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# FINAL REPORT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**THE ROLE OF NATIONAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS**  
IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT  
SITUATIONS





## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES & HIGHLIGHTS

### Introduction and Objectives

The International Conference on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations, organized by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on Human Rights and UNDP, brought together expert practitioners and conference participants to exchange experiences, share challenges, explore lessons learned, and identify recommendations on the role of NHRIs in conflict-affected and fragile settings. The conference enabled knowledge transfer, peer-to-peer exchange, collaboration between NHRIs and other actors regarding human rights challenges in conflict-affected countries. Furthermore, the conference identified the areas of needed programming support (by UNDP and other partners) on the role of NHRIs in these settings.

### Key Highlight

The *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations* was adopted, calling for a stronger role of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict settings.

(See the following video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0a\\_LE6bAOY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0a_LE6bAOY) from the event)



## THE KYIV DECLARATION ON THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

International Conference on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations  
Kyiv, Ukraine / 21-22 October 2015

The representatives of National Human Rights Institutions, convened in Kyiv at the International Conference on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations,

*Reaffirming* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated fairly, equally and with the same level of attention,

*Recalling* that human rights, development, and peace and security are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

*Recognizing* the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion And Protection of Human Rights (The Paris Principles - adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 on 20 December 1993) as international standards guiding the work of National Human Rights Institutions,

*Recalling* the most recent resolutions on National Human Rights Institutions by the General Assembly<sup>1</sup> and the Human Rights Council<sup>2</sup>,

*Recognizing* that National Human Rights Institutions play a major role in addressing human rights violations, disseminating information about human rights and providing education on human rights, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations,

*Recognizing* the importance of the collaboration between Na-

tional Human Rights Institutions in addressing issues related to conflict and its consequences, as well as their collaboration with civil society,

*Recalling* the Merida Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Acknowledging* that in conflict and post-conflict situations National Human Rights Institutions face particular difficulties and challenges,

*Taking into account* that in conflict and post-conflict situations the political, judicial and other systems often fail in settling disputes,

*Considering* that in conflict and post-conflict situations the actions required of a National Human Rights Institution differ from usual activities of human rights promotion and protection in peace time, and that the Paris Principles do not provide sufficient guidance on National Human Rights Institutions' role in conflict or post-conflict situations,

*Considering that* National Human Rights Institutions may be subject to criticism by State authorities for underlining and advising on the State's human rights actions and obligations, which should be in compliance with international and regional standards,

<sup>1</sup> A/RES/68/171

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/RES/27/18

*Insisting* on the need to strengthen international cooperation between National Human Rights Institutions, including through the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), and the regional cooperation between the National Human Rights Institutions, including through the regional networks of National Human Rights Institutions, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Established that National Human Rights Institutions in conflict and post-conflict situations, guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality, independence, objectivity, in cooperation with civil society, and aiming to ensure the respect and protection of human rights are required to:

- Take measures to identify early signs of possible conflict and steps to prevent conflict, including through addressing the violations of human rights;
  - Monitor the situation of human rights in accordance with international and regional human rights standards, documenting and responding to violations regardless of which party in the conflict allegedly committed the relevant acts or omissions, and report thereon to international, regional and national human rights mechanisms;
  - Objectively and impartially assess the human rights situation and advise on the respect, promotion and protection of human rights and humanitarian law in conflict and in post-conflict periods;
  - Take measures for the prevention of human rights violations, including against the most vulnerable, marginalized and minorities groups in fragile situations;
  - Carry out systematic communications with authorities with the aim of providing information and recommendations on the measures required to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with international and regional standards;
  - Promote a dialogue between and with conflicting parties aiming to ensure the promotion, protection and respect of human rights, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups;
  - Establish close partnership with civil society organizations, engage with relevant state institutions, and establish communication with representatives of authorities and non-state actors who *de facto* act on behalf of the parties to the conflict;
  - Take steps to ensure human rights are placed at the center of negotiations between the conflicting parties, including in peace agreements, and monitor their implementation;
  - Advise and advocate for the promotion, protection and respect of the rights of refugees and IDPs (displaced as a consequence of conflict),
  - Take measures to overcome the consequences of conflict in society, address past human rights violations that occurred in the context of conflict(s), contribute to the fight against impunity, promote transitional justice processes, facilitate access to justice for those affected by the conflict, including through effective investigations and reparations, to build peace, reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion;
  - Hold information campaigns, undertake human rights education, training and awareness raising, including for armed forces and law enforcement agencies and monitor compliance with standards of international human rights and humanitarian law in the context of conflict;
  - Involve international organizations in ensuring the protection of human rights in a conflict area; and
  - Support the development of equality and human rights, including economic and social rights, in building a peaceful and just society.
- In no way do the above objectives limit National Human Rights Institutions in taking other measures they consider necessary for the promotion and protection of human rights. However, the guarantees of fulfillment by National Human Rights Institutions of the above-mentioned obligations should be supported as follows:
- International bodies, national authorities, and representatives of the conflicting parties should support the activities of National Human Rights Institutions in a conflict or post-conflict situation;
  - National Human Rights Institutions should not be subject to reprisals nor any other form of intimidation as a result of their mandated activities and enjoy freedom from interference and continue to enjoy functional immunity to perform their functions in conflict areas;
  - National Human Rights Institutions should be provided with sufficient resources to carry out the important role of promotion and protection of human rights in conflict areas, including financial and human resources, capacity building, and training for staff;
  - National legislation should provide adequate guarantees and support for the work of National Human Rights Institutions during conflicts, and allow for their internal structures to reflect the context in which they operate in line with the Paris Principles; and
  - The ICC and its regional networks, as well as their partners at the United Nations – building on the UNDP-OHCHR-ICC Tripartite Strategic Partnership – should continue to support NHRIs’ cooperation, capacity building, and sharing of experiences in relation to conflict and post-conflict situations.



## BACKGROUND

The importance of respecting and protecting human rights in conflict situations was established several decades ago, along with humanitarian law for the protection of persons in armed conflict. There is now an increasing awareness of the connections between human rights and conflict prevention and conflict management, given that promoting and protecting human rights can reduce the likelihood of conflicts beginning. In addition, the UN Secretary General launched the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) initiative in 2013 to “improve UN action to safeguard human rights around the world.”

The purpose of this initiative is to “ensure the UN system takes early and effective action, as mandated by the Charter and UN resolutions, to prevent or respond to large-scale violations of human rights or international humanitarian law.”

The legal framework regarding accountability for serious human rights violations that occur in conflict, violating international humanitarian law, as well as the rights of victims, has been defined and refined in the last two decades.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), as mechanisms that are independent from the government, can play an important role in preventing conflicts and ensuring respect for human rights and their protection in conflict and post-conflict situations. In Ukraine, the Ombudsperson’s Office, since the beginning of the conflict, has been actively engaged in responding to human rights violations resulting from the conflict. This work has often been conducted jointly with human rights organizations and civil society.

However, NHRIs are often not considered by governments and conflict parties to be key institutions for

helping to prevent conflict, responding to humanitarian crisis, or contributing to ensuring the protection of human rights and human security during crisis or conflict. Guidance and understanding of the roles of NHRIs in countries have been well established. However, the Paris Principles were generally designed with principles of democracy intact, hence international organizations, NHRIs and academics have increasingly focused on the question, “What, then, is the role of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations?”

As independent and local bodies of human rights knowledge, NHRIs are well-placed to understand the causes of conflict and to propose solutions for it. Critical roles NHRIs play in conflict situations include: monitoring and documenting human rights situations (including those of refugees and IDPs), advising governments on law and policy, contributing to the protection of rights of vulnerable groups during a conflict, facilitating dialogues, and monitoring peace agreements. By fulfilling these functions and promoting human rights, NHRIs can play active roles in managing, and responding to, conflict.

During times of conflict, it is important for NHRIs to develop flexible strategies for responding to new crises. NHRIs should be active in engaging with political stakeholders, understanding the various perspectives of those involved in conflict, and should promote solutions to causes of conflict. NHRIs must ensure an active and systematic approach to human rights so as to effectively monitor, protect, and promote them. NHRIs also can play an important role in identifying the needs of, and particular measures to protect, vulnerable groups in conflict, such as women and children, minorities, refugees and IDPs.

In post-conflict situations, NHRIs are also well-positioned to investigate allegations of human rights abuses committed during conflict, and then provide such evidence in forums, such as tribunals. They can also play an important role for the setup of referral mechanisms and facilitate access to justice and remedies for conflict-affected populations. Given their independent status and role as promoter and protector of human rights, NHRIs should be able to criticize governments and others who have committed human rights violations.

Furthermore, NHRIs can, more widely, assess the functions and operations of police and governmental ministries to identify if administrative systems in post-conflict regions are working properly, and to suggest improvements. In addition, NHRIs can engage with legislative actors, serve as participants of constitution drafting, and act as observers during elections.

NHRIs can also play a vital role as institutions of accountability in the post-2015 development framework. In particular, but not exclusively, they should advise governments and partners on the implementation of the proposed Sustainable Development Goal 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

The roles of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are important and significant, and learning from peer institutions is vital for NHRIs to enhance their capacities to act in these situations. Building this capacity and connecting NHRI actors is central to the goals of the International Conference on the Role of NHRIs in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations.



## PODIUM DISCUSSION: NHRIs' ROLE IN THE CONFLICT SITUATION: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Moderator:

**Mr. Andriy Kulikov**, Journalist

### Panelists:

**Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska**,

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for  
Human Rights;

**Mr. Les Allamby**,

Chief Commissioner Northern Ireland  
Human Rights Commission;

**Ms. Jasminka Džumhur**,

Ombudsman, Institution of Human Rights  
Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

**Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili**,

Public Defender of Georgia;

**Mr. Mihail Cotorobai**,

People's Advocate of the Republic of  
Moldova;

**Mr. Šucko Bakovic**,

Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms  
of Montenegro - Ombudsman;

**Mr. Juris Jansons**,

Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

*This session focused on the role of NHRIs during and after conflict, their role in preventing conflict, the main challenges for NHRIs to fulfill their responsibilities, and how NHRIs attempt to prevent serious human rights violations. In addition, the session considered how NHRIs work with conflicting parties, as well as the role that NHRIs play in order to stop conflict, promote dialogue, and build peace. Finally, the session considered important lessons learned related to the role of NHRIs in a conflict situation.*

*The Panelists were the heads of the NHRIs/Ombudspersons from Ukraine, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Latvia.*

### During conflict

- In this first plenary session, a number of issues were highlighted that related to the role of NHRIs in conflict situations. NHRIs play a central role in proactively contributing to human rights protection, restoring rule of law, and providing assistance to victims of human rights violations in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- In many conflict and post-conflict situations, such as Georgia and the countries of the former Yugoslavia, among the priority issues are support by NHRIs to persons affected by conflict, and facilitating access to identity documentation and social security.
- An important function of NHRIs is to establish direct contact with de-facto authorities in territories separated as the results of a conflict. Another function of NHRIs is to give information about the human rights situation in areas affected by conflict, including through the media. It was emphasized that NHRIs have to focus on both, the protection and the promotion of human rights in conflict situations. Documentation of serious human rights violations, such as cases of torture, inhumane treatment, or taking hostages, is another important task of NHRIs that should be prioritized during conflict.
- In general, it is important for NHRIs to be empowered by governments in conflict and post-conflict settings in order for NHRIs to foster the application of human rights standards based on justice, neutrality, accuracy, and persistence. The international community's support to NHRIs in dealing with conflict is important, as is cooperation between NHRIs from different countries for the purpose of joint learning and the provision of mutual assistance.
- Furthermore, the role of civil society is crucial in responding to human rights violations. There is also value in intensifying collaboration between NHRIs and civil society in order to build a joint platform for action.

### NHRI's role in the peacebuilding process

- NHRIs play an important role in the peacebuilding process, with several NHRIs being established as part of peace agreements (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Northern Ireland). To contribute to building peace and reconciliation between different groups in a society, NHRIs need to focus on civil and political, economic, social, and cultural rights.
- Furthermore, as stated by the panelist from Northern Ireland, the issues of trust, justice and reparations are in the focus of NHRIs' contribution to peacebuilding.
- In post-conflict settings, the role of NHRIs is to monitor and advise the government whether new legislation and policies are human rights compliant.

### Prevention

- NHRIs should also focus on the prevention of serious human rights violations, as systematic denial of human rights leads to conflict.



## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Take measures to identify early signs of possible conflict and steps to prevent conflict, including through addressing the violations of human rights;
- Carry out systematic communications with authorities with the aim of providing information and recommendations on the measures required to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with international and regional standards;
- Take steps to ensure human rights are placed at the center of negotiations between the conflicting parties, including in peace agreements, and monitor their implementation;
- Involve international organizations in ensuring the protection of human rights in a conflict area.

## SESSION: RIGHT TO LIFE

### Moderator:

**Marc Bojanic,**  
UN Human Rights Monitoring  
Mission to Ukraine

### Panelists:

**Alain Aeschliman,**  
Head of International Committee  
of the Red Cross Delegation in  
Ukraine;

**Rada Kafedzic,**  
Assistant Ombudsman Bosnia  
and Herzegovina;

**Yurii Belousov,**  
Representative of the Ukrainian  
Parliament Commissioner for  
Human Rights, Director of the  
Department for Implementation  
of the National Preventive  
Mechanism;

**Dr. Salama al-Khafaji**  
Board Member, High  
Commission for Human Rights  
in Iraq.

***This session focused on  
how NHRIs contribute to  
protecting the right to  
life and physical integrity  
in conflict, how they  
contribute to respecting  
international humanitarian  
law, and how they  
contribute to investigating  
alleged extra-judicial  
killings by conflicting  
parties.***

***Panelists included  
representatives from  
Ukraine, Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, and Iraq.***

### Key contributions

- The rule of law is a key to upholding human rights. Human rights awareness is important for all levels of society. It is important to respect the dignity of prisoners, and NHRIs need to work on documenting violations during the conflict, and activating early warning mechanisms in the post-conflict scenarios.
- The right to life is clearly respected in the Bosnian Constitution. Bosnia has had a great deal of experience in interpretation of International Humanitarian Law, considering its violent past and the war crimes that occurred in the 1990s.
- In Ukraine, there is active monitoring of all detention and prison facilities, in particular, within the ATO zone and the importance of maintaining impartiality is recognized.
- Stressing and preserving the impartiality of NHRIs at all times is crucial, as well as raising awareness of the principles of international humanitarian law at all levels.
- CSOs also can play important role for example to communicate with IDPs and advocate for better protection of human rights.

## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Hold information campaigns, undertake human rights education, conduct training and awareness raising including for armed forces and law enforcement agencies, and to monitor compliance with standards of international human rights and humanitarian law in the context of conflict;
- Support the development of equality and human rights, including economic and social rights, in building a peaceful and just society.

# DAY 1

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS





## SESSION: RIGHT TO PROPERTY

### Moderator:

**Ms. Jasminka Dzumhur,**  
Ombudsman, the Institute of  
Human Rights Ombudsman of  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Panelists:

**Mr. Sucko Bakovic,**  
Protector of Human Rights and  
Freedoms of Montenegro;

**Ms. Liljana Ilievska,**  
State Counsellor to the  
Ombudsman of the Republic of  
Macedonia;

**Ms. Medea Turashvili,**  
Adviser of the Public Defender of  
Georgia;

**Ms. Debbie Kohner,**  
Secretary General of the European  
Network of National Human Rights  
Institutions;

**Ms. Zhanna Lukyanenko,**  
Representative of the Ukrainian  
Parliament Commissioner for  
Human Rights for Observance of  
the Rights of Internally Displaced  
Persons.

***This session focused on critical challenges of protecting the right to property, as well as best practices of NHRIs regarding property restitution. The session also considered how NHRIs in the former Yugoslavia have collaborated on issues of property and entitlement in order to bring about resolution on a transnational basis.***

***Panelists included representatives from Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), and Ukraine.***

### Montenegro

- In Montenegro, the Office of the Ombudsman played a key role handling complaints regarding the restitution of property after the adoption of the Law on Restitution of Property. The Ombudsman reports every year to Parliament on issues of restitution. The Constitution of Montenegro safeguards the right to property, and commitments have been made to observe international law in this regard. The transformation of the right to property started in 1992, when the constitutional changes were made in the area of property reform, as privatization and other relevant legal restrictions were imposed.
- The right to property is closely linked to the nationalization process in post-communist countries.

### Georgia

- In the Georgian context, war crimes and crimes against humanity have included violations of right to property. Georgia has been addressing property rights as a result of conflicts in the early 1990s and in 2008. In the 1990s, the property issues in the conflict were not as acute, given that property had been abandoned and were occupied by others. In 2008 conflict resulted in sizeable destruction of property, for example in South Ossetia where property was destroyed, thousands of IDPs fled the country.
- The Government of Georgia has worked on the resettlement and accommodation of 50,000 IDPs. In 2008, NGOs prepared cases for the European Court of Human Rights, and facilitated collective applications from the occupied territories. Individual responsibility was also considered, e.g. intentional destruction of property belonging to another ethnicity. Thus, individual responsibility during conflict should not be overlooked.
- The Office of Public Defender recorded cases of illegal destruction of property in 2008 in the occupied territories, with some cases still forthcoming. Many international organizations refer people to the Public Defense Office in Georgia, but people in the occupied territories are reluctant to apply for remedies.

### Ukraine

- For restitution of property in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights advised people to properly record the damage and losses of their property in the territories not controlled by Ukraine. However, the procedures of recording this damage are yet to be clarified, as are the requirements for receiving compensation. The responsibility of the state is also not yet clear.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20 years after the conflict, IDPs still face many issues, such as limited access to schools, inability to contribute to municipal fees, and legalization of property. The Ombudsman may address this only through designing a clear plan, requesting the state to establish the legal framework, and providing adequate funding.
- The Ombudsman<sup>3</sup> also dealt with issues related to the protection of rights of refugees from Croatia and Kosovo\* working in close collaboration with other NHRIs from the sub-region. This example shows the importance and potential of regional collaboration between NHRIs.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Carver states that, in the former Yugoslavia, "NHRIs meet on a regular basis to resolve common issues and share best practice and have, for the most part, developed good working relations. This is no small matter, considering that several of the States were at war with each other within recent memory...In 2011 ombudsman institutions in the region signed a formal memorandum of collaboration." (Carver, Richard. "National Human Rights Institutions, Displacement and Human Security," in *Human Security and International Law: The Challenge of Non-State-Actors*, eds. Cedric Ryngaert and Math Noortmann (Cambridge; Antwerp; Portland: Intersentia, 2014), 75-99. Quote from pp.96-97.)



## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- *Support the development of equality and human rights, including economic and social rights, in building a peaceful and just society.*

\*All references to Kosovo are to be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

## SESSION: VULNERABLE GROUPS & VICTIMS

### Moderator:

**Ms. Isabelle Tschan,**

Programme Specialist, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Justice and Security, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS

### Panelists:

**Mr. Mihail Cotorobai,**

People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova;

**Mr. Levent Korkut,**

Board Member of NHRI of Turkey, Human Rights Institute of Turkey;

**Mr. Oleksandr Gatiatulin,**

All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV

*This session focused on NHRIs' role in protecting vulnerable groups in conflict.*

*The session started with a discussion about how victims of conflict are defined and how NHRIs can define and identify vulnerable groups, as well as how NHRIs ensure protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, while at the same time maintaining their impartiality and equal protection for all.*

*Panelists included representatives from Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine.*

### Definition of vulnerability

- The topic of vulnerable groups has evolved greatly in the last 50 years; in the 1960s, the concept of vulnerability did not exist. While there is still no international legal definition available on vulnerability, the topic of vulnerability is gaining traction. Vulnerable people can be defined, for instance, due to their age, gender, physical or mental state, or social and economic situations. Cultural context plays a central part when defining and assessing the vulnerability of a group. Furthermore, when assessing vulnerability, the situation before and after a crisis is significant.
- In the case of a conflict, everyone can be vulnerable, given that some people will stay in conflict-affected areas and some will need to flee the country. However, some groups, such as women and children, national minorities, and prisoners, become particularly vulnerable and are in need of special protection.

### Role of NHRIs

- NHRIs can play a vital role in the protection of vulnerable groups during conflict. Examples were given of the vital cooperation between NHRIs and CSOs, innovative tools of communication, and new technology that can be helpful where access to conflict-affected areas and people is difficult.
- In the case of peacebuilding, the role of NHRIs should not be an arbitrary one, but one of advocacy for human rights standards and in preventing opposing sides from hiding mass killings. In addition, NHRIs need to remember that complaints need to be processed in a timely fashion.
- Different tools are available for NHRIs to do their work and assess vulnerability, such as: reporting; statistics; creating fact sheets; advocacy to protect vulnerable persons; urging government to establish new measures for newly detected problems; campaigns; publications (e.g. small brochures, and pamphlets); lobbying for new laws and regulations; and building communication.
- NHRIs have a special role in contributing to further dialogue between groups. The key role of NHRIs is, first, to try to prevent marginalization. Second, NHRIs need to inform the public and ensure transparency. Third, they need to attempt to prevent crimes and impunity. Fourth, NHRIs need to support the establishment of protection networks. Fifth, they need to detect all kinds of discrimination. Finally, they need to work on issues related to detention, such as detention without trial, and verbal and physical abuse.
- It was also noted that NHRIs' representatives and other human rights defenders, such as monitoring units, can become vulnerable, as well, and it is important to take care of their safety, and assess risks individually.

### Vulnerability in prisons

- The role of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in monitoring is important, as their monitoring visits can make a difference in protecting vulnerable groups in prison. Furthermore, the NPM and NHRIs, in collaboration with CSOs, can be effective in protecting vulnerable groups.
- In the context of conflict, the NPM can play an important role, especially in protecting the rights of prisoners.



- In Ukraine, there have been challenges in prisons (in conflict-affected areas) in terms of supplies (i.e. medicines have not always been available), and the All-Ukrainian Network has been trying to supply them. While the government is supposed to ensure the care of inmates, currently the government is not fulfilling its obligations; inmates with HIV are the most vulnerable.

## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- *Take measures for the prevention of human rights violations, including against the most vulnerable, marginalized and minorities groups in fragile situations;*
- *Promote a dialogue between and with conflicting parties aiming to ensure the promotion, protection and respect of human rights, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups;*

Furthermore, the *Declaration* states that *National Human Rights Institutions should not be subject to reprisals nor any other form of intimidation as a result of their mandated activities and enjoy freedom from interference and continue to enjoy functional immunity to perform their functions in conflict areas.*



## SESSION: PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

### Moderator:

**Ms. Gabrielle Akimova,**  
Child Protection Specialist,  
UNICEF Ukraine

### Panelists:

**Ms. Monika Čavlović,**  
Advisor to the Ombudsman of the  
Republic of Croatia,

**Mr. Tigran Areyan,**  
Head of Staff at the Office of the  
Human Rights Defender of the  
Republic of Armenia;

**Ms. Aksana Filipishyna,**  
Representative of the Ukrainian  
Parliament Commissioner for  
Human Rights for the rights of  
the child, non-discrimination and  
gender equality;

**Ms. Annette Lyth,**  
UNICEF Ukraine, Child Protection  
Sub-cluster coordinator

***This session focused on special measures that need to be taken by NHRIs to protect women and children during conflict, as well as their specific vulnerabilities, and specific measures that should be taken by NHRIs to contribute to reparations for children and women who have become victims of conflict-related violence. Note that, while the session included concerns about protecting both women and children, the session focused mostly on the latter.***

***Panelists included NHRI representatives from Croatia, Armenia, and Ukraine.***

### Children

- NHRIs have an important role in making the experience of children visible in conflict and post-conflict settings. The main tools for addressing the challenges of children's rights include: the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Optional Protocols; NHRIs being accessible (having access to children) and being proactive (i.e. going out to schools); reaching out to children and groups (through modern technologies, SMS systems, internet, etc.); considering the views of children; and effective reporting.
- In addition to hearing about the experiences of children, their *ideas* are important and can be valued; thus, listening to them is important and their participation in the work of institutions is crucial. This can occur through institutionalizing mechanisms, such as advisory boards involving children on a regular basis, and ad hoc consultations, i.e. hearings, interviews, etc.
- Despite cuts in institutional budgets due to economic problems, adequate budgeting for children's rights and proactively convincing government on these issues is critical for an effective response to issues related to children's rights. Along with this, monitoring mechanisms over local administrations are important so as to ensure that funds are used for their intended purposes.

### Ukraine

- In Ukraine, the conflict has led to social and economic crises that have had an impact on children, and there is a special representative for children's rights in the Ombudsman's Office. The special representative cooperates with NGOs and has an expert group which is composed of NGOs, human rights organizations, and international organizations. The violence and child abuse is a major concern, and socio-economic abuse of children exists as a result of the conflict. Cases of sexual abuse of children, including from military officers, have been reported.
- Public institutions are slow to respond to challenges about the right to life of the conflict-affected population, and the quality of services for children is poor. There is also a strong need for further psychological support for IDP children.

### Armenia

- In Armenia, violence against women is a serious problem, including psychological, economical and physical violence against families. The economic situation is still a remaining concern, and there has been no improvement regarding women's employment. Mechanisms for data collection on the situation of women and children should be established in order to develop effective policies.



## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Take measures for the prevention of human rights violations, including against the most vulnerable, marginalized and minority groups in fragile situations;
- Promote a dialogue between and with conflicting parties aiming to ensure the promotion, protection and respect of human rights, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups.



## PODIUM DISCUSSION: DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST- CONFLICT SETTINGS

### Moderator:

**Mr. David Mark,**

Human Rights Adviser/Capacity Building  
Coordinator, OSCE Office for Democratic  
Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

### Panelists:

**Mr. Uladzimir Shcherbau,**

United Nations Human Rights Monitoring  
Mission in Ukraine;

**Ms. Oleksandra Matviychuk,**

Head of the Board of the Center  
for Civil Liberties;

**Mr. Andrei Yurov,**

Crimean Field Human  
Rights Monitoring Mission;

**Mr. Volodymyr Shcherbachenko,**

Coordinator, Justice for Peace in Donbass  
Coalition

*This session focused on the role of NHRIs in documenting human rights violations in conflict, and how the expertise and capacities of NHRIs and their partners (related to documenting human rights violations in the context of conflict) can be built. The session also considered how to ensure NHRI staff receive access to conflict-affected areas to document human rights violations, how the security of NHRI staff can be ensured, and how to use documentation after a conflict to fulfill NHRIs' responsibilities. The short video, "Surviving Hell," was viewed in this session, and it highlighted testimonies of victims of illegal detention in Donbass.*

*Panelists included representatives from Ukraine and the Crimea Field Human Rights Monitoring Mission.*

### Ukraine - Justice for Peace in Donbass Coalition

- The Justice for Peace in Donbass Coalition is an NGO coalition conducting human rights monitoring in conflict-affected areas in Eastern Ukraine. It works in cooperation with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and uses various ways of documenting human rights violations, such as witness interviews and video. It is desired that data that has been documented can be used by national and international courts. Assistance from the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights enables the Coalition to gain access that would otherwise be unreachable.

### United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission

- The mandate of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission (HMM) in Ukraine followed the Maidan events, and HMM is monitoring, *inter alia*, in Crimea, Donbass, Kharkiv, and Kramatorsk. The HMM Office in Ukraine issued 11 reports on human rights violations. Hundreds of civilians have been killed and injured, hundreds of interviews have been conducted, and meetings with victims of conflict have been held. Challenges include issues with law enforcement, and people that are stressed and disoriented. Documentation is only part of the process, however, as an important consideration is whether data collected can be used in legal proceedings.
- Information about human rights violations is gathered by CSOs, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the OHCHR Monitoring Mission, though better coordination is needed.

### Crimean Field Human Rights Monitoring Mission

- Monitoring by human rights groups took place in Ukraine in collaboration with international and national institutions. The Crimean Field Human Rights Monitoring Mission was established in March 2014. It consisted of volunteers, defenders, activists and experts, and aimed to inform national and international stakeholders on the human rights situation in Crimea. It is claimed that, in Crimea, there is no source of independent information, and an initiative will likely be established to address freedom of expression.
- The relations between NHRIs and CSOs should be not only strengthened and developed, but also institutionalized. Furthermore, often the work of NHRIs of one country is not enough. It is important to cooperate with the NHRIs in neighboring countries to more quickly resolve conflicts.

### OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

- The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) was not able to access Crimea despite its efforts. Talking to IDPs, conducting interviews, and acquiring information was completed. Efforts were made not to bring harm, and a number of problems were identified with freedom of expression and freedom of movement.

DAY 1

21-22 OCTOBER 2015 21-22 ЖОВТНЯ 2015  
KYIV, UKRAINE КИЇВ, УКРАЇНА

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE МІЖНАРОДНА КОНФЕРЕНЦІЯ

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS  
IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

РОЛЬ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИХ ІНСТИТУТІВ  
ПРАВ ЛЮДИН У КОНФЛІКТІ  
ПОСТ-КОНФЛІКТНИХ СИТУАЦІЯХ

## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Monitor the situation of human rights in accordance with international and regional human rights standards, documenting

and responding to violations regardless of which party in the conflict allegedly committed the relevant acts or omissions, and report thereon to international, regional and national human rights mechanisms;

- Objectively and impartially assess the human rights situation and advise on the respect, promotion and protection of human rights and humanitarian law in conflict and in post-conflict periods.

## PODIUM DISCUSSION: PROTECTING IDPS' RIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Moderator:

**Mr. Pavlo Kazarin,**  
Journalist

### Panelists:

**Mr. Sozar Subari,**  
Minister of Internally Displaced  
Persons from the Occupied Territories,  
Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia;

**Ms. Zhanna Lukianenko,**  
Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament  
Commissioner for Human Rights for  
Observance of the Rights of Internally  
Displaced Persons;

**Mr. Mauricio Redondo,**  
Ombudsman Delegate for IDPs' rights,  
Colombia;

**Ms. Monika Čavlović,**  
Advisor to the Ombudsman of the Republic  
of Croatia

*This session focused on how NHRIs have contributed to addressing any tensions between host communities and IDPs. It also considered issues related to protecting the rights of IDPs (i.e. the key measures needed to ensure that protection), as well as how NHRIs should prevent and respond to discrimination and stigma of IDPs, and how they can promote and facilitate their integration.*

*Panelists included representatives from Georgia, Ukraine, Colombia, and Croatia.*

- Creating proper social conditions to enable the return of IDPs is important. Challenges and risks related to IDPs should not be underestimated, and it is important to foresee and consider not only immediate, but also future IDP-related problems, as experiences from the former Yugoslavia demonstrate. Furthermore, policies and/or mechanisms for the protection of the rights of IDPs should be ensured, and the efforts of the state, society and international community should be consolidated.
- Key duties of NHRIs in conflict situations includes speaking out about rules and obligations related to ensuring the protection of human rights of IDPs, and openly drawing attention to the facts of any violations to their human rights. Durable solutions for IDPs have to be considered and developed, including the development of state programs to facilitate their return.
- Central challenges that countries face (or might face in the future) that are related to IDPs include the issue of the social re-integration of IDPs; the lack of unified IDP Registries and clear categories of assistance provision; social exclusion of former IDPs; and the concern that IDPs will remain totally dependent on social allowances and not shift to proactive positions or seek employment.

## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Advise and advocate for the promotion, protection and respect of the rights of refugees and IDPs (displaced as a consequence of conflict).



# DAY 2

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS



## SESSION: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### Moderator:

**Mr. Bruce Adamson,**  
Human Rights Expert

### Panelists:

**Mr. Sucko Bakovic,**  
Ombudsman of Montenegro;

**Mr. Sozar Subari,**  
Minister of Internally Displaced  
Persons from the Occupied  
Territories, Accommodation and  
Refugees of Georgia;

**Mr. Heorhiy Lohvynskyy,**  
Head of Sub-committee on IDPs  
rights, Ukrainian Parliament

***This session focused on the appropriate national legal framework for the protection of IDPs' rights, key legislative elements which need to be regulated to ensure durable solutions for IDPs, and what might be the role of NHRIs with regard to advocacy and providing advice for the development and implementation of the national legal framework.***

***Panelists included NHRI representatives from Montenegro, Georgia, and Ukraine.***

### National regulatory frameworks

- The protection of IDPs can only be guaranteed through detailed legal frameworks. However, no matter how good a regulatory framework and policy may be, the implementation of legal norms is the most important.
- NHRIs can advocate for the adoption of adequate national legal frameworks for the protection of the rights of IDPs. For example, it is important that governments avoid discrimination and segregation of IDPs. Governments need to ensure that national legislation guarantees rights to IDPs and that obligations of the state towards them are in-line with international standards and guidelines. At the same time, legislation should be aimed at durable solutions, including integration, reintegration, and compensation for IDPs. The long-term goal should be the dignified and safe return of IDPs. Furthermore, good cooperation between NHRIs and government is of paramount importance for implementing national legislation; in some cases, cross-border cooperation is needed to protect the rights of IDPs. In order to handle an IDP crisis, the state needs to ensure that the regulatory framework is detailed and in-line with international regulations and standards. This includes issues related to applications concerning, inter alia, the registration of IDPs and their compensation. Furthermore, the implementation of the regulatory framework greatly depends upon the economic situation of the country.
- Experience in Ukraine shows that one of the main factors in guaranteeing the rights of IDPs is to respond to a crisis immediately, even if there is no regulatory framework in the country. One of the main factors in guaranteeing rights of IDPs is to respond to the crisis immediately, even if there is no regulatory framework in the country. It is possible to regulate the status of IDPs through by-laws, as done by Montenegro during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

### Integration and return of IDPs, and discrimination

- Special attention should focus on durable housing solutions of IDPs. However, governments should avoid collective accommodation for IDPs, given that it hinders their integration. There are two possible ways of bringing about resolve to issues related to IDPs: their integration into the society or their return to their place of domicile. Given that the second option is often difficult to implement, governments should focus on the first option and ensure that IDPs do have the possibility of full integration into society through granting them the same rights as other citizens, as well as granting them with official status and providing them with allowances.
- Special attention should also focus on the implementation of rights enshrined in laws, as IDPs may face discrimination, especially those who are minorities, like the Romani, and IDPs with different national or ethnic minorities and/or religion. The cases of discrimination are quite often revealed in employment relations.



## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Objectively and impartially assess the human rights situation and advise on the respect, promotion and protection of human rights and humanitarian law in conflict and in post-conflict periods.



## SESSION: DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR IDPs

### Moderator:

**Ms. Zhanna Lukianenko,**  
Representative of the Ukrainian  
Parliament Commissioner for  
Human Rights for Observance of  
the Rights of Internally Displaced  
Persons

### Panelists:

**Ms. Monika Čavlović,**  
Advisor to the Ombudsman of the  
Republic of Croatia;

**Mr. Mukhtar Kozhoshev,**  
Deputy Ombudsman  
of the Kyrgyz Republic;

**Ms. Eugenia Andreuk,**  
from Crimea SOS CSO - IDPs  
Resource Center at the Office  
of the Ukrainian Parliament  
Commissioner on Human Rights.

*This session focused on  
how NHRIs can contribute  
to the identification and  
implementation of durable  
solution for IDPs, as well as  
what the key challenges are  
for the identification and  
implementation of durable  
solutions.*

*Panelists included NHRI  
representatives from Croatia,  
the Kyrgyz Republic and  
Ukraine.*

### Role of NHRIs

- In order to identify durable solutions for IDPs, it is important for NHRIs to gather accurate, updated and complete information on the needs of IDPs, their complaints, and available resources. To best achieve this, exchanges with civil society organizations are extremely valuable, due to their wide presence in the field.
- Through various tools at their disposal (i.e. reports, opinions, recommendations, proposals, warnings), NHRIs have to raise awareness of institutions (i.e. parliament, government), the public, and international stakeholders whose support is essential for drafting and implementing policies on durable solutions. NHRIs need to ensure appropriate follow up. While implementing durable solutions for IDPs, commitment, consistency, and impact assessments are essential.
- NHRIs need to remain outside of politics, protecting citizens' rights in compliance with national laws and international instruments signed by the state. NHRIs need to help restore rights, draft recommendations, propose improvements, organize educational programmes, and engage with media, if necessary, especially if a violation is of public significance or regards vulnerable groups.
- It is often difficult for IDPs to envision living again in their former homeland and, therefore, they must become integrated into their new locations. Durable solutions involve employment, and durable reintegration involves offering to IDPs an equal access to social care and education. In some towns, public institutions (e.g. schools) are insufficient to face an influx of IDPs. Furthermore, IDPs with low or no income cannot access paid medical services.

### Ukraine

- In the Ukrainian context, IDPs have been discriminated against in their access to accommodation. Some IDPs have gone back to their homeland though it is unsafe, given that they cannot afford living elsewhere. This is a new trend that needs to be reversed, and long-term programmes are needed. However, the international community is focused more on the conflict in the East than on developing programmes. Ukrainian civil society and NGOs need to advise the international community, and a greater coordination is necessary between these parties.
- In Ukraine, solutions for IDPs, in regard to access to social care and education, have not yet been created. Ensuring respect for the political and civil rights of IDPs is also a challenge. For example, the right to political participation of IDPs will not be fully respected, as they will not be able to vote in the local elections (25 October 2015).

### Iraq

- In the Iraqi context, it was stated that there could be a gap between regions left by IDPs and their new locations, in terms of, *inter alia*, culture, language, and environment. IDPs are sometimes afraid to return to liberated places, and the government should support local communities to expand services (especially schools and mobile clinics).

## Turkey and Croatia

- In Turkey, after having lived in large cities, many IDPs do not wish to return to their former villages, and thus the UNDP has focused on reintegration programmes to meet their needs.
- In Croatia, IDPs continue to be psychologically affected, though the international community, NGOs and volunteers have provided significant support. It was reported that, in Croatia, older IDPs make the wish to return to their homeland to be buried after they die.

## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Advise and advocate for the promotion, protection and respect of the rights of refugees and IDPs (displaced as a consequence of conflict).



## SESSION: RECONCILIATION AND PEACEBUILDING

### Moderator:

**Mr. Stan Veitsman,**

Peace & Development Advisor,  
Office of the United Nations  
Resident Coordinator in Ukraine

### Panelists:

**Ms. Jasminka Džumhur,**

Ombudsman, Institution of Human  
Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia  
and Herzegovina;

**Mr. Les Allamby,**

Chief Commissioner, Northern  
Ireland Human Rights Commission;

**Mr. Mauricio Redondo,**

Delegate Ombudsman of Colombia  
for the IDPs' rights;

**Ms. Aideen Gilmore,**

Human Rights Expert.

*This session focused on the  
role of NHRIs in matters  
of reconciliation and  
peacebuilding, how NHRIs have  
worked with different parties in  
conflict, and mechanisms that  
have ensured access to justice  
for conflict affected-victims.*

*Panelists included  
representatives from Bosnia  
and Herzegovina, Northern  
Ireland, and Colombia.*

### Victims and reconciliation

- Three different conflicts with very different contexts were presented in this session. These included Bosnia and Herzegovina, Northern Ireland, and Colombia. In short, it was stated that there can be no sustainable society or social cohesion without a concept of peace, and inclusion and participation are equally important for a solution. Furthermore, it is important to give voice to victims, though it should be remembered that people from different sides of a conflict can have different ideas of "truth." In seeking truth, people need to listen, though this does not mean that they must agree.
- Although conflict may have stopped for several years, there are always possibilities for conflict to relapse. It is important, therefore, to create an enabling environment for reconciliation. NHRIs can play a role of hearing grievances and giving voice to those who have suffered.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina concluded in 1995 after the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA) which gave the country a new Constitution. The issue now is how to proceed further with necessary constitutional amendments. One of the proposals is that peace agreements need to be limited in time in order to provide space for a state's development after the end of a conflict. Remaining questions relate to truth seeking mechanisms, and whether amnesty can be applied.
- International standards, including in the sphere of international criminal law, clearly state that amnesty cannot be applied for war crimes or torture. As for truth-seeking mechanisms, there were several initiatives in 1996-2001 to establish a truth commission. While it is important for this to be facilitated through the justice system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is not able to deal with all cases and thus is not able to provide justice for victims.
- It is important to establish facts within the context of the disappearance of persons during war, including completing DNA tests and compiling a list of all who disappeared.
- Attention should be on victims and the participation of women. Furthermore, NHRIs should insist on the advancement of legislation, and create NHRI advisory boards (including women) in order to give a voice for vulnerable persons.

### Colombia

- In the Colombian context, long conflict has resulted in a high number of victims and high polarization of the society. Truth, justice, and compensation were three key principles for moving forward. The concept of transitional justice in Colombia is rather close to the concept of truth and reparations, and thus those who have committed crimes need to recognize that they have committed crimes and commit to not returning to violence again.
- The constitution of Colombia is based on key principles of human rights, but an article to address reconciliation was added to the constitution to reflect the needs in the country. The NHRI was established based on that article. The conflict has lasted 50 years in Colombia and the NHRI is a strong actor in the peacebuilding process.
- Colombia has a special law to pay reparations for victims of armed conflict. The Ombudsperson's Office operates in the framework of



the reparation's law and is 50% underfunded. There is a need to keep interest from the international community in resolving the conflict.

- It was also underlined that for the NHRI, it is of key importance to take into account the opinion of both sides of a conflict and to be a neutral actor.

## Northern Ireland

- The framework which emerged as a result of the conflict resolution process in Northern Ireland was new for all involved, as was the NHRI concept. As a result, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established as part of the Peace Agreement rooted on principles of human rights and equality. The other important process following the Peace Agreement was the Bill of Rights.
- The NHRI has had challenges addressing in the conflict in Northern Ireland, and human rights are remaining a contested space publicly. There are some people opposing human rights, and some mass-media is hostile towards NHRC. However, economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) have a potential to unite the society. Currently, NHRC is fully compliant with Paris Principles. There are several Ombudspersons dealing with different types of complaints and there needs to be a way found to better work together. Strategic priorities include: embedding a human rights culture in Northern Ireland, promoting ESCR, and focusing on vulnerable persons.
- Contributions from donors were crucial in Northern Ireland, as donors supported both civil society and NHRIs in Northern Ireland. Thus, to ensure success, donors need to support both.
- International legal framework standards were produced for post-conflict societies, rather than for Northern Ireland or Ukraine.
- It is necessary to understand key concepts of human rights (e.g. absolute rights, qualified rights, responsibility) and to apply them.
- Civil society is very vibrant in Northern Ireland, and was involved in documenting the conflict. NHRIs have worked on building capacity of civil society. At the same time, civil society has set up a coalition—the Human Rights Consortium. Working on wide public awareness campaigns, drafting surveys, research, and sociological studies is equally as important as working with politicians. It is valuable to try to begin where people are and to build trust—to engage with people. Strong communication and coordination within the coalition, and also with NHRIs, has been important, as has participation in each other's events. Another important aspect is intelligence exchange.



## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Take measures to overcome the consequences of conflict in society, address past human rights violations that occurred in the context of conflict(s), contribute to the fight against impunity, promote transitional justice processes, facilitate access to justice for those affected by the conflict, including through effective investigations and reparations, to build peace, reconciliation and strengthen social cohesion;
- Promote a dialogue between and with conflicting parties aiming to ensure the promotion, protection and respect of human rights, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- Take steps to ensure human rights are placed at the center of negotiations between the conflicting parties, including in peace agreements, and monitor their implementation.

## PODIUM DISCUSSION: NHRIS AND CIVIL SOCIETY: WORKING TOGETHER ON RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

### Moderator:

**Ms. Tetyana Pechonchyk,**  
Director, Centre for Human Rights  
Information

### Panelists:

**Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili,**  
Public Defender of Georgia;

**Mr. Krzysztof Olkowicz,**  
Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of  
Poland;

**Ms. Eva Grambye,**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Danish Institute for Human Rights;

**Mr. Mykhailo Chaplyga,**  
Representative of the Commissioner – Head  
of the Department for Public Relations and  
Information Technology.

*This session focused on the collaboration of NHRIs and civil society organizations, why it is important for CSOs to collaborate with NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations, and what the best practices of doing so are. Furthermore, the session considered what a “framework for collaboration” might look like, and what the challenges are for effective collaboration.*

*Panelists included representatives from Georgia, Poland, Denmark, and Ukraine.*

### Collaborating with civil society in Georgia, Poland, and Denmark

- The Public Defender’s office in Georgia closely cooperates with NGOs and civil society on different levels, including working with local organizations on local issues, conducting monitoring, assisting with capacity development, and cooperatively organizing conferences and roundtables in cooperation with NGOs. Civil society in some regions, though, is not able to freely cooperate with the public defender’s office. There is a potential to bring stakeholders (i.e. political parties, courts, religious organizations, NGOs) together to bring about better results regarding conflict resolution and conflict-affected populations.
- In September 2015, an NGO representative was appointed as the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland for the first time. He started conducting meetings with grassroots NGOs.
- In Denmark, in addition to a national mandate, the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) conducts international monitoring via cooperation with NGOs in other countries. The framework for cooperation between the NHRI and NGOs evolves when space for dialogue is created. DIHR has been working in Serbia since the mid-1990s. It started with an engagement of NGOs and the state, with DIHR facilitating the dialogue. At that time, civil society was not a homogeneous group, but it was crucial to invite everyone for an effective dialogue. Later, DIHR used this experience in Kyrgyzstan and other countries.

### Collaborating with civil society in Ukraine

- In Ukraine, the Ombudsperson’s Office (OO) is the first institution that has opened its office for civic monitors. Before, NGOs strongly criticized the OO for not being open to cooperation. Now, however, they provide recommendations to the OO on a regular basis, and the OO considers comments about how its performance can be improved. Regional OO representatives have expert councils, and they conduct special trainings in addition to monitoring. This makes the position of the OO stronger.
- In 2014, the OO was the only authority that defended protesters, and it was the only state institution to which they trusted. The OO helped find missing activists, provided legal assistance in Kyiv and other regions, and created a specific mechanism of joint and public proceedings. The current priorities of the OO include the National Preventive Mechanism and IDPs.
- It has become meaningful to cooperate with NGOs to protect citizens from political influence and improve legislation and practice in temporarily occupied and dangerous territories. A resource center for IDPs and those who live on dangerous territories was created, and it became a platform for ministries and for cooperating with NGOs who work with IDPs. Cooperation with NGOs is especially necessary when it comes to occupied territories where the OO cannot get full access to monitoring the situation (i.e. in Ukraine: Crimean Field Mission, Donetsk and Luhansk regions).
- Through more engagement and cooperation, animosity between government and NGOs can be changed. Currently, now that former NGO members have become members of the parliament and government of Ukraine, there is more understanding and cooperation. Furthermore, it was suggested that it is time to involve private sector more into human rights, especially on conflict and post-conflict territories.





## SESSION CONTRIBUTIONS

This session contributed to strengthening understanding of the aspects of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, which established that NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict situations are required to:

- Establish close partnership with civil society organizations, engage with relevant state institutions, and establish communication with representatives of authorities and non-state actors who de facto act on behalf of the parties to the conflict.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Advisory/education/advocacy role (before/during/after conflict)**

- International partners should support the educational role of NHRIs (including as preventive tool) for all levels of society.
- NHRIs should ensure highest standards of impartiality and independence. All parties to the conflict and all victims need to be treated equally.
- NHRIs should make their own investigations and inquiries for human rights violations resulting from conflict. International partners should support building specific experience and expertise for such investigations.
- NHRIs should review and advise on legislative reforms, especially in post-conflict/transition periods. NHRIs should provide guidance on the international legal framework and standards.
- NHRIs should advise on guiding human rights principles for the success of the peacebuilding processes.
- NHRIs should play a key role with regard to early/pre-warning when monitoring the rights of vulnerable/marginalized groups. NPM can contribute and play an important role through monitoring of places of detention.

### **Documentation**

- International partners should strengthen NHRIs capacity to document human rights violations (occurred in the context of conflict). NHRIs need to understand for which purpose facts are documented. Truth-telling can be separate from justice.

- NHRIs should prepare and publicize reports and document women's experiences to include them in transitional justice initiatives.

### **IDPs (status of and legal framework) and vulnerable persons**

- NHRIs should advise on national legal framework and adoption of new state regulations and norms on IDP-related issues, in line with international standards.
- NHRIs should advise central authorities to assist local communities to handle the influx of IDPs and to ensure that all IDPs have an equal access to social care, education and other services.
- NHRIs should advise on the responsibility of the state, as well as the responsibility of individuals in terms of restitution of property. NHRIs should engage in legal trainings for relevant state authorities.
- Governments and NHRIs should work in cooperation and coordination in responding to the challenges children face in conflict. Data collection is an area that is limited, and joint efforts are needed.
- NHRIs should give a voice to the most vulnerable groups in the peacebuilding process and facilitate their inclusion and participation in the peacebuilding and transitional justice processes.

### **Collaboration with CSOs**

- International partners should support close cooperation of NHRIs with civil society, in particular with regard to human rights monitoring, but also referral systems for complaints.



## DAY 1

**09:00-09:30** REGISTRATION / WELCOMING COFFEE

**09:30-10:00** OPENING REMARKS

**Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska**, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights  
**Mr. Neal Walker**, UNDP Resident Representative / UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine  
**Mr. Christian Dons Christensen**, Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia  
**Mr. Gianni Magazzeni**, Chief, Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (video statement)

**10:00-12:00**

**PODIUM DISCUSSION**  
 NHRIS' ROLE IN THE CONFLICT SITUATION: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

**Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska**, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights  
**Mr. Les Allamby**, Chief Commissioner Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission  
**Ms. Jasminka Džumhur**, Ombudsman, Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili**, Public Defender of Georgia  
**Mr. Mihail Cotorobai**, People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova  
**Mr. Šucko Bakovic**, Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro – Ombudsman  
**Mr. Juris Jansons**, Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

*Moderator: Andriy Kulikov, journalist*

**12:00-13:00** REGISTRATION / WELCOMING COFFEE

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**13:00-14:30**

**Session 1.**  
**RIGHT TO LIFE**

*Moderator – Mr. Marc Bojanic, UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine*

**Mr. Alain Aeschlimann**  
 Head of ICRC Mission in Kyiv

**Ms. Rada Kafedžić**,  
 Assistant Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Head of Department for Detainees-Prisoners Rights

**Mr. Yurii Belousov**,  
 Representative of the Commissioner – Director of the Department for Implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism

**Ms. Lucy Minayo**,  
 Expert of Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

**Session 2.**  
**RIGHT TO PROPERTY**

*Moderator – Ms. Jasminka Džumhur, Ombudsman The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**Mr. Sucko Bakovic**,  
 Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro

**Ms. Liljana Ilievska**,  
 State Counsellor to the Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia

**Ms. Medea Turashvili**,  
 Adviser of the Public Defender of Georgia

**Session 3.**  
**VULNERABLE GROUPS & VICTIMS**

*Moderator – Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Rule of Law & Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub*

**Mr. Mihail Cotorobai**,  
 People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova

**Mr. Levent Korkut**,  
 Board Member of NHRI of Turkey

**Mr. Oleksandr Gatiatulin**, All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV

**Session 4.**  
**PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

*Moderator – Ms. Gabrielle Akimova, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Ukraine*

**Ms. Aksana Filipishyna**,  
 Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights of the Children, Non-discrimination and Gender Equality

**Mr. Tigran Areyan**  
 Head of Staff Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia

**Ms. Annette Lyth**,  
 UNICEF Ukraine, Child Protection Sub-Cluster Coordinator

**14:30-15:00** COFFEE BREAK



# AGENDA

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

<b>15:00-16:00</b>	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CONFLICT- AND POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS  <i>Moderator – Mr. David Mark, Human Rights Adviser/Capacity Building Co-ordinator, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)</i>  <b>Mr. Uladzimir Shcherbau</b> - Human Rights Officer, United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine <b>Mr. Andrei Yurov</b> – Crimea Field Human Rights Monitoring Mission <b>Mr. Volodymyr Shcherbachenko</b> – Coordinator, Justice for Peace in CSOs Coalition
<b>16:00-17:30</b>	<b>WORKING MEETING OF THE NHRIS</b> (only for NHRIs representatives)  <i>Moderator – Ms. Debbie Kohner, Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)</i>

**19:00 RECEPTION (D12 GALLERY , 12 DESYAT YNNA STR.)**

## DAY 2

<b>09:30-11:00</b>	<b>PODIUM DISCUSSION</b> PROTECTING IDPs RIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS  <b>Mr. Sozar Subari</b> , Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia <b>Ms. Zhanna Lukianenko</b> , Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on IDPs Rights <b>Mr. Mauricio Redondo</b> , Ombudsman Delegate for IDPs' Rights, Colombia <b>Ms. Monika Čavlović</b> , Advisor to the Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia  <i>Moderator: Mr. Pavlo Kazarin, journalist</i>
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**11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK**

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Session 1.</b> <b>LEGAL FRAMEWORK</b>  <i>Moderator – Mr. Bruce Adamson, Human Rights Expert</i>  <b>Mr. Sucko Bakovic</b> , Ombudsman of Montenegro  <b>Mr. Sozar Subari</b> , Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia  <b>Mr. Heorhiy Lohvynskyy</b> , Head of Sub-Committee on IDPs rights, Ukrainian Parliament	<b>Session 2.</b> <b>DURABLE SOLUTIONS to IDPs</b>  <i>Moderator – Ms. Zhanna Lukianenko, Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on IDPs Rights</i>  <b>Ms. Monika Čavlović</b> Advisor to the Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia  <b>Mr. Mukhtar Kozhoshev</b> Deputy Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic  <b>Ms. Eugene Andreyuk</b> , Crimea SOS NGO, IDPs Resource Center (Ukraine)	<b>Session 3.</b> <b>RECONCILIATION AND PEACEBUILDING</b>  <i>Moderator – Mr. Stan Veitsman, Peace &amp; Development Advisor, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine</i>  <b>Ms. Jasminka Džumhur</b> , Ombudsman, Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina  <b>Mr. Les Allamby</b> , Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission  <b>Mr. Mauricio Redondo</b> , Delegate Ombudsman of Colombia for the IDPs' Rights  <b>Ms. Aideen Gilmore</b> , Human Rights Expert
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# AGENDA

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

## DAY 2

**13:00-14:00**

**LUNCH**

**14:00-16:00**

**PLENARY SESSION**

NHRIs AND CIVIL SOCIETY: WORKING TOGETHER ON RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

**Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili**, Public Defender of Georgia

**Ms. Eva Grambye**, Deputy Executive Director Danish Institute for Human Rights

**Ms. Erzsebet Dane**, Deputy People's Advocate of Romania

**Mr. Krzysztof Olkowicz**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland

**Mr. Mykhailo Chaplyga**, Representative of the Commissioner – Head of the Department for Public Relations and Information Technology

**Mr. Arkadiy Bushchenko**, Executive Director, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

*Moderator – Ms. Tetyana Pechonchyk, Director, Centre for Human Rights Information*

**16:00-16:20**

**PRESENTATION OF KYIV DECLARATION ON THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS**

**Ms. Debbie Kohner**, Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

**16:20-16:30**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska**, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

**Ms. Isabelle Tschan**, Rule of Law & Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

NAME AND FUNCTION	BIO
<b>Valeriya Lutkovska</b> Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	2011 to 2012 - Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights; 2006 to 2011 - Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Commissioner for the Observance of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine; 2005 to 2006 - Deputy Director at the Law Firm "Lavrynovych & Partners"; 2003 to 2005 - Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Commissioner for the Observance of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine; 1995 to 2003 - held various positions with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine; Awards and honours: Certificate of Merit of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Order of Princess Olga, 3rd Class, Honoured Lawyer of Ukraine.
<b>Neal Walker</b> UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative in Ukraine	Mr. Neal Walker, UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ukraine arrived in Kyiv on October 4, 2014. Mr. Walker has 24 years of senior-level experience working with the United Nations. Prior to joining the United Nations in Ukraine he served as the UN Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Bangladesh (2011 - 2014) and Kyrgyz Republic (2006 - 2011); UNDP Chief of Country Offices Oversight & Support for Latin America (2002 - 2006); UNDP Senior Deputy Resident Representative in Guatemala (1999-2002); Deputy Chief covering North East Asia at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific (1996-1999); UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Equatorial Guinea (1993-1996); and Assistant UNDP Resident Representative in Sudan (1990-1993). Mr. Walker has a degree in political science and a master's degree in public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh.
<b>Christian Dons Christensen</b> Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia	Former Head of Department for Asia, Oceania and Latin America, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and former Head of Department for European Neighbourhood.
<b>Les Allamby</b> Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Les Allamby has been appointed as Chief Commissioner for a period of five years in 2014. Mr. Allamby is a solicitor and formerly the Director of the Law Centre (Northern Ireland). He was appointed honorary Professor of Law at the University of Ulster last year and is a trustee of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. He was a former Chair of an Advisory group to Human Rights Commission on proposals for economic and social rights within a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. He has also been the Chair of the Social Security Standards Committee for Northern Ireland, a member and Vice Chair of the Social Security Advisory Committee, a member of the Legal Services Commission (Northern Ireland) and a member of the Legal Services Review Group. He has undertaken election monitoring for the OSCE and International Organisation for Migration in Bosnia, Pakistan and Georgia. Mr. Allamby was also a former Chair of the immigration sub group (OFMDFM) and a former member of the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (Home Office).
<b>Jasminka Džumhur</b> Ombudsman, Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Džumhur was appointed in December 2008 for a 6-year period. She is a legal expert and bar-associated lawyer with over 27 years of experience in the international and national justice sectors with a strong focus on gender and conflict resolution. She served as a judge and President of the Minor Offense Court in Zenica. She previously worked for the International Commission on Missing Persons and a number of international, regional, and national bodies. She has been consultant for many international and national organizations such as the Danish Refugee Council, the International Crisis Group, OSCE, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, USAID and the Soros Foundation in fields involving elimination of gender-based violence, trafficking and human rights protection. She is one of the founders of the Women Association Medica in Zenica and the Center for Legal Aid for Women Zenica. Jasminka Džumhur is a member of the UN Working Group for Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances since 2010 and vice chair since 2014. In 2015, she was appointed as a member of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW). She is the author of various publications, manuals, and articles in the area of missing persons, reparation of war victims, human trafficking, gender, and human rights.



# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

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## Ucha Nanuashvili

Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia

Mr. Nanuashvili took up his post as the Public Defender of Georgia in 2012. Mr. Nanuashvili has been working in the field of human rights for the past 16 years and has extensive knowledge in the field of human rights monitoring, training, and educating. In 2011-2012, he was elected in the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, where he represented the Democratic Governance and Human Rights Group. Prior to his appointment as a Human Rights Defender, Mr. Nanuashvili was a Chairman of the Board of the Human Rights House (2010-2012), a member organization of the Human Rights House Network. He was one of the founders and directors of the Human Rights Centre (2007-2012), one of the leading Georgian NGOs. Mr. Nanuashvili is the author of more than 35 reports and articles on human rights issues. Mr. Nanuashvili obtained his Master's degree in International Law from Tbilisi State University and took post-graduate courses at the Institute of Political Science in Tbilisi, Georgia.

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## Mihail Cotorobai

People's Advocate (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Moldova

Mr. Cotorobai served as Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova in 1996-2002; Head of the Commission for auto administration and local economy of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in 1990; lecturer at Moldova State University in 1973-1990. He studied at Moldova State University and State University of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg).

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## Šucko Bakovic

Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro (Ombudsman)

Mr. Bakovic was appointed as Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro in 2009. During 2008-2009, he was a member of the Prosecution Council. During 2006-2008, he was Chairman of the Association of Public Prosecutors of Montenegro. While he was the prosecutor, he initiated a number of legal decisions and participated in projects which are aimed to reform the Montenegrin judiciary. He participated in number of conferences, seminars, meetings and was engaged as a local expert in the field of criminal legislation of Montenegro.

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## Juris Jansons

Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Jansons took up his post as the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia in 2011. During 2009 – 2011 he was the Administrator of liquidations process of JSC „RSK apdrošināšana” (RSK insurance). He served as the Deputy State secretary in information society and electronic government issues, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (2009); Head of Secretariat of Special Assignments Minister for Electronic Government Affairs (2008-2009); and Director of Legal Aid Administration under Ministry of Justice (2006-2009). Since 2006 He is a lecturer of Philosophy of Law, Human Rights Preventive Mechanism in Riga Stradiņš University, Faculty of Law.

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## Andriy Kulikov

Mass media expert and journalist

From 2005 to 2007 – media expert of ZHORNA – Journalist Education: developing Skills: TACIS – BBC World Service Trust project;  
From 2000 to 2007 – producer of Ukrainian BBC Service;  
2000 – author and presenter of the Night dramaturgy Program (STB);  
From 1998 to 1999 – editor-in-chief of Novyi channel;  
From 1992 to 1998 – held various positions with the media;  
He is professionally engaged in translation (including literary) and interpreting (simultaneous and consecutive).

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## Marc Bojanic

Human Rights Officer of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)

He has 15 years of international experience in the areas of human rights, rule of law and political affairs. Earlier deployments include posts in the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Caucasus (Armenia) and Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan). In addition to the UN, Mr. Bojanic worked for the OSCE, the EU and the French Ministry of Defense. He holds a PhD in International Law and is fluent in English, French, Russian and Serbian.

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## Alain Aeschlimann

Head of International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in Ukraine

Since 1987, Mr. Aeschlimann held various positions at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). His field appointments included: 2008-2015 ICRC Headquarters, Head of Operations for East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific; 2003-2008 ICRC Headquarters, Head of Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division; 2000-2003 Ethiopia, Head of Delegation. He has a degree in Law from the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

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## Rada Kafedžić

Assistant Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Head of Department for monitoring the rights of detainees and prisoners

Ms. Kafedžić graduated from the Faculty of Law in Sarajevo in 1977, where she passed the bar exam in year 2000. In the period 1999-2009 she served as a deputy ombudsman of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2009 she works as the assistant ombudsman and chief of the department for monitoring the rights of detainees and prisoners.

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## Yurii Belousov

Representative of the Ukrainian  
Commissioner – Director of the Department  
for implementation of the national  
preventive mechanism

2011-2012 - Programme Manager at Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors in Law Enforcement NGO. 2010-2011 - Employee at UN Police Strategic Projects Management Division, UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia. Holds PhD in Sociology (2003, National University of Internal Affairs, Kharkiv, Ukraine).

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## Liljana Ilievska

State Counsellor to the Ombudsman of the  
Republic of Macedonia

From 2005 to 2013, Ms. Ilievska was Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia. From 2004 to 2005, she served as state counselor in Field Office of the Ombudsman in Bitola.

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## Medea Turashvili

Senior Adviser to the Public Defender  
(Ombudsman) of Georgia

Ms. Turashvili advises the Public Defender on human rights issues in conflict affected regions; monitors and reports the human rights violations in conflict affected regions and develops relevant recommendations. During 2013- 2014 she was the Georgia Resident Director of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus. During 2008 - 2013 Ms. Turashvili was the Analyst of International Crisis Group.

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## Isabelle Tschan

Rule of Law & Human Rights Advisor, UNDP  
Istanbul Regional Hub

Ms. Tschan (Switzerland) has extensive experience in human rights, rule of law, justice and security concerning programme design and management, research and policy advice, investigation, fact-finding, monitoring and reporting, resource mobilization with several UN entities in Africa, Asia and Europe. As Programme Specialist on Human Rights, Rule of Law, Justice and Security at the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS, she is leading the provision of technical support, and policy advice on human rights, rule of law, justice and security to UNDP Country Offices and UN Country Teams in Europe and the CIS region.

From 2011-2014 Isabelle worked in UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in New York as Rule of Law, Justice and Security Programme Specialist and from 2009 -2011 at UNDP's Regional Centre Dakar as Policy Specialist on Human Rights and Access to Justice providing policy advice and programming support on rule of law and human rights. Prior to joining UNDP, Isabelle Tschan served as Assistant to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, supporting fact-finding missions and advising on criminal justice and penitentiary reform in various parts of the world. She also worked as Human Rights Officer for the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and as Regional Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa with the Swiss Federal Office for Migration. Isabelle Tschan holds Master's degrees in Human Rights and Democratization (E.M.A, Venice, Italy and Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund, Sweden) and in International Relations (Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI), Geneva, Switzerland).

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## Levent Korkut

Board Member of NHRI of Turkey

After graduating from Ankara University Law School in 1986, he did his master of art and Phd degrees at the same university. He continued his academic studies at University of Chicago. He completed his PhD on public law in 2002. From 1990 to 2011 he worked at Hacettepe University Political Science Department as assistant and assistant professor. Since June 2011 he has been an academic staff in İstanbul Medipol University Law School. He is expert in the fields of constitutional law and human rights. He is one of the founders of Amnesty International Turkey Branch. Between 2007 and 2009 he was elected as International Board Member in Amnesty International. Currently he is the president of the executive board of Civil Society Development Center, a leading civil society capacity building NGO. In September 2012 Levent Korkut was selected as member of National Human Rights Council. He wrote several articles, reports and books on constitutional law and human rights.

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## Gabrielle Akimova

Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Ukraine

Ms. Akimova has worked in UNICEF Ukraine since 2012. In 2002-2011, she was Child Protection and Social Policy Consultant at UNICEF Russia. She has a JD degree from the University of Michigan, USA.

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## Monika Čavlović

Human Rights Advisor to the Ombudsman  
of the Republic of Croatia, Anti-  
Discrimination Department

Ms. Čavlović served as National Legal Officer at the Rule of Law Unit of the OSCE Mission to Croatia in 2003-2011, Legal Advisor at the Committee for Human Rights Karlovac in 2001-2003. She has experience in the fields of: human rights in post-conflict situations; rights of national minorities; racial, ethnic, and national origin discrimination; rule of law and legislative process; hate crime; war crimes proceedings monitoring. She has the Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zagreb.

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<b>Aksana Filipishyna</b> Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights for the rights of the child, non-discrimination and gender equality	She is Representative of the Commissioner since 2012. Holder of public service rank 3. Merited Social Worker of Ukraine. Graduate of Mechnikov Odessa State University.
<b>Tigran Areyan</b> Head of Staff at the Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia	Mr. Areyan served as Chief of Administrative Service at the RA Human Rights Defender's Office in 2011- 2013; chief instructor at the Central Office of Prosperous Armenia Party in 2007- 2011; head of commercial organisations in 2002-2011. He studied at Yerevan State Engineering University.
<b>Annette Lyth</b> Child Protection Sub-cluster Coordinator at UNICEF Ukraine	Ms. Lyth is a human rights lawyer with more than 15 years of experience of human rights, rule of law and humanitarian work, specialised in gender equality, women's empowerment and child protection. She has field experience from conflict and post-conflict areas in Europe, Africa and Asia and from different organisations including UN (OHCHR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP) and the OSCE. She is an experienced trainer and public speaker. She has a Master of Laws, International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.
<b>Uladzimir Shcherbau</b> Human Rights Officer of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)	Previous work: Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, UN Office in Belarus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus. Member of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee.
<b>Andriy Yurov</b> Crimea Field Human Rights Monitoring Mission. Human rights defender, philosopher, and trainer	Mr. Yurov is Honorary President of the International Youth Human Rights Movement, a member of the Council on human rights and civil society development of the President of the Russian Federation and an expert of the Council of Europe. He is a laureate of the Moscow Helsinki Group's award for the promotion of human rights among young people. Andrei Yurov is an expert in human rights education and has conducted more than 300 trainings and seminars on human rights and civil society in the last 10 years. Mr. Yurov is an expert in advocacy and human rights defense and initiator of many human rights and civil society initiatives in Russia and neighbouring countries.
<b>Volodymyr Shcherbachenko</b>	Head of Board of Eastern-Ukrainian Center for Civic Initiatives, coordinator of Coalition on NGOs and initiatives "Justice for Peace in Donbas," member of Expert Council under the Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations of the Verkhovna Rada
<b>Debbie Kohner</b> General Secretary of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)	Ms. Kohner is a qualified solicitor, having practised law in London and Madrid. She also worked in the NGO sector, including in the conflict and post-conflict context of Northern Ireland, where she co-convened a coalition of equality and human rights organisations. Previously, she coordinated a major research project to set up the first reporting system for racist incidents in New Zealand. She has also worked at Westminster, the UK Parliament. Ms. Kohner studied law at Jesus College, Oxford; Université de Paris II; and College of Europe; as well as Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ulster.
<b>Sozar Subari</b> Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia	Mr. Subari served as Advisory Board Member at UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2009-2014; Public Defender of Georgia in 2004-2009; Director of Rule of Law at NGO "Liberty Institute" in 2003-2004; Founder of the International Center for Journalists in 2002. He has held various journalist positions prior to 2002. He studied at Tbilisi State University and Tbilisi Religious Academy and Seminary.
<b>Zhanna Lukianenko</b> Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights for Observance of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons	From 2006 till 2013 ipy worked as a specialist and executive on different positions with the Office of the Government Agent before ECHR of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. In 1999 graduated from East Ukrainian State University.
<b>Mauricio Redondo</b> Ombudsman Delegate for IDPs' rights, Colombia	Mr. Redondo has degree in Law (Cauca University), specialist in Social Management and PhD in Environmental Law (Alicante University). Mr. Redondo has a long experience in community, conflict and public issues. Along his professional career he has held important public service positions Regional Ombudsman for Cauca region, Leader of the justice and public order section of Cauca Governorate, Delegate of the Presidency for the demobilization process of the armed groups, legal adviser of the Colombian Health Ministry, adviser of indigenous organizations, analyst of armed conflict in Cauca Region.

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## Pavlo Kazarin

Journalist

Pavel Kazarin is a journalist and publicist. He is an observer at Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, also writing for Ukrayinska Pravda (Ukrainian Truth), "Slon.ru", the Carnegie Moscow Center. Mr. Kazarin's professional interests include among others the "post-Soviet drift", communication problems and "Crimean issue".

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## Bruce Adamson

Human rights expert

Mr. Adamson is human rights lawyer qualified in three jurisdictions (Scotland, England and Wales, and New Zealand). He is a former coordinator of the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions (now ENNHRI) and in 2013 acted as the Geneva representative for the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs. He is currently on sabbatical leave from his role as Legal Officer at the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Bruce has worked with a number of international and regional organisations to provide support to NHRIs, NGOs and governments throughout the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe. He has been a contributing author to books on human rights, NHRIs and constitutional law. Since 2004 he has been a member of the Scottish Children's Panel which is a tribunal dealing with youth offending and the care and protection of children. He is also the chair of the Scottish Child Law Centre.

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## Heorhiy Lohvynskyy

Member of the Ukrainian Parliament

Deputy Head of the Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations, Head of the Subcommittee on International legal Issues and Internally Displaced Persons.

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## Mukhtar Kozhoshev

Deputy Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Kozhoshev served as Chief Inspector of the southern region's Delegation of the National Agency for Preventing Corruption of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2009-2010. From 1974 to 2004, he held various positions at governmental bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic.

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## Stan Veitsman

Peace & Development Advisor, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine

Arrived in Ukraine in August 2014, prior to which he served as PDA in Georgia (January 2011-August 2014). Mr. Veitsman has served with the UN since 2003, including as a Civil Affairs Officer and later as Special Assistant to three SRSG's in UNOMIG (2003-2009), and subsequently as Political Advisor to the UN co-Chair of the Geneva International Discussions (2009-2011). Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Veitsman worked with the Australian foreign service, during which he was posted to the Republic of Kazakhstan (1998-1999) and completed two tours of duty with the regional Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville. He holds a Masters of Arts degree in Strategic Studies, a Master of Arts degree in Foreign Relations, and a number of professional qualifications in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

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## Aideen Gilmore

Human rights expert

Ms. Gilmore is an independent consultant working on issues of human rights, equality and justice and has undertaken research, policy analysis, training, evaluation, expert advice and strategic thinking for a range of international and domestic human rights organisations including the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, the International Commission of Jurists, Council of Europe, Atlantic Philanthropies, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the International Human Rights Internship Programme. She was previously Deputy Director of the human rights NGO in Northern Ireland where she was responsible for leading and developing their policy and advocacy strategy in four key areas – equality, protection of rights, policing and criminal justice. She has testified on human rights in Northern Ireland to the US Congress, the Irish, UK and Scottish Parliaments, and the United Nations.

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## Eva Grambye

Deputy Executive Director at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, International Division.

Mrs. Grambye has had a long career in the Foreign Service, most recently as Special Envoy for the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The 3GF is a Government-led initiative together with China, Korea, Kenya, Mexico, Ethiopia, and Qatar to catalyse green growth. Prior, Mrs. Grambye served as Deputy Head of the Development Policy Department, responsible for one third of Danish foreign assistance. Mrs. Grambye has served as a diplomat in Washington, DC (Development Policy) and Geneva (Human Rights). Preceding this, Mrs. Grambye was Head of Section in the Humanitarian Department and began her career in the UN system. Mrs. Grambye is an International Women's Foundation Fellow and she has completed Executive Leadership Education at Harvard Business School and INSEAD.

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## Erzsebet Dane

Deputy People's Advocate of Romania

Ms. Dane has graduated "Law" in 1985 at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University from Romania, and "Economic and Administrative Sciences" at "Petru Maior" University from Romania, Târgu Mureş. She also has a Master's degree in legal consulting and business management. She worked in the legal field, accumulating and proving solid knowledge of law, but also the ability to lead and coordinate the work of several people employed. Since 2007, Ms. Erzsebet Dane is Deputy of People's Advocate, and currently she is on the second mandate. The field coordinated by her is "Human rights, equality between men and women, religious cults and minorities".

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## Krzysztof Olkowicz

Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland

Graduated from Law and Administration at Gdańsk University. From 1989 to 2004, he held various positions at governmental bodies of Poland. He was a Lecturer at the Koszalin School of Humanities and at Koszalin University of Technology. Since 2006 he is a legal counsel.

Involved in improving conditions of persons with physical and mental disabilities at the "Social Care Home" in Machownik. In 2003 awarded with the Silver Cross of Merit. Distinguished with the brown, silver and gold badges "For merit in the penitentiary work".

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## Mykhailo Chaplyga

Representative of the Commissioner - Head of the Department for public relations and information technology (since 2013)

Holder of public service rank 3. Graduate of the National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine. Fellow of the Lane Kirkland Scholarships Program (Poland) and John Smith Fellowship

Programme (UK).

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## Arkadiy Bushchenko

Executive Director, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

Mr. Bushchenko is Executive Director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. He graduated from the National Law Academy specializing in legal studies and has been practicing in human rights since 2003. Arkadyi Bushchenko is an attorney-at-law. He has long worked for the Kharkiv Human Rights Group both serving as a legal expert, and running the Centre for Strategic Litigation. Arkadyi has also authored a lot of books and publications on human rights subjects. Since 2008 he chairs the Institute of Legal Studies and Strategies NGO. In 2008 and 2010 Mr. Bushchenko was elected chairman of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.

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## Tetiana Pechonchyk

Chairperson of the Board of the Human Rights Information Center.

She has 10 years of experience in the media. Her write-ups were published in the newspaper "Dzerkalo Tyzhnya", online media platform "Ukrainian Truth", UNIAN new agency. She worked as Head of the special project "UNIAN - Human Rights". Member of the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, the National Trade Union of Journalists of Ukraine, and the international organization "Youth Human Rights Movement". She graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, studied at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

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Kyiv Declaration:  
Behind the Scenes Video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0a\\_LE6bAOY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0a_LE6bAOY)

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**21-22 OCTOBER 2015  
KYIV, UKRAINE**

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