



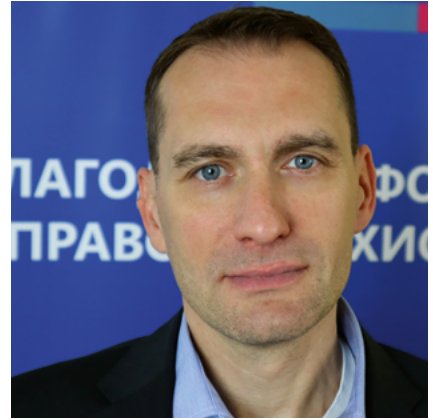
ANNUAL REPORT

2019



**...ALL THESE UNDERTAKINGS
WILL OFFER A FOUNDATION
FOR POWERFUL AND
EFFICIENT PROGRAMS THAT
WILL HELP US ENSURE
EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO LIFE
AND SAFETY. HERE, IN
UKRAINE.**





OLEKSANDR GALKIN

President, Right to Protection CF

In 2019, our efforts primarily focused on the delivery of skilled legal aid to all major beneficiary groups, such as internally displaced persons and victims of the armed conflict in the east of the country, stateless persons, refugees, and protection seekers.

2019 will also be remembered for new ideas and projects, events that made us respond fast, relying not only on experience but also on the capacity to analyse and predict. Quite expectedly, it turned out to be a year of political turbulence. The elections of the President of Ukraine and early elections to the Verkhovna Rada were momentous events during this period, defining the vector of the nation's development for the next five years.

One of the most dynamic areas of our operation in the first six months of 2019 therefore included the development of fruitful cooperation with the new Government and advocacy for legislative changes, designed to ensure respect for the rights and decent living conditions of the people that we protect. It was this array of legislative initiatives that our experts worked on during this period together with representatives from partner organisations, respective government agencies and authorities.

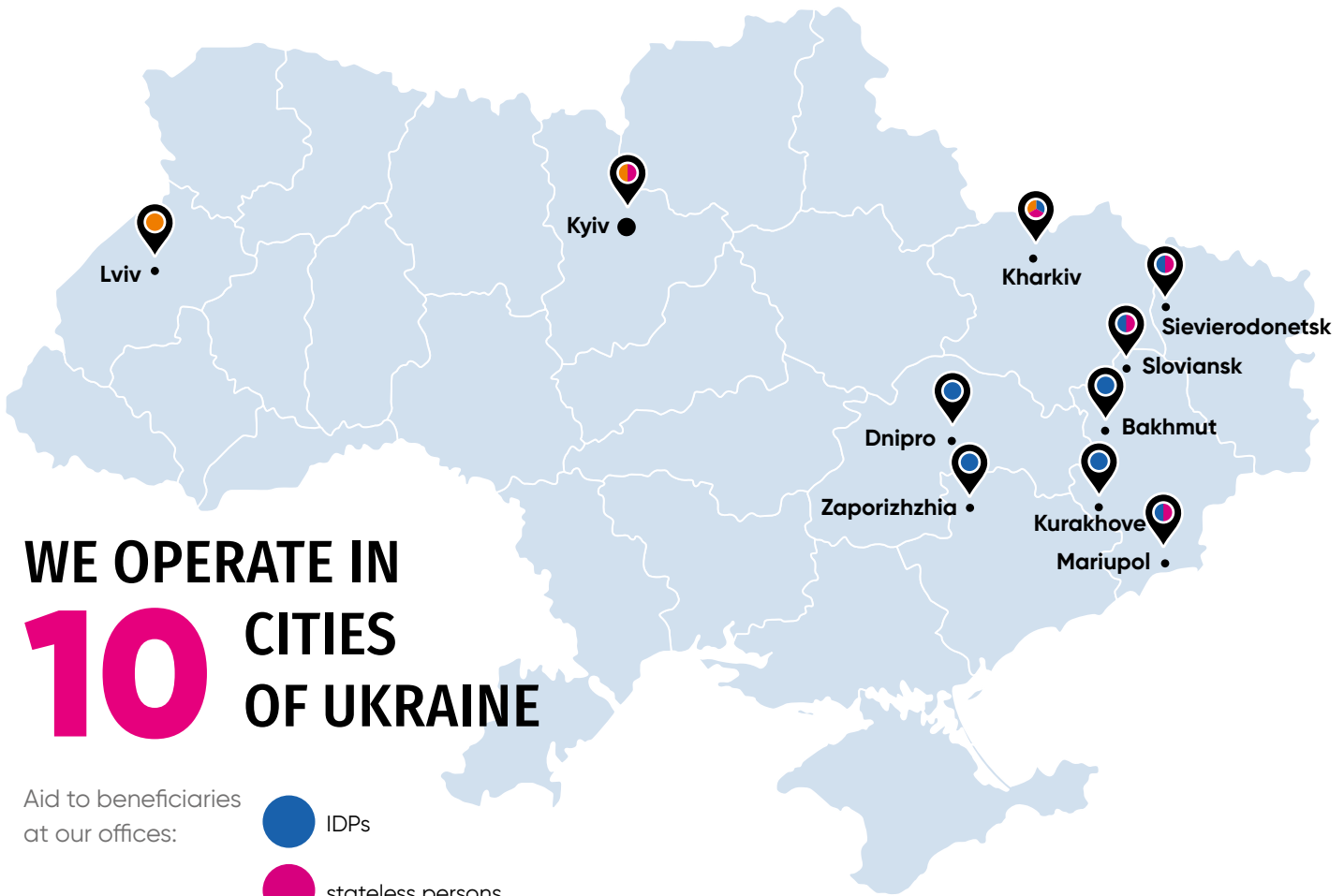
Many victories were won in courts: through court actions taken in 2019, our lawyers managed to commit the Government to pay more than UAH30 million of social benefits and compensation overdue to the victims of the conflict in the east.

Furthermore, we have launched a project to address the risks of environmental disasters in Ukraine's east. Such consequences – disastrous for all living things – may be caused by the untimely reaction of the state and society to the need to take urgent measures to flood mines and decontaminate industrial waste in the region.

In 2019, we also initiated efforts in a field that is new for us and involves facilitating employment of refugees and protection seekers in Ukraine. Our task was not only to provide legal support to this category of beneficiaries, but also to raise awareness among the business community and Ukrainian public.

For us, arranging for and holding dialogues between representatives from the territories under and beyond the control of the Government of Ukraine has become another new and definitely promising area of operation.

We hope that all these undertakings will offer a foundation for powerful and efficient programs that would help us ensure everyone's right to life and safety. Here, in Ukraine.



WE OPERATE IN 10 CITIES OF UKRAINE

Aid to beneficiaries at our offices:

- IDPs
- stateless persons
- refugees and asylum seekers

OUR MISSION

We change the rules of the game between the "system" and people for the sake of security and human dignity.

OUR VISION

R2P is a leader in developing and a platform for uniting the civil society's efforts to ensure a safe and dignified life for beneficiaries and everyone in need.

OUR TEAM COMPRISES



AREAS OF OPERATION

ADVOCACY

We work to represent and protect the rights of vulnerable groups in the field of migration. Our team collaborates actively with CSOs and representatives from the relevant branches of government to develop laws and regulations that would ensure respect for the rights of our beneficiaries.

LEGAL AID

We have a strong team of legal professionals, lawyers and attorneys, who provide free legal advice for more than 60,000 applicants, protect the interests of our beneficiaries in court, and are involved in strategic litigation.

MONITORING

Our monitoring experts record human rights violations and associated risks. Using the quantitative data, extracted from exclusive face-to-face surveys conducted at the crossing points, we draft analytical reports, reference materials, and recommendations that are available to international partners, government officials, and the public.

INTEGRATION OF MEMBERS OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

We are engaged in efforts designed to eliminate inequality in our beneficiaries' ability to exercise their rights and freedoms. In particular, we assist with finding employment, and integrate socially and culturally through training and counselling.

DIALOGUES AND THE PEACE PROCESS

We implement projects designed to identify the most effective ways of addressing problems and conflict situations on a various scale through a dialogue established between the parties involved in the conflict. We use the solutions developed during these discussions to facilitate changes from the bottom up and to consolidate respect for differing points of view.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CSOS

We provide mentoring and financial assistance to innovative, useful and socially significant projects, share organisational experience with teams, creating favourable environment for the development of Ukraine's civil-society sector.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

We assess the needs of individual communities and offer them the necessary support in implementing socially significant initiatives aimed at improving the lives of our beneficiaries and at their social inclusion.

TRAINING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES

Our experts hold training events to share experience and offer in-service training for representatives from the core government agencies and authorities, so that the mechanism for ensuring respect for human rights in Ukraine could be improved.

R2P's LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES IN 2019



PENSIONS

In 2019, R2P's experts were involved in the development and registration with the Verkhovna Rada of the draft Law of Ukraine No. 2083-d on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Concerning the Exercise of the Right to a Pension. The draft Law stipulates lifting the limit on the period for payment of overdue pensions in connection with the conflict. This period is currently three years. Furthermore, the procedure for verifying the necessary data for pension payments would be greatly simplified. For example, if the documents for awarding a pension have been lost or damaged following the occupation, the pension will accrue based on the information from the register of insured persons and will be granted according to the data available from the Pension Fund of Ukraine. Furthermore, a key point here is to lift the requirement for mandatory registration of a retiree as an IDP in order to be paid his/her own pension. Thanks to the diligent lobbying from R2P advocacy experts in cooperation with other organisations, identification of pensioners who reside within the temporarily occupied territory will be performed every six months. The draft Law was discussed by the Verkhovna Rada in the first reading and is pending revisions.

COMPENSATION

Our representatives joined the efforts of the Task Group to finalise the draft Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of the Conflict. With their direct involvement, the amended draft Law No. 1115 on Status and Social Protection of Peaceful (Civil) Citizens Affected by Hostilities or Armed Conflicts was drafted and approved.

ELECTIONS

In collaboration with other civil society organisations that deal with the issues facing victims of the conflict in the east, relevant rules were introduced to the Electoral Code improving the exercise of the right to vote in local elections by IDPs and internal labour migrants. This initiative had become a landmark event in protecting the IDPs' rights in Ukraine.

STATELESS PERSONS

Another key area in our efforts during 2019 was involvement in the development of the draft Law No. 2335 on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning Recognition as a Stateless Person. It is intended to establish a procedure for recognising stateless persons, as Ukraine acceded in 2013 to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (also ratified in 2013) and undertook international commitments to address and improve the status of stateless persons residing in Ukraine.

R2P's SUPERVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED

For some time, the R2P management has been aware of changing trends, therefore, we look into the future to plan our development. We want to become even better at what we do on a daily basis, and operate in priority areas of Ukraine's humanitarian and development policies. We firmly believe that our newly established Board would deliver to us the advice and support that we need in order to face challenges over the next decade. Furthermore, its members would represent and promote R2P's priorities internationally across various fields. We are sure that thanks to the experience and leadership of its Supervisory Board members, R2P would be able to make an even greater impact on the lives of our beneficiaries – stateless and internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

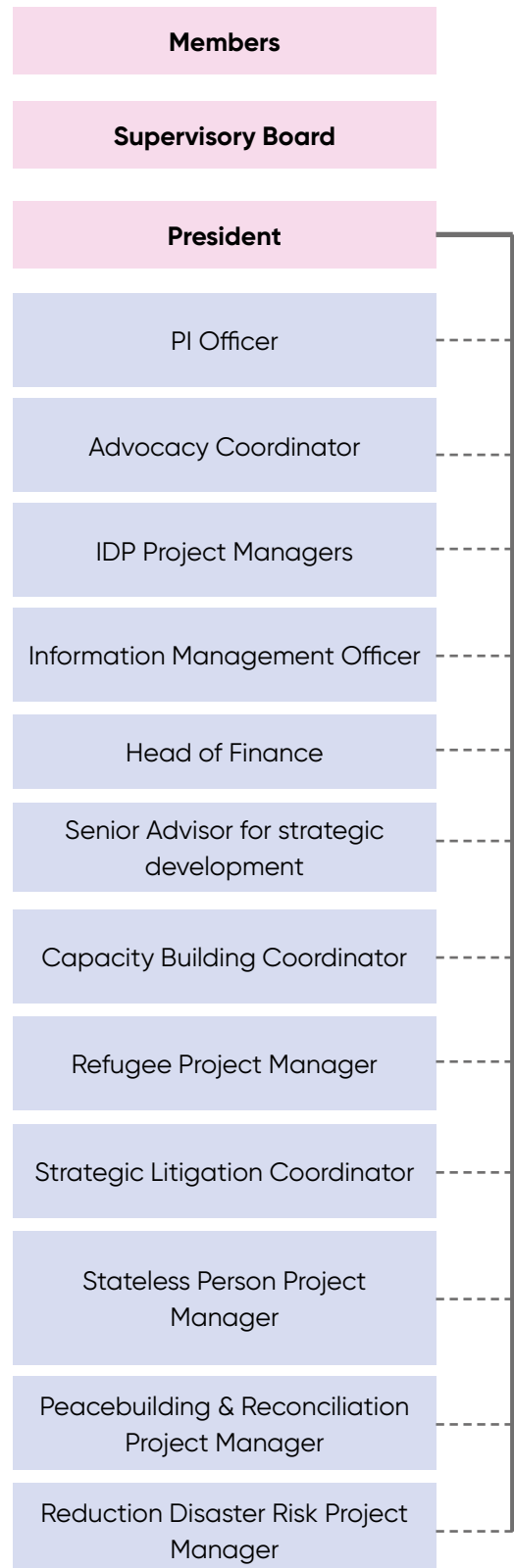


It is with great pleasure that we introduce the members of our Supervisory Board:

- Yevhen Poltenko, Executive Director, Legal Development Network (LDN);
- Melinda Haring, Deputy Director at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center;
- Jock Mendoza-Wilson, Director of International and Investor Relations at SCM;
- Mark Hetfield, President and Chairman of HIAS, an international NGO;
- Ksenia Prokonova, Managing Partner, SBH Law Offices in Ukraine.

Thank you all for your commitment to our team!

OUR STRUCTURE



ADVOCACY, PROTECTION, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS



MARIIA ALEKSEYENKO,

Project Manager
m.alekseenko@r2p.org.ua

2019 became a vital stage in the development of our project. In the four years of operation, we have refined the mechanism of legal aid delivery to the victims of the conflict in the east of Ukraine. Besides, our team has greatly contributed to the case law by handling the issues and problems that were not encountered in our legal system until recently. It was during this period that the need to focus on global long-term goals and seek systemic rather than ad hoc solutions became obvious to us.

ADVOCACY, PROTECTION, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Under the “Advocacy, protection, and legal assistance to internally displaced persons” project, the R2P experts identify violations of the rights of internally displaced persons and other victims of the conflict in the east of Ukraine. The R2P’s experts:

- provide legal advice and legal aid, represent beneficiaries’ interests in courts;
- monitor human rights violations and investigate the situation around certain problems and needs of the victims of the conflict in the east of Ukraine, including housing, financial security, etc.;
- work actively with local communities: assess the communities’ needs and provide assistance;
- based on the accumulated data, engage in advocacy efforts to improve legislation and law enforcement practices.



ADVOCACY, PROTECTION, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

KEY INDICATORS IN 2019



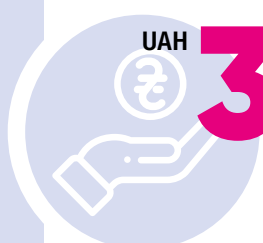
2 000

COURT CASES HANDLED BY THE R2P TEAM.



37 872

PERSONS RECEIVED PROTECTION AND LEGAL AID FROM THE R2P EXPERTS.



31

MILLION OF OVERDUE PAYMENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT RECEIVED BY BENEFICIARIES THROUGH THE HELP OF R2P'S LAWYERS.



5 129

MONITORING VISITS MADE TO THE CHECKPOINTS AND INHABITED LOCALITIES WITHIN A 20-KILOMETRE ZONE FROM THE DEMARCATION LINE.

Supporting community initiatives intended to mobilize communities to meet their essential needs has become another priority for R2P in 2019.

Our experts performed a needs assessment for the communities in the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts' inhabited localities along the demarcation line. It was discovered that their problems mostly stem from the lack of social cohesion, school equipment, and scarcity of community centres.

The most critical and effective initiatives have been identified, whose implementation would contribute to resolving these problems. 11 projects – community support initiatives – received assistance from R2P, including the necessary equipment.

ADVOCACY FOR IDP RIGHTS

109

ADVOCACY INTERVENTIONS AT THE NATIONWIDE LEVEL, AND

123

INTERVENTIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL WERE CARRIED OUT.

ADVOCACY, PROTECTION, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS



NATALIIA PROSKURENKO,

Project Manager
n.proskurenko@r2p.in.ua

Last year, when we commenced the dialogue project, we had projected a number of scenarios and tried to anticipate all the risks, including any security aspects. If we had realised that no confidential and secure platform for the dialogue could be provided, we would not have dealt with it. We have been planning this project very thoroughly for a long time and managed to hold a series of meetings between activists from both sides of the line. The results have exceeded our expectations, as not only the dialogue took place, but it also transformed into a joint project by the parties to the dialogue — a conceptual-art exhibition of an artist from Luhansk.

PEACEBUILDING THROUGH DIALOGUE IN UKRAINE

In April 2019, R2P launched its peacebuilding project. Its objective is to establish a dialogue between people from both sides of the eastern demarcation line to develop mutual understanding, find reconciliation, and form a common vision of Ukraine's future. The project is designed to build trust; facilitate rehumanisation; develop a comprehensive picture of the conflict in the east; make the participants aware of their personal role in transforming the conflict; and plan further actions upon the participants' return to their communities, etc.

It should also be noted that the project activities are not intended to convince anyone that they are wrong or to impose specific views. They are rather designed to create a safe environment where the participants can discuss important topics related to their professional work, and which is conducive to building interpersonal relationships.

Three dialogue sessions were held as part of the project between pre-selected activists and civil-society representatives from both sides of the demarcation line. Attendance at all sessions is voluntary and confidential. The discussion is moderated by facilitators whose principal task is to guarantee a safe space for balanced discussion.

3

**DIALOGUE MEETINGS
INVOLVING**

16 PARTICIPANTS (8 — FROM THE CONTROLLED, AND 8 — FROM THE UNCONTROLLED TERRITORIES) WERE HELD. THE OUTCOME OF THE DIALOGUES WAS AN ART EXHIBITION JOINTLY HELD IN FIVE CITIES OF UKRAINE (IVANO-FRANKIVSK, ODESA, DNIPRO, SIEVIERODONETSK, KYIV).



ADVOCACY, PROTECTION, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

ACCESS

The ACCESS project is implemented by a consortium of influential international and domestic non-governmental organisations; the initiative is designed to protect the lives, health and dignity of the population affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. One of the project goals is to ensure access for vulnerable groups living on both sides of the demarcation line to neutral, unbiased and independent multisectoral humanitarian aid and essential services.

Under the project, R2P was involved in the actualisation of humanitarian problems associated with the conflict, facilitated the search for adequate solutions, and developed cooperation with representatives from various branches of government. Performing this task has been particularly difficult in the last year, as the Government of Ukraine was replaced thrice over a short period of time.

MARIIA ALEKSEYENKO,

Project Manager

KEY EVENTS

In October 2019, R2P organised an extensive working visit of the Verkhovna Rada's Human Rights Committee to the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, along with the parliamentarians' attendance at the Reintegration Forum held in Mariupol. All of these activities offered ample opportunities to advocate for the key objectives of the ACCESS project. The outcome of the visit included the Committee's recommendations on the issues highlighted by the R2P experts (such as the conditions at the checkpoints, delivery of health care at the checkpoints and in the "grey" area, access to services, and issuance of documents).

The Foundation has long advocated liberalisation of the rules for crossing the demarcation line, introduced on July 17, 2019. Thanks to our efforts, the Cabinet of Ministers has allowed children aged 14 to 16 to cross the demarcation line on the basis of birth certificates. We continue to insist on a simplified crossing procedure for children aged 16 to 18. Furthermore, the list of items allowed for transportation across the demarcation line was abolished.



The Foundation's report on health care at the checkpoints facilitated the establishment of a task group, which reviewed the conditions of access to health care within the 20-kilometre zone from the demarcation line.





NATALIIA NOVYKOVA,

Project Manager
n.novykova@r2p.in.ua

Our project was highly interesting and informative. We were able to find very dynamic and talented teams. I am glad that they continue to function and improve their communities.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE GROUPS

The purpose of the project was to strengthen the new NGOs' potential to address the problems facing IDPs and host communities. The project initiatives were focused on finding long-term solutions to the existing problems in their communities. Implementing the projects offered the opportunity for practical consolidation of the knowledge and skills acquired during training sessions. Throughout the project implementation, the grantees were supported by a project manager who helped to handle strategic and current issues of the project activities. Training was held on the topics necessary for the organisation's successful operation, such as project management, financial management, local fundraising and communication, advocacy, and cooperation with the authorities.

5

MINI-PROJECTS WERE IMPLEMENTED BY THE GRANTEES TO BUILD THEIR OWN ORGANISATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY.



REDUCING DISASTER RISK VULNERABILITY IN EASTERN UKRAINE

The “Reducing Disaster Risk Vulnerability in Eastern Ukraine” project is implemented by R2P as a member of the 3P Consortium. Under the project supported by ECHO, R2P performs legal and policy analysis focusing on the laws on industrial and environmental risks. In particular, the project team identifies gaps in the regulations that put practical barriers to a systemic approach to disaster risk reduction. Moreover, our team holds working meetings with local authorities in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Supported by OFDA, R2P conducts training sessions dedicated to international humanitarian protection standards and their application in the Ukrainian context.



ARTEM KRENBOK,

Project Manager
a.krenbok@r2p.in.ua

The ever-changing political landscape and continuous personnel rotation at all levels of government authorities obviously hinder our project implementation efforts. New challenges also imply new tasks for us. To a certain degree, however, any project means designing the future. From the very outset, this project emerged as an initiative with a significant capacity for unconventional solutions, continuous lookout for and generation of novel, unorthodox ideas.

A STEP AWAY FROM A MAN-MADE DISASTER



The documentary examines the problem of flooded mines in Donbas, which could trigger a man-made disaster in the nearest future.





IRYNA ALEKSIEIEVA,

Project Manager
i.aleksieieva@r2p.org.ua

Thanks to R2P's legal victories, there are now 106 fewer stateless persons in Ukraine now. Legal advice was delivered to 721 persons. Following the presentation made by the Foundation's experts at the World Conference on Statelessness, 290 foreign professionals from 60 countries learned about the problems associated with issuance of documents to adults and children in Ukraine. The Foundation's experts have authored the first comparison report on statelessness in Ukraine and Russia.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO STATELESS PERSONS IN UKRAINE

Under the "Legal assistance to stateless persons in Ukraine" project, the Foundation's lawyers, attorneys, and analysts provide legal aid to stateless persons, i.e., to those whom no country in the world recognises as its citizens and who have no identity papers. The Foundation also works to improve laws and current practices concerning stateless persons, helping them to reaffirm or acquire citizenship and obtain passports. The Foundation's experts are engaged in hosting workshops for lawyers and government officials on the protection of stateless persons.



KEY INDICATORS IN 2019



721

WERE ADVISED ABOUT CITIZENSHIP AND DOCUMENTS.



106

OF THE FOUNDATION'S BENEFICIARIES WERE ISSUED PASSPORTS OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS AND REAFFIRMED THEIR NATIONALITY.



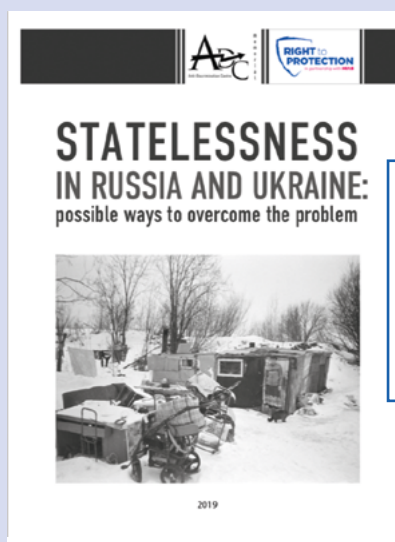
177

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LAWYERS ATTENDED WORKSHOPS ON STATELESSNESS IN UKRAINE.

USEFUL PROJECT MATERIALS



In 2019, the Foundation initiated monitoring of the procedure for issuing passports by the State Migration Service of Ukraine to residents of the temporarily occupied territories, and prepared a case study report containing recommendations on improvements to the laws. The report lists the basic problems and trends in the issuance of domestic Ukrainian passports.



During the World Conference on Statelessness held in The Hague, the Foundation's experts, together with the representatives of ADC Memorial, presented a comparison report on the problem of statelessness in Ukraine and Russia.



OLEKSANDRA ZHURKO,

Project Manager
o.zhurko@r2p.org.ua

In 2019, the implementation of the project was both hard and very interesting at the same time. It is always difficult to deal with people who find themselves in difficult circumstances. You must be not only a lawyer, but also a friend for each person, so that they would share their experiences with you, put their destiny in your hands and tell their stories in as much detail as possible. People may sometimes be unaware of this, but their future literally hangs on how clear and consistent their account of events is. There were ups and downs during the year, but somehow we did it!

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT

Under the "Legal Assistance to Refugees and Asylum seekers" project, the Foundation's experts assist with access to the legally guaranteed procedure to anyone seeking protection in Ukraine and has approached us. We uphold the human right of observing the principle of "non-refoulement," i.e., no one should be returned to a place where his or her life or health would be in likely danger. We represent beneficiaries in court and support them during their integration into Ukrainian society. Our experts go on monitoring visits to local offices of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, and visit centres for temporary stay of foreigners and stateless persons to deliver legal aid.



KEY INDICATORS IN 2019



1 935

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WERE PROVIDED WITH LEGAL AID RELATED TO GRANTING ASYLUM IN UKRAINE.



253

BORDER GUARDS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDED CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING SESSIONS ON ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF REFUGEES AND PROTECTION SEEKERS.



144

RULINGS WERE MADE IN FAVOUR OF THE FOUNDATION'S BENEFICIARIES BY HIGHER AND LOWER COURTS.

THE FOLLOWING KEY EVENTS TOOK PLACE

After several petitions filed by R2P, the European Commission has recognised a Ukrainian document – a travel document of a person requiring additional protection. It was posted on the website of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

The Foundation's experts have commenced delivery of legal aid to asylum seekers who are unable to leave transit zones at Ukrainian airports.



R2P has monitored implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy of Ukraine by 2020. Its findings and conclusions were presented during a round table held by the Verkhovna Rada's Human Rights Committee.

Strategic litigation lawyers were actively engaged in drafting new revisions of the relevant laws on refugees and persons requiring additional or temporary protection. Deficiencies in current laws prevent asylum seekers from fully exercising their rights to work, education, and health care in Ukraine.



ILONA SOLOVEI,

Project Manager
i.solovey@r2p.org.ua

Difficulties with finding employment currently represent an aspect of integration problems facing refugees and asylum seekers. R2P continues its efforts and maintains regular contacts with refugee communities and potential employers. We are constantly updating our databases to include skilled jobseekers and continue to hold information and training workshops to introduce representatives from Ukrainian businesses to the requirements for official employment of refugees.

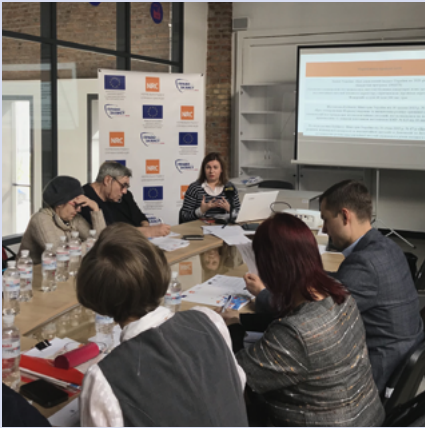
INNOVATING PATHWAYS TO INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN UKRAINE

The purpose of the project is to help refugees and asylum seekers find employment and handle everyday challenges (registration of births or marriages, etc.), so that they would have better opportunities for starting a normal life by becoming part of society. The R2P personnel have created and currently administer a database comprising of more than 500 CVs of refugees, persons who have been granted additional protection, and asylum seekers in Ukraine. We have also set up a network of socially responsible employers who find employees through our services. This exchange benefits all the parties, since Ukrainian companies often face staff turnover and shortages.

THE JOB VACANCY FAIR WAS AMONG THE MOST MEMORABLE AND INNOVATIVE EVENTS HELD IN 2019. BENEFICIARIES FROM SYRIA, SUDAN, DR CONGO, UGANDA, NIGER, KAZAKHSTAN, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND OTHER COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO DIRECTLY APPROACH VARIOUS EMPLOYERS WHO OFFERED THEIR CAPABILITIES AND WERE OPEN FOR PERSONAL COMMUNICATION.

A report of key aspects of employing refugees, persons who have been granted additional protection, and asylum seekers in Ukraine.





WE THANK OUR PARTNERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS IN 2019!



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL





57, Shchekavytska Str. Kyiv, 04071, Ukraine

<http://r2p.org.ua/en/>

r2p@r2p.org.ua

+38 044 337 17 62

www.facebook.com/right2protection/

<https://twitter.com/R2Protection>