate the “hotline” on these issues. Moreover, this year the lawyers of the Center became key partners of “The Legal Hundred” in most regions of Ukraine.

The Network also contributed to the establishment of an effective state system of free legal aid, cooperating with the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and local centers. Due to this collaboration, the Centers helped those people, who were unable to obtain such aid in the state’s centers. On the other hand, some cases were sent to these state’s centers, when the Public Advice Centers were unable to represent people in court.

Громадські приймальні

Українська Гельсінська спілка з прав людини надає безоплатну правову допомогу через мережу громадських приймалень. На даний момент в Україні працює 29 приймалень у 24-ох областях. Їх робота здійснюється за фінансової підтримки Уряду Швеції, через Шведське агентство міжнародного розвитку (SIDA), Уряду Канади через Міністерство міжнародних справ Канади (Global Affairs Canada) в рамках програми «Права людини понад усе» (Human Rights First) та Агентства США з міжнародного розвитку (USAID) в рамках програми «Права людини в дії» (Human Rights in Action).

ПРАВОВА ДОПОМОГА

35

юридичних приймалень
УГСПЛ діє в Україні

ЗНАЙТИ НАЙБЛИЖЧУ

Завдяки подрузі судді куп'янський мажор уникнув покарання за смертельне ДТП
Пройшло 14 років з дня трагедії, проте винного у загибелі людей все ще не покарано....
03 Серпня 2015

Варітна жінка відстояла своє право на працю
Роботодавець, дізнавшись, що співробітниця на третьому місяці вагітності, відмовляв їй у офіційному працевлаштуванні. Жінка не...
30 Лютого 2015

Питання юристу онлайн

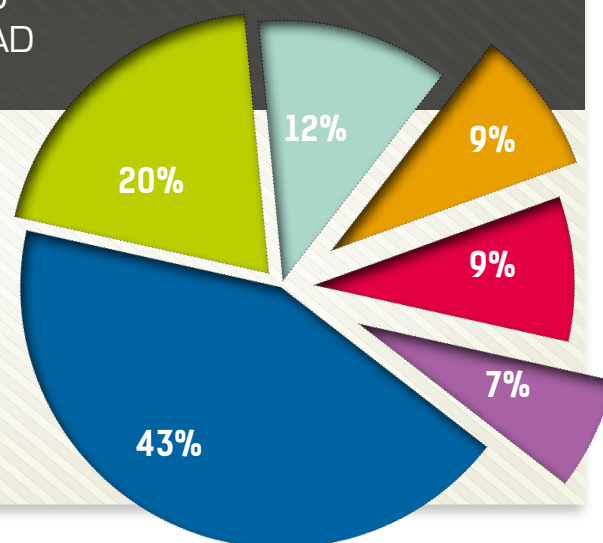
Корисні поради
Переселенцям та криміналам
АТО

The Public Advice Centers became local supporting points for the Center for Documentation. The documentation of human rights violations allows putting together a picture of gross violations. The information collected by the Public Advice Centers provides an evidential basis to prove military and other crimes, as well as the foreign military intervention in Ukraine.

Moreover, the Public Advice Centers of UHHRU often became centers of human rights in their regions and played an important role in the local community. They organized regular informational and educational events. For example, in 2015 more than 200 events devoted to human rights were organized. This made it possible to convey information about human rights to a large number of people in Ukraine. More information about the Network of Public Advice Centers and its regional coverage is available via link helsinki.org.ua/advice-Centers.

GROUPS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE NETWORK OF UHHRU PUBLIC AD VICE CENTERS (2015)

- Civil Law (inheritance, land, property issues, etc.)
- Social Service
- Housing Legislation
- Labor Law
- Criminal Law
- Other



SUCCESSFUL STORIES OF THE PUBLIC ADVICE CENTERS

Soldiers of ATO terminated contracts concluded with significant violations with a military unit.

The Rivne military commissariat concluded the contracts with soldiers for a one-month military service. However, the soldiers spent a year and a half in the ATO zone because the military unit's authorities refused to demobilize them.

With the help of the Rivne Public Advice Center, one of the soldiers filed an administrative application with a court. The court ordered the military unit to terminate the contract because it was signed for one month and the legislative procedure for a contract extension was violated. Any change must be done with the mutual written consent of the parties and the relevant written orders of the commander of the military unit. The procedure was not followed.

A woman who gave birth to a child in Crimea was able to register the child in Ukraine

A resident of Gorlivka gave birth to the child in Crimea when the peninsula was already occupied. She had a child's birth certificate issued by the Crimea occupation authorities. After giving birth to the child, she moved to Lviv and applied for a birth certificate issued by the Ukrainian authorities.

With the assistance of the Lviv Public Advice Center, the appeal was filed. It referred to the violation of the right to respect for private and family life, the right to a name and social security, and guarantees of the rights of internally displaced persons. The arguments were convincing, and the Court of Appeal of Lviv Oblast ordered the relevant authorities to register a child born in occupied Crimea and issued a child's birth certificate by Ukrainian sample.

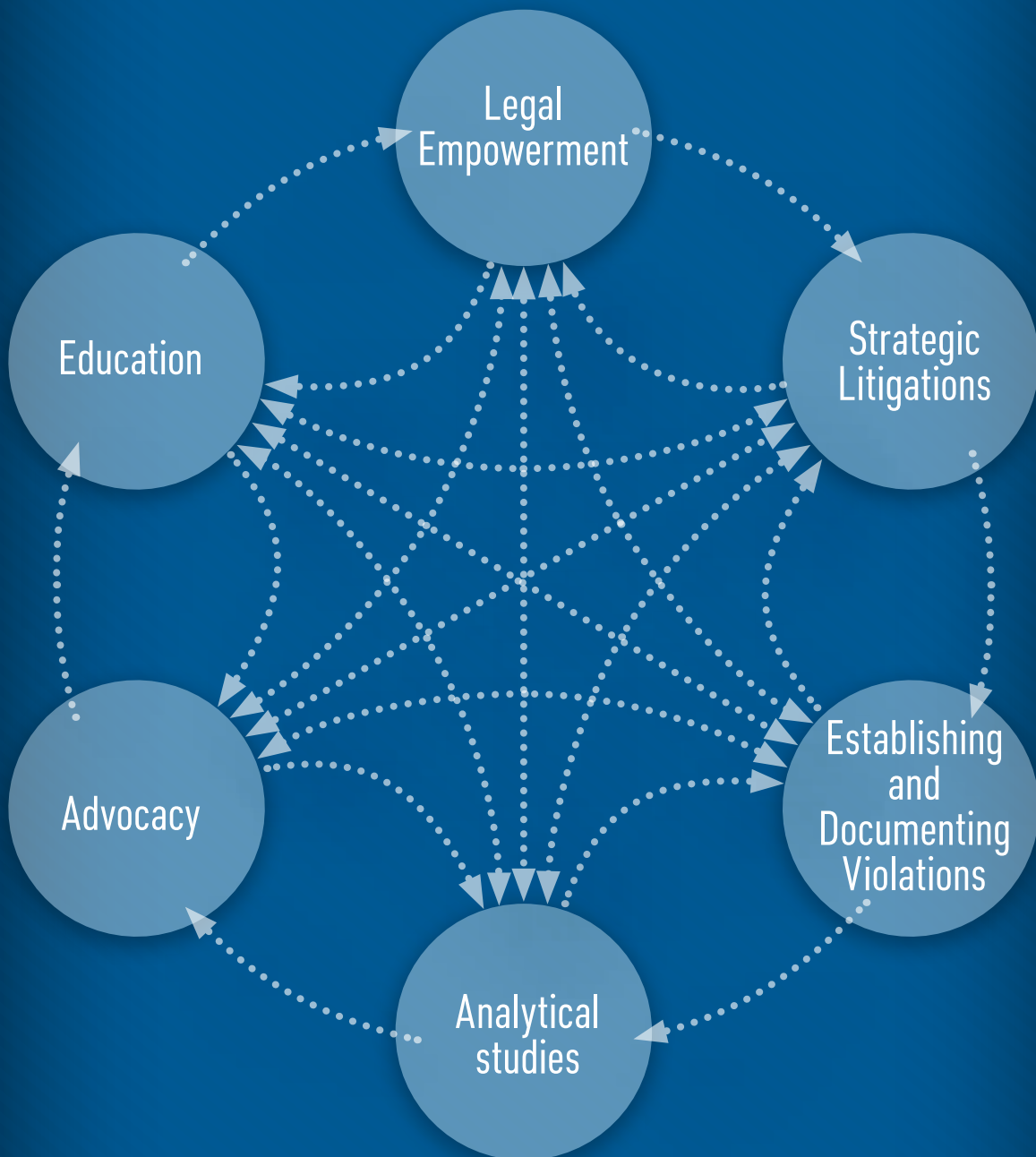
Receiving social benefits for IDPs by power of attorney

Because of the armed conflict in the East, V. together with minor granddaughter moved to Khmelnytskyi Oblast, when the girl's parents left in Donetsk. The granddaughter as an internally displaced person was denied in payment of targeted aid, because only its legal representatives, i.e. parents, but not the grandmother, even though she had a power of attorney from the mother, have the right to receive the money on behalf of the child.

With the assistance of the Khmelnytskyi Public Advice Center, the appeal was filed with the Khmelnytskyi Labor and Social Protection Department. The Department issued a new power of attorney, which clearly stated that the child's grandmother is authorized to represent the grandchild and receive the monthly targeted aid as an internally displaced person. Later she began to receive regular monthly aid.



SCHEME OF INTERACTION OF UHHRU UNITS



ANALYTICAL WORK AND ADVOCACY

This year one of the objectives of the Union was to integrate advocacy campaigns and analytical work, documentation, and legal actions, and to turn them into a systematic activity with various strategies and instruments of influence. UHHRU expanded its activities, trying to respond systematically and rapidly to human rights threats.

MAIN RESULTS OF CAMPAIGNS

- ▶ **LAW 1660-д** «On the support of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the National Agency for Prevention of Corruption» with UHHRU amendments was **ADOPTED**.
- ▶ **UHHRU RECOMMENDATIONS** were considered in the Action Plan to the Coalition Agreement.
- ▶ **PARLIAMENT'S** initiative to cancel bail for suspected involvement in the corruption was **BLOCKED** (Bill 3066).
- ▶ **LAW 2166** «On amendments to some laws of Ukraine to strengthen guarantees of rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons» was **ADOPTED**.
- ▶ **UHHRU PLAYED** a key role in creating and approving the National Strategy on Human Rights and the Action Plan.

ADVOCACY

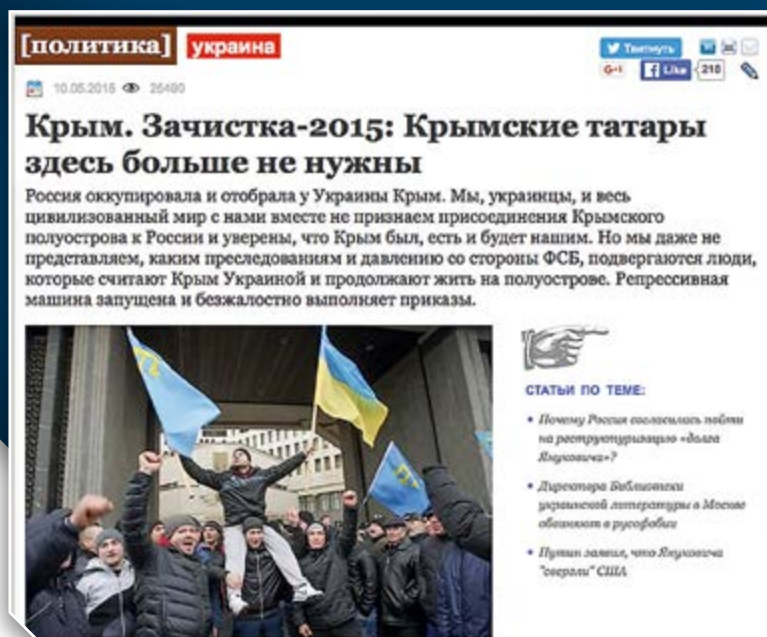
Overall in 2015 the Union conducted 34 advocacy campaigns. Among them were:

COVERAGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA

The atmosphere of fear and helplessness, suppression of dissent, flagrant violations of human rights and freedoms, substitution of human values doctrine with “Russkiy Mir” (“The Russian World”) briefly describe Russia’s policy towards occupied Crimea. The Union activities focused on documenting war crimes and human rights violations, informing the international community and the Ukrainian public about political persecution and human rights violations in occupied Crimea, reminding about the need to protect the citizens effectively, recording information and investigating crimes.

In doing so, the Union pursued several goals:

1. Informing the Ukrainian public and international community about the human rights situation in occupied Crimea;
2. Keeping interest of the international community to the problem of Crimea’s occupation;
3. Extending sanctions against Russia;
4. Protecting and restoration of the rights of victims of human rights violations.



Правозащитники обжалуют в суде порядок въезда в Крым

Новости Украины | Политика 03.06.2015 - 13:58



Фото: Дария Свиридова

Окружной административный суд города Киева рассмотрит иск 4 августа

Правозащитники обжалуют в суде порядок въезда на временно оккупированную территорию Крыма. Об этом в ходе пресс-конференции в понедельник в Киеве сообщила юрист Украинского Хельсинкского союза по правам человека Дария Свиридова, передает корреспондент РБК-Украина.

The expert group systematically issues the analytical review “Crimea without rules.” Each review is thematic. It includes analysis of the situation regarding international regulations and standards relating to the chosen theme and legislation adopted on Crimea by Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the occupation authorities in Crimea and Sevastopol.

The review also includes an analysis of prospects of potential or already filed complaints with the European Court of Human Rights or other international bodies protecting human rights.

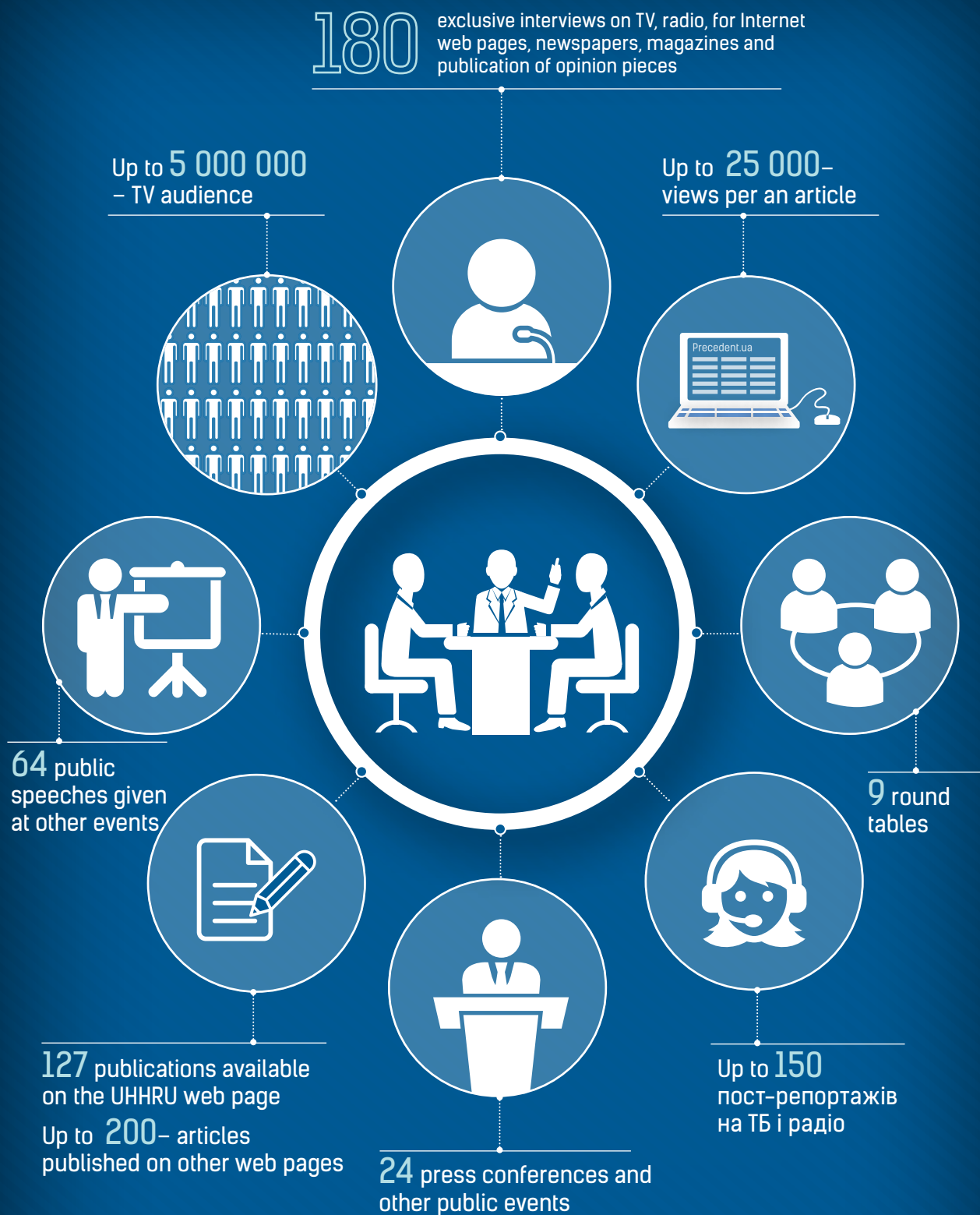
A team of experts of UHHRU, Regional Center for Human Rights (rchr.org.ua), Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (iir.edu.ua), Ukrainian Association of International Law (uail.com.ua) and the expert analytical group CNROT work on the review.



Moreover, the analytical report “The Peninsula of Fear: Chronicle of Occupation and Violation of Human Rights in Crimea” was published in cooperation with partner organizations. Based on facts and documents, the report describes the basic human rights and gives an idea of the current system of political persecution.

The Union actively supported the creation of necessary television content, the exhibition of a series of exclusive interviews with Union’s experts and other experts in the field. For example, the interview

WORK WITH MEDIA



with Refat Chubarov to 5 Kanal (Channel 5), three TV interviews with a lawyer Dmytro Sotnikov about the case of Kostenko, two television programs “Sensacii Ukrainy” (“Ukraine’s Sensations”) about human rights problems in occupied Crimea were shown in prime time. A series of programs on channels Chornomorska TV (Black Sea TV), Socialna kraina (Social State) and Krym Realii (Crimea Realities) were shown to a significant audience in Crimea. Overall, 68 exclusive interviews and publications were conducted within the Campaign. It helped to cover multimillion audiences. Also, UHHRU organized and participated 21 public events on the matter.



DAY OF CRIMEA IN PACE. SPECIAL PROJECT

On September 30, 2015, the Union together with the Permanent Delegation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to PACE, the International Renaissance Foundation, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People organized the international event “**Day of Crimea in PACE.**” The event was held on the eve of the 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s accession to the Council of Europe on the premises of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. 400 people participated the event among them: members of national delegations in PACE, leaders of CE and the Secretariat of CE and PACE, judges and employees of the ECHR, diplomats, representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, Ukrainian human rights activists, lawyers, representatives of the Mejlis.

Day of Crimea joined several events:

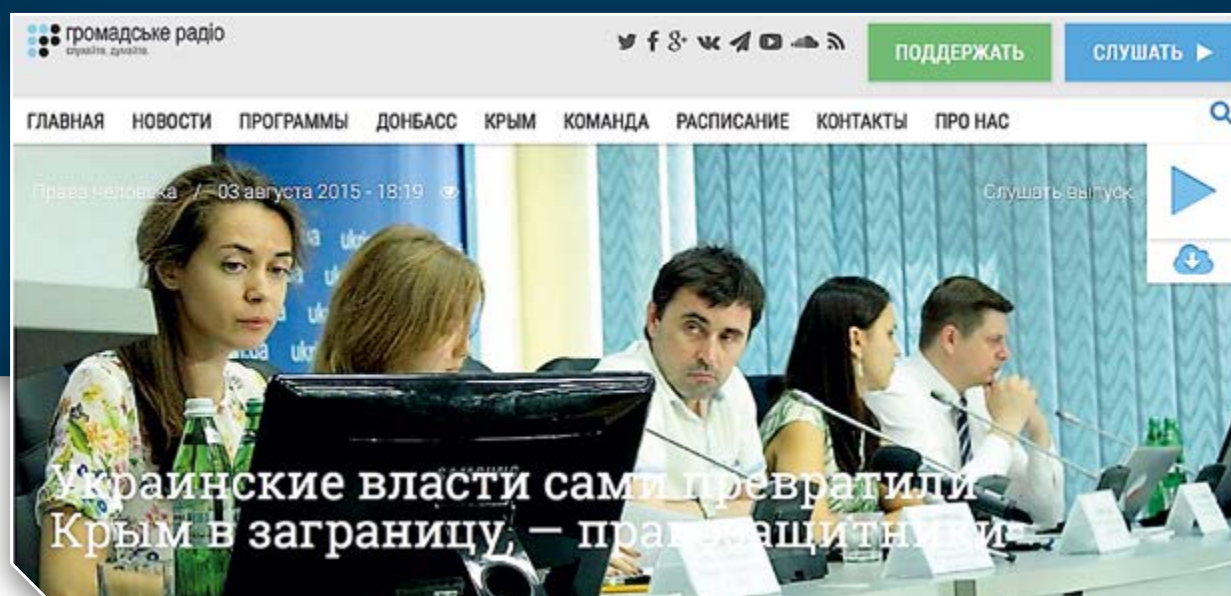
- ▶ **Round table discussion** “Human rights in occupied Crimea” devoted to the issues as political persecution in occupied Crimea, violation of rights of the Crimean Tatar people, international human rights protection mechanisms in the occupied territory of Crimea.
- ▶ **The Crimean photographer** BAYKUŞ presented the Photo exhibition “Fighting through the years”. He took photos during the first mass protest in Moscow in 1987. There hundreds of Crimean Tatars from various regions of the Soviet Union came to declare their rights and to demand the return of all people to their historical homeland. The contemporary photos show the life of Crimean Tatars after their return to the homeland. They also show the events of 2014, when Crimean Tatars again live in the occupied territory.
- ▶ **“Crimean evening”** consisted of the performance of the project “Mystetstvo tolerantnosti” (“Art of Tolerance”), the exhibition “ZINCIR. LINKS OF MEMORY” of Rustem Skybin, a Crimean Tatar painter, and degustation of the Crimean Tatar cuisine.

In the opinion of MP Georhii Lohvynskyi, the Day of Crimea in PACE directly influenced the extension of sanctions against the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to PACE.



COMBATING DISCRIMINATION OF CRIMEANS BY UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES

Ukraine continued to implement inconsistent policy towards Crimea. Restrictions on freedom of movement and movement of goods deprived people of the possibility to take their property from Crimea. Persons registered in Crimea faced discrimination and restrictions of their rights. Rejection of any of the documents issued by the occupation authorities causes numerous problems with proves of birth, death and so on. The state also showed the lack of interest in the educational, scientific and cultural integration of the inhabitants of occupied Crimea.



The Union fought for the abolition of discriminatory laws and changes in administrative practices regarding Crimeans. Upon the initiative of UHHRU and as a result of the efforts of several organizations combined by the Ministry of Justice, a draft law «On Amendments to the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine about Establishing the Fact of Birth or Death on the Temporarily Occupied Territories Of Ukraine» was developed. It introduced the judicial process of civil registration of residents of the occupied territories, which the Parliament adopted in first reading.

Despite the significant progress in addressing this issue, UHHRU continues to insist on the implementation of administrative procedures in general cases and the judicial procedure for disputed cases. UHHRU developed its package of laws regulating the relations between Ukraine and the occupied territories of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. It, among other things, proposed the administrative procedure of civil state acts registration.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

In 2015 UHHRU promoted two Draft Laws: №2166 «**On Amendments to some Laws of Ukraine to strengthen the guarantees of the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons**» and №2167 «**On ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons**» (re-compensation for the value of the IDPs damaged property). Ukrainian politicians failed to pass the Draft Law №2167 due to lack of political will to take this step.



The main purpose of the campaign was to pass the Draft Law “On Amendments to some Laws of Ukraine to strengthen the guarantees of the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons”. During the year, UHHRU held ten press conferences, pickets, roundtables and other events. The UHHRU lawyers gave 13 exclusive interviews and published articles. The experts of UHHRU carried out the active work in the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities, and International Relations. They held many behind-the-scene meetings with MPs, Government members and experts of other NGOs. As a result, the Parliament passed the law on December 24, 2015. According to this law, foreign citizens and stateless persons, permanently residing in Ukraine, who lived in the temporarily occupied territories, can get the status of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Ukrainian citizens, who lived in the occupied territories before the temporary occupation, but were not registered there, can also get the status of internally displaced persons within 15 days. The IDP’s certificate has no expiration date, and should not be extended every six months as before. The Law also helps to register IDPs in the labor market and find a job.

After the adoption of the progressive Law, UHHRU concentrated on its implementation by the competent authorities in the relevant regulations and administrative practices.

NATIONAL STRATEGY

UHHRU and the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights played a significant role in finalizing the National Strategy on Human Rights and the Action Plan for its implementation. The work on the National Strategy started in 2014. The Union appealed twice to the President with a proposal to extend the preparation of the National Strategy in order to achieve better results. The Union together with the Office of the Ombudsman and a wide range of non-governmental organizations were able to develop and defend certain important provisions and achieve a certain conceptual consistency of the Strategy.



The National Strategy was approved by the Decree of the President on August 25, 2015.

The Union and the Office of the Ombudsman continued cooperation to formulate the Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy by the Government, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on November 23, 2015. In 2015, representatives of formal education of UHHRU joined the development of proposals for the Action Plan of the Government to implement the National Strategy on Human Rights in the period up to 2020.

As a result, several proposals submitted to the relevant section were approved in the Action Plan. These were preparation of the National Program on Human Rights Education, development of the modern methodological framework for the course «Human Rights», introduction of compulsory education for soldiers «Fundamentals of International Humanitarian Law» and «Fundamentals of Human Rights.» Adherence to Human rights in professional activities and knowledge of fundamentals of human rights were included in the list of evaluation criteria in the appraisal of civil servants and law enforcement officials.

LIST OF EXPERT BOARDS, where UHHRU employees took part:

1. Constitutional Commission;
2. Expert Council under the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights;
3. Working Group on National Strategy and Action Plan Development;
4. Working Group on IDPs and the occupied territories under the Administration of the President of Ukraine;
5. Working Group under the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities, and International Relations;
6. Expert Council on Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine;
7. Coordinating Council on the occupied territories of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine;
8. Working Group at the State Migration Service of Ukraine;
9. Working Group on IDPs at the Ministry of Social Policy;
10. Expert Council of the inter-fractional group of the Verkhovna Rada on the occupied territories;
11. Expert Council of the inter-fractional group of the Verkhovna Rada on lustration;
12. The Working Group on reform of the system of justice on free legal aid;
13. The Working Group under the Office of the Ombudsman on the National Preventive Mechanism development;
14. The Working Group at the Office of the Ombudsman on the access to public information;
15. The Working Group on rights protection for people with disabilities and the right to work.

DOCUMENTATION AND ANALYTICS

DOCUMENTING WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE ATO ZONE

In 2015 the Union carried out the regular field missions to the east of Ukraine to detect and analyze human rights violations during the armed conflict. 20 missions were conducted.

The network of documenters was created: 60 volunteers, 20 documenters from UHHRU Public Advice Centers from 19 cities participated the training. They developed tools for documenting human rights violations in the ATO zone.

They documented and analyzed the facts of indiscriminate attacks, unlawful restrictions on freedom of movement, gender-based violence, violations of children's rights and others. The result of the analysis of the information was the report «Muted Voices: Respect for Freedom of Speech in the ATO Zone », presented in November 2015.

As members of the Coalition «Justice for Peace in Donbas», Union experts' took part in the study «Hell Survivors: the Testimony of Victims of Illegal Places of Detention in Donbas.» In particular, they have developed the methodology and tools of research, prepared its individual sections and conclusions.



Moreover, they discovered the main problems associated with the investigation of killings and disappearances in the ATO zone, while working on strategic litigations, and summarized them in the report «Total Impunity in the ATO zone: the Investigation of Killings and Disappearances.» The study also contains proposals for the resolution of discovered issues. The report was presented in December 2015.

For more efficient documenting of gross human rights violations, the Union establishes the Center for Documentation. This national project will create an updated, protected and accessible to stakeholders database of human rights violations in the area of the armed conflict, in Crimea and the rest of Ukraine. The mission of the Center is to restore the accurate picture of events that will promote justice on the principles of truth and repentance and prevent history manipulation for political purposes.

In 2016 it is planned that the Center could offer for witnesses and victims of the conflict the following benefits:

- ▶ free legal advice and access to free legal assistance, including legal support of the cases;
- ▶ opportunity to capture evidence of loss or damage obtained in 29 Public Advice Centers of UHHRU, working in 24 regions of Ukraine;
- ▶ solving problems of citizens by using the resources of partner organizations.

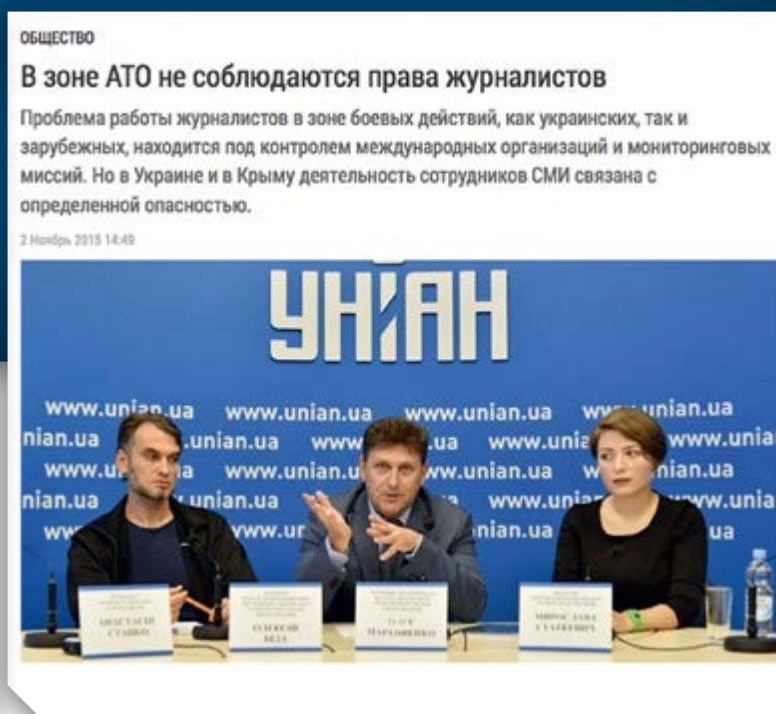
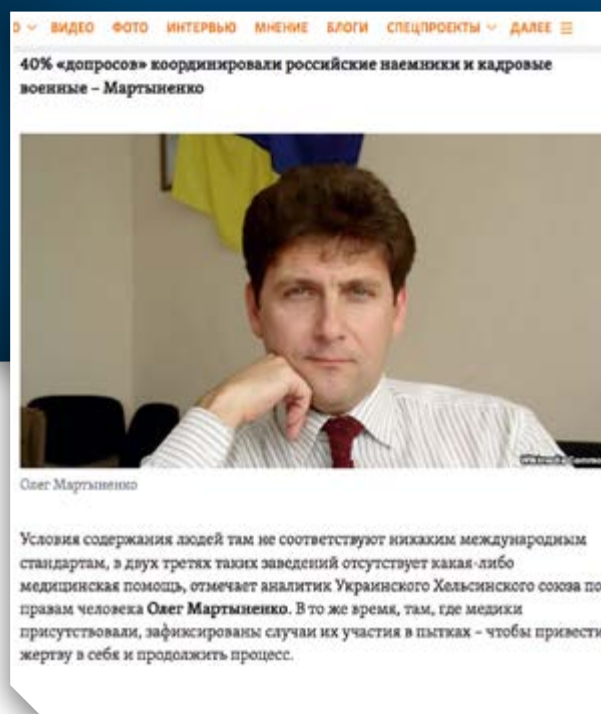


MONITORING OF AUTHORITIES' ACTIVITY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UKRAINE'S COMMITMENTS

During the year, the Analytical Department of UHHRU made a public examination of the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Health concerning human rights in neuropsychiatric institutions. During the study, they visited four neuropsychiatric institutions to study the situation on the ground. The study resulted in the publication of the analytical report «The rights of Persons with Mental Health Problems: Conformity of the National Law with the International Standards. The Context of Adherence of Human Rights in Neuropsychiatric Social Care Institutions». The expert report was also discussed at the roundtable in April 2015.

The Union experts together with partner NGOs and international organizations prepared five alternative («shadow») reports to international bodies regarding the implementation of commitments by Ukraine. They directed them to:

- ▶ UN Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review
- ▶ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- ▶ UN Committee Against Torture
- ▶ UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ▶ Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the European Social Charter (revised) for 2015-2019.



The Union summarized the results of the project «Prisoners of Justice,» launched in autumn 2014 and highlighted stories of people who were in prison, even though the judgments were recognized unfair by international bodies. A press conference in Hlavkom was held. The Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Valeriya Lutkovska and MP Georhii Lohvinskyi attended it. The agreement was achieved with the Office of the Ombudsman to develop jointly and advocate the bill that would allow courts to review the judgments by decisions of the United Nations committees.

COOPERATION WITH EXPERTS OF RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The Union together with scientists from the Institute of International Relations (Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University) prepared the report “War and Human Rights.” A series of roundtables to discuss issues of qualification of armed conflict in Donbas and human rights within international law were held.

The experts of UHHRU together with researchers from Kharkiv and Kiev universities also conducted research «Problems of the Rights of Trade Unions in the Context of the Right to Freedom of Association». They analyzed the most pressing issues for trade unions in order to solve them in future.

In order to further expand the cooperation with scientific institutions, UHHRU signed a cooperation agreement with National Pedagogical Dragomanov University, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University and National University of Life and Environmental Sciences in November-December. The previous agreement was related to training of students in the field of human rights organizations, the participation of UHHRU in the organization of scientific conferences, joint curriculum development, and possibility of training on human rights by the experts of UHHRU.

USE OF PRACTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY NATIONAL COURTS

This year, the Union conducted a pilot study on the use of the European Court practice in national jurisprudence and decided to turn it into an annual publication. The study was conducted based on the Unified State Register of Court Decisions of Ukraine. During the research only some of the decisions of the ECHR were taken into consideration, namely 67 successful cases of the Strategic Litigation Center of UHHRU and Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group.

593 court decisions out of 853 162 as of August 3, 2015, were selected, where were the relevant application of the abovementioned 67 judgments of the ECHR. The relevant application was considered the ECHR judgment that corresponds to merits of the case considered by national courts and does not distort the content of the decision of the ECHR.

The results of the study were published in a special edition. The publication also included a detailed review of the European Court of Human Rights judgments, systematized according to the problems and examples of ECHR legal positions applications by the national courts.

Every court of Ukraine, higher education institutions with Law Departments, as well as regional public libraries received the publication. The electronic version of it is available on the web page precedent.in.ua.



THE UNION IS A PARTICIPANT OF THE FOLLOWING PLATFORMS:

- ▶ Civic Solidarity <http://civicsolidarity.org/> and [https://www.facebook.com/ CivicSolidarity](https://www.facebook.com/CivicSolidarity)
- ▶ Human Rights Agenda
- ▶ European Implementation Network <http://european-implementation.net>
- ▶ Human Rights Coalition «Justice for Peace in Donbas» <https://jfp.org.ua>
- ▶ Coalition for Combating Discrimination <http://antidi.org.ua/ua>
- ▶ Initiative Group for Human Rights in Crimea <http://coalition.crimeahr.org/en/members>
- ▶ Coalition of Human Rights Organizations on Preparation to the Universal Periodic Review
- ▶ Platform for Monitoring of Implementation of the National Strategy on Human Rights
- ▶ Regional Network of Legal Aid for People Affected by HIV/AIDS <http://hiv-legalaid.org/index.php?r=1.1>
- ▶ Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision
<http://legalaid.gov.ua/ua/kontrol-za-diialnistiu-sistemy-bpd/hromadska-platforma>

SPECIAL PROJECT ANTI-AWARD “BUDYAK ROKU” (“THISTLE OF THE YEAR”)

After a two-year break the Union renewed to hand out the anti-award “Thistle of the Year” to the biggest violators of human rights. We tried to draw public attention to the flagrant violations of human rights that occurred in the state during the year and to stimulate public debate about dangerous human rights trends in the domestic legal system.

IN 2015 THISTLES WENT TO:

Prosecutor General of Ukraine Viktor Shokin – for inaction in the case of human rights violations; as a result, serious crime suspects remained at large. In July 2015, investigators of the General Procurator’s Office prepared a submission to the Verkhovna Rada on giving its consent to the removal of immunity, detention, and arrest of Yuri Boiko. The episode is related to Serhii Kurchenko’s fraud concerning condensed gas, where investigators directly said that Boiko is “a member of a criminal organization.” Presentation of actions of ex-minister and all related computations were submitted to the prosecutor general Shokin for signature and the following direction to the Verkhovna Rada. However, according to the applicant, the document has remained immovable for three months, and Boiko feels unpunished.



Judge of Solomianskyi District Court of the City of Kyiv Oleksandr

Bobrovnyk – according to the applicant, the judge Oleksandr Bobrovnyk is a daring judge offender. In 2013–2014, he took unlawful decisions, which caused grave consequences for Oleksandr Kucheriavenko. On this fact, the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine opened criminal proceedings against the judge Bobrovnyk. However, using the inaction of the prosecution, the judge continues to manipulate by procedure, to render new consciously unjust judgments, to destroy unique case evidence (original covenant), and to scoff cynically at justice in other ways.

National Bank of Ukraine – for the adoption of a regulation that has resulted in discrimination against a big group of persons on the grounds of place of registration. The adoption of the NBU Board Resolution No. 699 as of 03.11.2014 led to discrimination against people registered in the Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. They were recognized as non-residents of Ukraine.



Member of Parliament Kostiantyn Mateichenko – for the most dangerous legislative initiative in the field of human rights, which was manifested in the submission to the Parliament of the Bill No. 2225. According to the Bill, there can be introduced criminal liability for criticizing the Government.



Colonel Victor Buhyra – for the use of unlawful methods of investigation regarding 15-year-old teenager Artem Kotkov and for fabricating charges of murder, which the teenager (according to the applicant) had not committed.





SPECIAL PROJECTS

RANKING OF COURTS «PRECEDENT UA»

This year, the Union launched a special project - the Annual Ranking «Precedent UA», aimed at encouraging courts to active use of the practice of the European Court of Human Rights.

After the research of courts' use of the practice of the European Court of Human Rights, the Union formed the Ranking 2015, which identified ten most active users of the ECHR judgments in their practice.



THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S RANKING WERE:

- 1 High Specialized Court of Ukraine for Civil and Criminal Cases
- 2 Sharhorod District Court of Vinnytsia Oblast
- 3 Court of Appeal of the City of Kyiv
- 4 Kamenets-Podilskyi Municipal and District Court of Khmelnytskyi Oblast
- 5 Dnipro District Court of the City of Kyiv
- 6 The Court of Appeal of Poltava Oblast
- 7 Solomenskyi District Court of the City of Kyiv
- 8 Donetsk District Administrative Court
- 9 The Court of Appeal of Khmelnytskyi Oblast
- 10 Voznesenskyi City Court of Mykolayiv Oblast



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

The Union continues to contribute to the development of the Ukrainian educational program “We Understand Human Rights” (WUHR). This program is a partnership of non-governmental associations and independent experts, working together with different target groups for the establishment and protection of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine through education and awareness raising activities.

INFORMAL EDUCATION

The Programme held the annual “Human Rights School for Young Activists.” 25 young people from different regions of Ukraine attended the School. As a “thesis”, the participants of the School held a public protest against the violation of human rights of patients of Levonkiv psychiatric hospital, responding to the report of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in neuropsychiatric institutions.

In a result of the protest, 50 of 130 patients of overpopulated rural hospital were transferred to the regional psycho-neurological hospital; local officials held a briefing and publicly offered to the program “We Understand Human Rights” to participate in the drafting of the Law “On psychiatry” and to organize a training on human rights to the staff of neuropsychiatric institutions in the region.

The program also continued to participate actively in the long-term initiative to strengthen the integration of Roma through their involvement in the public activity. In the II Ukrainian School for Young Activists of Roma communities, organized by the NGO “MART” with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. 19 young Roma, who have passed a basic course of advocacy, attended the event. Several best graduates got internships in human rights NGOs, including UHHRU.



The educational activity, aimed at developing a network of community monitors of the National preventive mechanism, continues. In Human Rights Education House in Chernihiv held the five-day workshop on fundamentals of human rights and monitoring of places of captivity. They prepared about 20 new monitors. Also during the year, they held seven specialized advanced trainings for monitors devoted to the monitoring of places of unfreedom of different types (children, neuropsychiatric), and development of monitors' analytical skills.

A new direction of the Programme was to train regional human rights activists through the use of instruments of local democracy.

FORMAL EDUCATION

In May 2015 at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, the international roundtable "Memory of the Holocaust: Educational Practices and Ways of Further Development in Modern Ukraine" was held. 38 participants, representatives of NGOs, Ministry of Education of Ukraine, and professors attended the event. The participants were informed about educational products of the programme "We Understand Human Rights" – study materials, exercises, and tutorials. In the materials, human rights are disclosed for historical examples of gross violations – the Holocaust, the Romani genocide, and Holodomor; effective ways of working with Roma youth within educational activities within the Programme.

UKRAINE-WIDE CONTEST OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' ESSAYS "HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF UKRAINE"

The Union received 409 works from 22 regions of Ukraine and Kyiv. 15 authors of the submitted works became winners, 6 of them became prizewinners: three – third places, two – second places and one – first. The winners and prizewinners received diplomas and prizes; the teachers-advisors received acknowledgments. Human Rights Education House in Chernihiv published the works on the web page of the programme "We Understand Human Rights".

To promote the contest, organizers arranged the awarding ceremony at the schools, where winners study: at Kiev Gymnasium №117 named after Lesya Ukrainka and Lutsk Gymnasium №5. They also organized seminars for teachers of social sciences and class leaders on human rights and teaching methods. Moreover, they gave useful literature on human rights as a gift.

TRAINING OF LAWYERS AND ATTORNEYS

The Union continues to provide human rights education and instruments of human rights protection to lawyers, attorneys, and judges.

In 2015, the Union in partnership with the Human Rights Houses Network in five countries organized the second cycle of distance learning course for attorneys and lawyers of human rights within the international project "International Law to Protect the Public Interest". The training course prepared 35 lawyers and attorneys; nine of them graduated with honors.

Participants of the course passed nine online courses and participated seven face-to-face seminars in the field of human rights. Some graduates visited the ECHR and institutions of the Council of Europe, participated the specialized international conferences (Moldova and Lithuania), completed internships in preparing appeals to the International Criminal Court in the field of evidence of military crimes in Crimea and the east of Ukraine.

At least 20 alumni of the course cooperate with UHHRU running strategic litigations, working with regional Public Advice Centers of UHHRU, preparing analytical materials. Some of them became experts in educational programmes in the field of human rights. With the participation of four alumni of the course in cooperation with lawyers from 5 countries the international report "Human Rights Lawyers – Risk Group" was prepared and distributed.



The Ukrainian team in partnership with the Kiev Human Rights Protection House and Human Rights Education House in Chernihiv organized the international conference “Implementation of Human Rights Guarantees of Human Rights Lawyers”. More than 70 lawyers and human rights activists from 8 countries and representatives of the Ukrainian National Bar Association, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, many experts and professionals attended the event. They had the opportunity to discuss important and sensitive issues of existing compliance and implementation of additional guarantees of professional lawyers, who are at risk when defending human rights.

About 430 people, including judges, employees of the State Migration Service and lawyers of free legal aid system from more than 10 regions of the country became alumni of the project “Advocacy and Government Capacity Building in the field of Migration”, implemented by UHHRU in partnership with All-Ukrainian Charity Fund “Right to Defense”. During the study, these experts, along with project experts (judges, lawyers, graduates of UHHRU educational programs, experts of partners NGO’s) mastered the use of international and national human rights standards in cases of expulsion, extradition and denial of protection to asylum seekers.

Two public lectures of the ECHR judges from Ukraine (Hanna Yudkivska) and Germany (Angelika Nußberger), were attended by at least 200 people and at least 600 watched lectures online.

According to the official web page of the ECHR lawyers - graduates of educational programs of UHHRU won every 10th Ukrainian case in the ECHR in 2015.

In order to widely inform lawyers and attorneys, who work in the field of human rights, about interesting news and useful materials on this theme, the Facebook page “Human Rights Attorneys” was created.



Human Rights Lawyers online course
participants during training visit in
Council of Europe, October 2015,
Strasbourg, France





HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION HOUSE IN CHERNIHIV

The Human Rights Education House in Chernihiv is a training and resource center for organizations, working in the field of human rights protection. The Center was founded in 2013 by the union of the same name, which includes seven human rights organizations, including, UHHRU.

In 2015, the Education Human Rights House in Chernihiv developed a complete set of educational activities for member organizations and other civil society organizations. During the year, the House organized 51 events, which 1156 people participated. The majority of the events (75%) was devoted to education in the field of human rights and actions to protect the public interest and human rights.

UHHRU organized 17 events at the premises of the House, including the above mentioned XI Ukraine-wide “Human Rights School for Young Activists”, trainings on advocacy and the fundamentals of project activities, educational activities on human rights, information security monitors of human rights in crisis areas and security of documenters, expert meeting to develop a course on International Humanitarian Law in Ukraine, several sessions on strategic planning of UHHRU member organizations and others. The events organized by UHHRU on the premises of the Human Rights Education House in Chernihiv participated 341 persons.

UHHRU together with the Human Rights Education House in Chernihiv completed last year’s project “Support for Human Rights Protection in the East of Ukraine”. The project supported seven local initiatives aimed at activating civil society and improving the human rights situation of in the eastern and southern regions of the country. Thus, in Severodonetsk, Luhansk Oblast immediately implemented three initiatives:



On April 16 in Severodonetsk, the first in Ukraine “Civic Trolleybus” was launched; in May one more was launched. The trolleybus became an informal information point for internally displaced persons from the area of fighting. The town has more than 30 thousand IDPs (over one-third of the city’s population). Inside “Civic Trolleybus” contains useful background information on Severodonetsk, how and where to draw the status of an IDP, how to update documents, how to call a doctor, who and what address could provide some assistance and more.

It should be noted that due to the success of the project, social activists in Ternopil took up the initiative and launched educational trolley “Human Rights” in Ternopil.

During “The Youth Media School” local youth, particularly journalists (about 100 people), participated a series of training on media literacy, learning to identify methods of propaganda in news and gaining basic skills of critical thinking.

Activists of the Kherson public organization “Mangust” (“Mongoose”) helped to recover lost passports to 20 residents of Crimea and former prisoners.

In Kharkiv, the Center to Support Families of ATO Soldiers “Waiting for a Father Together” was created to provide psychological, social, legal support for ATO soldiers and their families. Activists of the Centre raised the issue of the post-military syndrome in Ukrainian society at the regional (direct assistance, an organization of discussions with public and authorities) and national levels (through mass media and distribution of the manual “Help to Families of ATO participants. Psychological Advice”).

The Center continues to work after the project ended.

In Lutsk community of IDPs from Donbas and Crimea created the adaptation center “Unity”, which provides education and information support to internally displaced persons, helps them to learn new professions and to defend the interests of settlers in the new community to address urgent problems of IDPs - searching of housing, employment, launching own business.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL DOCUDAYS UA

The 12th International Film Festival Docudays UA was held on March 20-27, 2015 in Kyiv. UHHRU is the founder of the Festival.

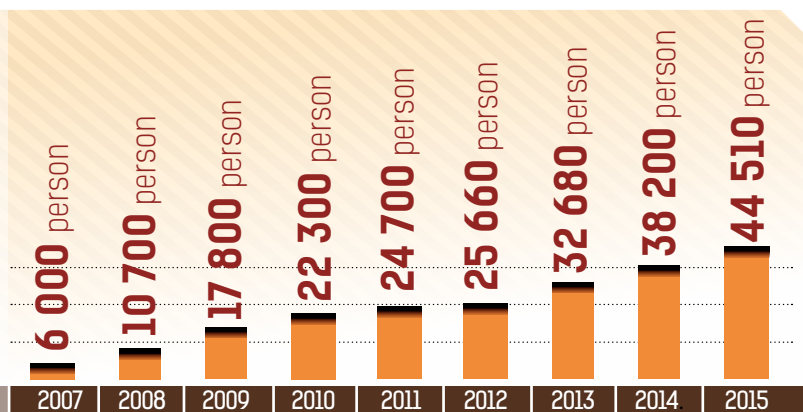
In 2015, the Festival events were devoted to PROPAGANDA. This year it got a slogan - "The true film can protect!"

79 films (38 of them competed) from 36 countries were presented. Each film was accompanied by the discussion with the authors of the films, human rights activists, representatives of NGOs, artists, journalists and others.

1304 Ukrainian participants took part in the festival events (compared with 803 in 2014), including human rights experts, leaders of youth organizations, partners of the festival in the regions of Ukraine, civil society activists, and journalists. 573 participants (480 in 2014) attended master classes of the well-known film directors from different countries. 80 well-known film-makers and human rights activists from different countries visited Kyiv this year (63 guests visited Kyiv in 2014).

During the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival DOCUDAY, UHHRU organized four side-events, which about 200 people attended.

44 510 people participated and attended the festival in 2015 (**6 000 people** – in 2007, **10 700** – in 2008, **17 800** – 2009, **22 300** – 2010, **24 700** – in 2011, **25 660** – in 2012, **32 680** – in 2013, **38 200** – in 2014).







ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the objectives of the Union is the capacity building of its members. The Union constantly organizes events aimed at training of personnel of organizations-members on various aspects of non-governmental organizations work, financial management and accounting, fundraising, fundamentals of management, advocacy, etc.

The philosophy of the Union is built on the principle that we are a powerful association of strong organizations.

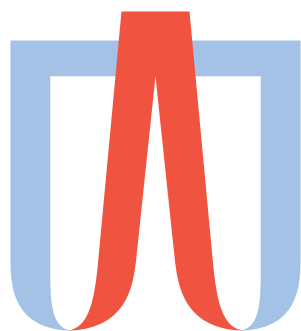
In 2014 the Union began the intensive work with organizations to strengthen their organizational capacity.

This year the Center for Legal and Political Research “SIM” and Odessa Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine finished work on the development of strategic plans and continued to work on development and testing of internal control procedures.

In 2015 NGOs such as Non-Governmental Organization “M’ART”, Kherson Regional Branch of “Committee of Voters of Ukraine”, Kherson regional foundation of charity and health and Chernihiv Public Committee for Human Rights Protection joined to the intensive work on the development.

The central office of the Union also continued to work on developing its strategy and improvement of procedures and successfully passed audits of organizational capacity.





UKRAINIAN HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS UNION

THE UNION COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- ▶ Association «Civic Initiatives», Kirovohrad
- ▶ Volyn Oblast Non-Governmental Organization «Center of Legal Aid», Kovel, Volyn Oblast
- ▶ All-Ukrainian Society of Political Prisoners and Victims of Repression, Kyiv
- ▶ «Helsinki Initiative-XXI», Chortkiv, Ternopil oblast
- ▶ Non-Governmental organization «M'ART», Chernihiv
- ▶ Non-Governmental organization «Pivden» («South»), Kherson
- ▶ Non-Governmental organization «Terytoria uspihu» («Territory of Success»), Kirovohrad
- ▶ Non-Governmental organization «Flora», Kirovohrad
- ▶ Civic bureau «Pravozahyst», Sumy
- ▶ Civic Committee for Protection of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties, Luhansk, now Vyshhorod, Kyiv oblast
- ▶ Environmental Humanitarian Association «Green World», Chortkiv
- ▶ Legal Analytics and Strategies Institute, Kharkiv
- ▶ Committee for Monitoring Freedom of Press in Crimea
- ▶ Congress of National Communities of Ukraine, Kyiv
- ▶ Konotop Society of Consumers and Taxpayers «Dignity», Konotop, Sumy Oblast
- ▶ Luhansk Regional Branch of «Committee of Voters of Ukraine»
- ▶ Odessa Human Rights Group «Veritas»
- ▶ Odessa Regional Branch of «Committee of Voters of Ukraine»
- ▶ Human Rights Protection Group «Sich», Dnipropetrovsk
- ▶ Sevastopol Human Rights Group
- ▶ Eastern-Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives, Kyiv
- ▶ Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group
- ▶ Kherson Regional Branch of «Committee of Voters of Ukraine»
- ▶ Kherson regional foundation of charity and health
- ▶ Khmelnytskyi Oblast' Non-Governmental Organization «Podil Legal League»
- ▶ Centre for Legal and Political Research «SIM», Lviv
- ▶ Chernihiv Public Committee for Human Rights Protection
- ▶ Chuhuiv Human Rights Protection Group

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Olexandr Pavlichenko, Chairman (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group)

Olexandr Stepanenko (Green World)

Andriy Misyats (Podil Legal League)

Nataliia Bimbirayte (Kherson Information and Resource Center «Legal Space»)

Dementii Bielyi (Kherson Regional Branch of «Committee of Voters of Ukraine»)

Inha Dudnyk («Territory of Success»)

Volodymyr Ponomarenko (Konotop Society of Consumers and Taxpayers «Dignity»)

Anatolii Boiko (Odessa Regional Branch of «Committee of Voters of Ukraine»)

Liudmyla Klochko (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Lyubomyr Makhomet (Green World)

Olha Kushneryk (Helsinki Initiative-XXI)

Halyna Bakhmatova (Kherson Regional Branch of «Committee of Voters of Ukraine»)

SUPERVISORY BOARD

Valerii Kravchenko

Hryhorii Kutzenko

Mykola Horbal

Yosyp Zisels

Vasyl Ovsiienko

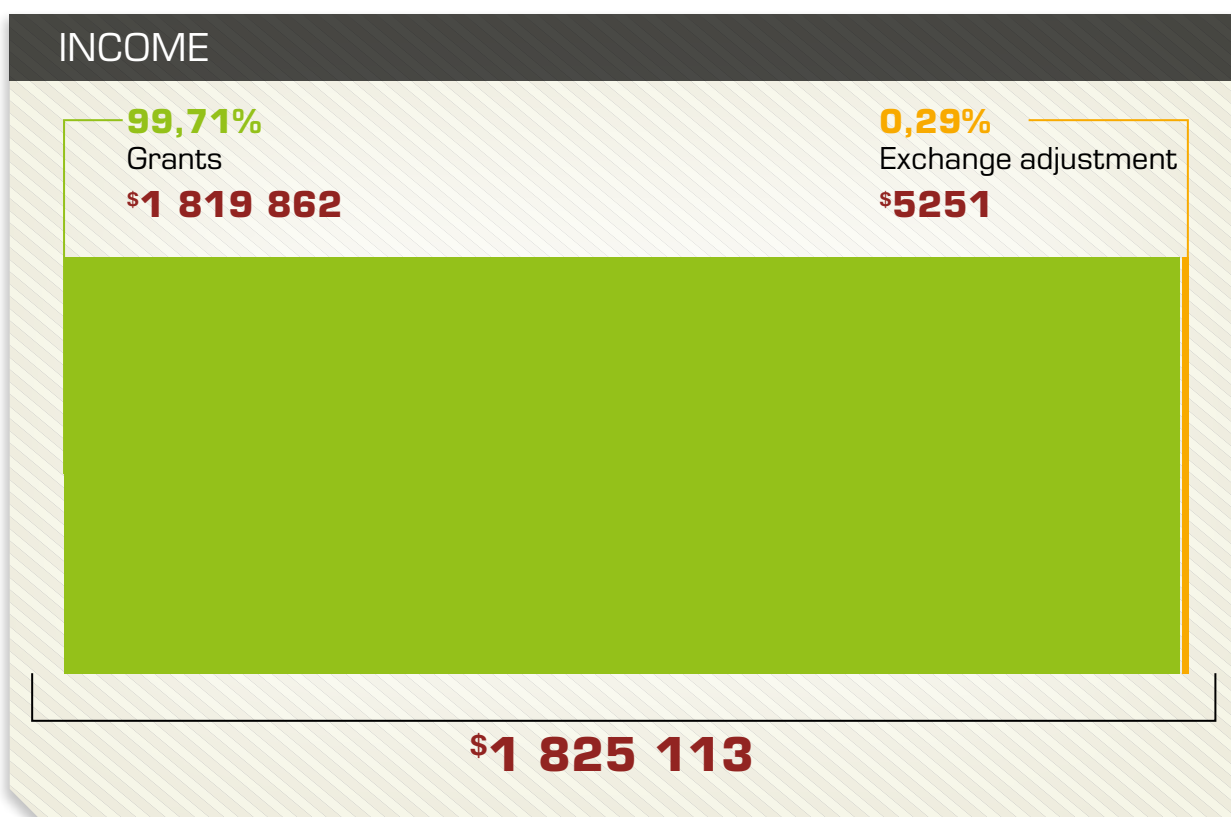
UHHRU IS A FOUNDER AND A MEMBER OF:

Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation (ulaf.org.ua/?lang=en)

Educational Human Rights House in Chernihiv (ehrh-ch.org.ua)

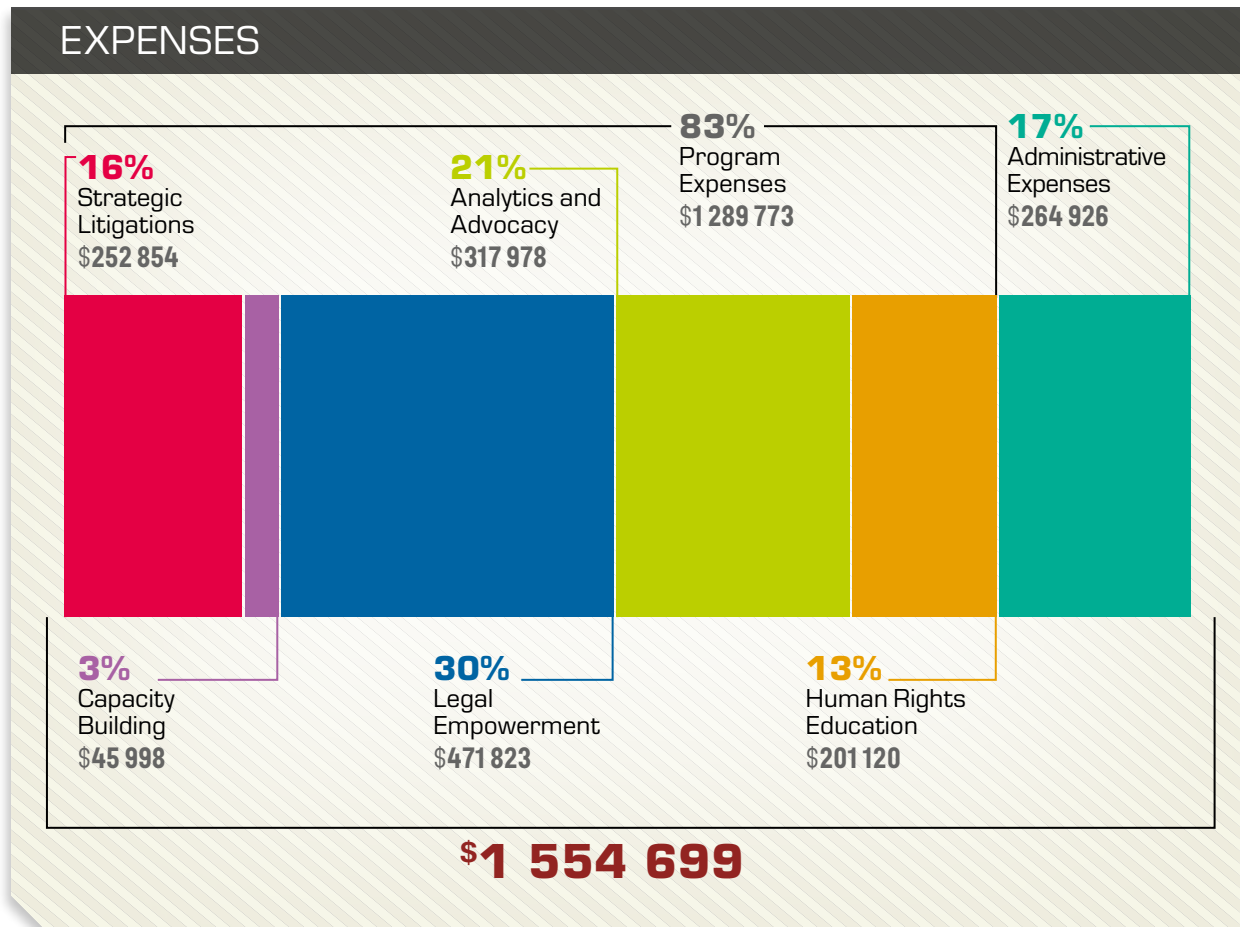
Charity Foundation to support creation and development of public television and radio in Ukraine (suspilnetv.org)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2015



Sources of financial support

Global Affairs Canada	\$423,211
Open Society Foundations	\$50,000
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	\$586,574
U.S. Agency for International Development	\$403,092
National Endowment for Democracy	\$31,000
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	\$80,000
European Union	\$107,454
United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine	\$2,774
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kiev	\$7,939
Human Rights House Foundation	\$32,743
Danish Refugee Council	\$86,942
TOTAL :	\$1,811,729



Expenses (detailed)

PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$1 289 773	83%
Legal Empowerment	\$471 823	30%
Staff	\$135 722	
Sub-grants and equipment	\$284 451	
Events	\$23 770	
Monitoring and audit	\$3 712	
Others	\$24 167	

Strategic Litigations	\$252 854	16%
Staff	\$97 615	
Fees for lawyers	\$132 713	
Postal and web	\$9 341	
Others	\$13 185	
Analytics and Advocacy	\$317 978	21%
Staff	\$114 496	
External experts	\$120 775	
Field Missions	\$14 071	
Events	\$41 706	
Publications	\$26 930	
Human Rights Education	\$201 120	13%
Staff	\$88 679	
Educational Events	\$87 951	
Equipping Chernihiv HR House	\$ 24 490	
Capacity Building	\$45 998	3%
Staff	\$114 496	
External Experts	\$16 793	
Events	\$4 297	
Travels	\$10 544	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$264 926	17%
Staff	\$193 364	

Office rent and expenses	\$10 761	
Communications	\$4 353	
Equipment and Consumables	\$36 648	
External Audit and Assessment	\$4 121	
Others	\$15 680	
TOTAL:	\$1 554 699	100%

We would like to thank for the support:

International Renaissance Foundation
Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign
Affairs, Trade and Development
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Open Society Institute- ZUG (OSI-ZUG)

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
European Union
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine
Human Rights House Foundation
Danish Refugee Council



Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend
Nederland



The report was prepared by:

Arkadiy Buschenko
Maksym Scherbatyuk
Oleh Martynenko
Mykhailo Tarakhkalo
Anastasiya Martynovska
Olena Sapozhnikova
Darya Svyrydova
Serhii Burov
Borys Zakharov
Lyudmyla Yelcheva
Serhii Myasoyedov
Vyacheslav Bodnar

The photos in the report taken by:

Andrii Sarymsakov
Ivan Shelehov
Kaya Haldorsen
Maryna Hovoruhina
Maksym Scherbatyuk
Arkadiy Buschenko
Yurii Haida

Address: 3/34 Frolivska Str. (the 3rd floor). Kyiv, 04070, Ukraine.

The nearest subway station 'Kontraktova Ploshcha'.

Postal Address:

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU),
Name of a person, to whom your letter is addressed,
P.O. Box 100, Kyiv, 04071.

Contacts

E-mail: office@helsinki.org.ua

Tel.: +38 044 485 17 92; fax +38 044 245 99 24.



The web pages of UHHRU:

www.helsinki.org.ua
www.precedent.in.ua
www.edu.helsinki.org.ua
www.hro.org.ua