

Annual report 2012

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

Ukrainian Association of Civic Human Rights Organizations



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UKRAINIAN
HELSINKI
HUMAN
RIGHTS UNION



УКРАЇНЬКА
ГЕЛЬСІНЬКА
СПІЛКА
З ПРАВ ЛЮДИНИ



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Dear colleagues, partners, sponsors and all those who care about the human rights situation in our country.

On behalf of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union I would like to thank you for your understanding and support for our work.

Thanks to you dozens of people each day receive help and protection from arbitrary treatment by officials.

Your help makes it possible for us to run strategic litigations which change court practice in Ukraine and bring court proceedings closer to the standards of justice.

Thanks to you we are training lawyers to be real advocates for human rights.

With your support we are teaching people to defend themselves and be aware as citizens of their country.

Each litigation which we win; each right which we uphold is our joint victory, our shared achievement, and we promise to fight on. And we will be grateful if you stay with us!

A special thank you to the International Renaissance Foundation; the Open Society Institute; the National Endowment for Democracy; the Norwegian Helsinki Committee; the Charles Stuart Mott Foundation; the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine; the UN Development Programmes; the Office of the European Union in Ukraine; the US Embassy in Ukraine; the Council of Europe; the Human Rights House Foundation; and the Microsoft Foundation.

*Yours sincerely,
Arkady Bushchenko
Executive Director, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union*



THE ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) is the largest network of civic human rights organizations in Ukraine, with 30 member NGOs. Its objective is to defend human rights.

UHHRU sees itself as part of the Helsinki movement and as continuing the traditions and activities of the Ukrainian Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords (UHG).

In 1975 the governments of 35 countries in Europe and North America, including the Soviet Union, signed the Helsinki Accords which were supposed to strengthen new relations in Europe, ensure implementation in each country the lofty principles of democracy and human rights. Understanding that in Soviet Ukraine this was virtually impossible, in November 1976 ten Ukrainians joined together to promote implementation of the Helsinki Accords. UHG was formed with the following founders: Oles Berdnyk — science fiction and fantasy writer; Petro Grigorenko (the Group's representative in Moscow); Levko Lukyanenko; Oksana Meshko; Nina Strokata; Ivan Kandyba; Oleksy Tykhy; Mykola Rudenko (head of the Group); Myroslav Marynovych; and Mykola Matushevych.

UHG became the largest human rights organization in the republic. Its 36 members included such well-known dissidents as Nadiya Svitlychna; Viacheslav Chornovil; Vasyl Stus; Vasyl Ovsienko; Mykola Horbal; and others. Despite constant repression, UHG did not disband. From 1987 when legal activities gradually became more and more possible, the UHG members returning from the labour camps almost all began engaging in political activities. When Ukraine gained independence, the human rights movement needed to be created from scratch.

In 2002 at the initiative of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group a Council of Ukrainian Human Rights Organizations (RUPOR) was created, with Volodymyr Yavorsky becoming its Executive Director. From 2002–2004

RUPOR grew to become one of the most powerful human rights organizations in the country.

On 1 April 2004, after the First Forum of Human Rights Organizations organized by RUPOR, a founding meeting took place of an association of human rights organizations called the **Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union**. This marked the beginning of a new phase in the joint work of many human rights organizations. In 8 years UHHRU has become the most influential human rights organization in Ukraine.

More information about the history of the Helsinki movement can be found here:

<http://archive.khpg.org/index.php?id=1160728419>

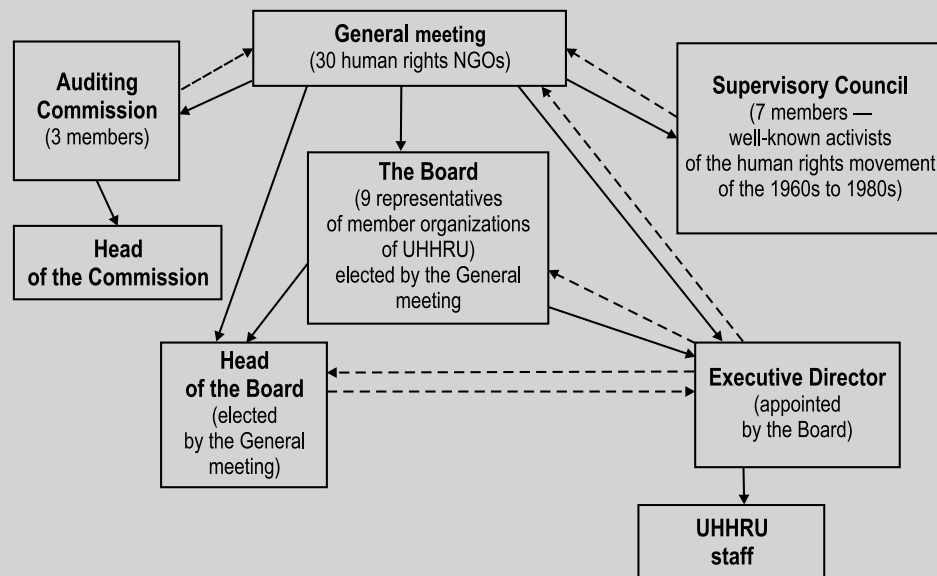
Members of the Union

1. The Civic Initiatives Association, Kirovohrad
<http://www.monitoring.kr.ua>
2. The Ukrainian Society of Political Prisoners and Victims of Repression, Kyiv (which the Helsinki-90 Committee was part of)
3. The Civic Organization "Aibolit", Simferopol
4. The Public Committee for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties, Luhansk
5. The Legal Research and Strategy Institute, Kharkiv
<http://www.hr-lawyers.org/>
6. The Civic Organization "Territory of Success", Kirovohrad
<http://www.watchdog-kr.org.ua>
7. The Civic Organization "Flora", Kirovohrad
<http://childflora.org.ua/>

8. Donetsk Memorial, Donetsk
<http://ukrprison.org.ua/>;
 9. The Environmental Club "EOL", city of Yuzhny, Odessa region
 10. The Environmental & Humanitarian Association "Zeleny Svit" ("Green World"), Chortkiv, Ternopil region
www.greenworld.org.ua
 11. The "Respublica" Institute, Kyiv
 12. The Congress of National Communities of Ukraine, Kyiv
<http://www.kngu.org>;
 13. The Konotop Consumers and Taxpayers Society "Hidnist" ("Dignity"), Konotop, Sumy Region
 14. The Committee on Monitoring Press Freedom in the Crimea, Simferopol
 15. Kryvy Rih City Association of the Ukrainian Taras Shevchenko "Prosvita" Society, Kryvy Rih
 16. The Luhansk Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Severodonetsk
 17. The International Women's Human Rights Organization "La Strada — Ukraine", Kyiv
<http://www.lastrada.org.ua>.
 18. The Civic Organization "M'ART" [Youth Alternative], Chernihiv
 19. The Odessa Human Rights Group "Veritas", Odessa
 20. The Odessa Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine
www.cvu.od.ua;
 21. The Sevastopol Human Rights Group;
 22. The Sumy Public Bureau "Pravozakhyst" ("Human Rights Defence")
 23. The Kharkiv Human Rights Group
<http://www.khpg.org>;
 24. Kherson City Association of Journalists "Pivden'" ("South")
<http://www.uapravo.org/>
 25. The Kherson Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Kherson
 26. The Centre for Research into Regional Policy, Sumy
 27. Centre for Legal and Political Research "SIM", Lviv
www.centre7.org.ua
 28. The Chernihiv Civic Committee for the Protection of Human Rights
<http://www.protection.org.ua>
 29. Helsinki Initiative — XXI, Chortkiv, Ternopil region
 30. The Postup [Progress] Human Rights Centre (Luhansk)
<http://postup.lg.ua/>
- UHHRU is open to cooperation with other organizations. Information on how to become a member can be found here:
<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1238695051>
- Members of the organization adhere in their work to the UHHRU Declaration of Ethical Principles which can be read here:
<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1239889483>
-



THE ORGANIZATION'S STRUCTURE



The UHHRU Board

1. **Yevhen Zakharov**, Head of the Board, Kharkiv Human Rights Group, Kharkiv.
2. **Oleksandr Bukalov**, Donetsk Memorial.
3. **Serhiy Burov**, the Civic Organization "M'ART" (Youth Alternative), Chernihiv.
4. **Mykola Kozyrev**, Public Committee for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties.
5. **Kostyantyn Reutsky**, Postup (Progress) Human Rights Centre, Luhansk.
6. **Oleksandr Stepanenko**, Helsinki Initiative — XXI, Chortkiv.

7. **Lidia Topolevska**, Centre for Legal and Political Research "SIM", Lviv.
8. **Alla Tiutiunnyk**, Kherson City Association of Journalists "Pivden".
9. **Volodymyr Yavorsky**, Belarus, Minsk.

The UHHRU Supervisory Board

Zynoviy Antoniuk, Mykola Horbal, Vasyl Ovsiyenko, Yevhen Proniuk, Yevhen Sverstiuk and Joseph Zisels.

UHHRU personnel

Arkady Bushchenko — Executive Director.

Ludmila Yelcheva — Financial Director.

Irina Kuchynska — Chief Accountant.

Oleh Levytsky — Lawyer.

Mykhailo Tarakhkalo — Director for UHHRU Strategic Litigations.

Marina Hovorukhina — Head of Public Relations.

Maxim Shcherbatiuk — Lawyer.

Nazar Losiuk — Office Manager.

Vitaly Novikov — Web Administrator of the UHHRU website.

Anna Andrusiak — Secretary.



MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

UHHRU carries out work in the following areas:

- Providing legal assistance to protect people from violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the courts, public authorities and bodies of local self-government, as well as in international bodies;
- Constant monitoring of human rights observance in Ukraine and providing information about human rights violations;
- Advocacy of positive changes to Ukraine's legal system;
- Human rights education;
- Facilitating the development of a network of human rights organizations.

We are grateful for assistance to all those who promote defence of human rights.

How to support UHHRU financially, see:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1205039794>

How to become a UHHRU volunteer, see:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1260786935>

How to hold events together, see:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1260787132>

1 DEFENDING VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

Legal consultation

With the support of the European Union and Oxfam Novib, UHHRU coordinates the work of a network of public advice centres providing free private legal assistance.

The UHHRU Public Advice Centres can provide:

- Legal information and consultation правову інформацію та консультації;
- Help with preparing documents, including law suits;
- Representing people in the courts and other authorities;
- Representing applicants to the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies.

The Advice Centres all adhere to the same standards of work and agreed ethical norms. Exchange of information has been established within the network of public centres.

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The network consists of **14 Public Advice Centres** located in Kherson, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Lviv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Mykolaiv, Ternopil, Konotop (Sumy region), Severodonetsk (Luhansk region), Sevastopol and Kyiv.

These advice centres hold sessions at least once a week. A lot of people also write; telephone or make contact via the Internet. As well as seeing people in the regional centres in their offices, each organization holds outreach consultations around the region in inaccessible areas where there is often no legal aid at all.

In 2012 the UHHRU Public Advice Centres provided over 6 500 consultations. The Centres are most often turned to by pensioners, public sector workers; the unemployed; people not working; people convicted of a crime and their fami-

lies. People complain most of all about the courts, the police, the management of enterprises, the Pension Fund and social protection agencies.

In order to enhance the level of legal services provided at the Advice Centres, UHHRU ran a number of educational events enabling lawyers to gain greater expertise and share experience. These included seminars on Standards of the Convention on Human Rights regarding fair trials and property rights; Standards of the Convention on Human Rights regarding protection from ill-treatment and effective means of defence; Strategic litigations; Building the capacity of a network of public advice centres.

In Kyiv members of the public can receive consultations either by coming to the public advice centre each Monday from 14.00 to 18.00 or by telephoning. During 2012 the UHHRU Office provided 2437 verbal or written consultations regarding possible ways of defending rights violated. UHHRU also systematically sends appeals to the relevant authorities to reinstate the rights of people who have approached it for help. In some cases a lawyer takes on the case free of charge.

Legal consultations are also provided on the UHHRU website through online answers in the section "Questions to a human rights defender". This is one of the most popular sections of the site. During 2012 500 consultations were provided online. A section on Human rights workers' advice has also been created, with this containing answers to the most frequent questions from the site's visitors. The section can be visited at this link:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=1.3.4>

Contact details of the Public Advice Centres can be found at:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=1.3.2>

Support for Strategic Litigations

The Strategic Litigations Fund was established so that UHHRU could provide efficient legal assistance for victims of rights violations in cases, which have strategic importance. By this is meant cases that change legislation, administrative or judicial practice; are aimed at upholding rights and freedoms where these violations are of a widespread or flagrant nature. The Fund is run in accordance with Provisions which can be found at:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b9>

The fund is interested in cooperating with civic organizations, advocates and law firms in all regions of Ukraine.

Thanks to financial support from the International Renaissance Foundation and the European Union, UHHR can either fully or partially pay the cost of legal services. Victims of violations and others can make donations to help with the cost of legal aid. In 2012 29 strategic litigations were supported.

Some of the Fund's cases in 2012

Advocate in wheelchair wins first case in Ukraine over discrimination of the disabled

<http://life.pravda.com.ua/person/2013/01/16/119124/>

Dmytro Zhariy who is confined to a wheelchair won a case over discrimination of the disabled against a network of pharmacies. The entire pharmacy network has been stripped of its licence, and the main victory is that the court found this to be a case of discrimination.

It is extremely difficult for a person in a wheelchair to get to a pharmacy which does not have a proper ramp. For people with disabilities access to such places is usually restricted since ramps are often simply not provided. Having been unable yet again to get into the pharmacy in a normal fashion, wheelchair-bound advocate Dmytro Zhariy began his battle against discrimination of people with disabilities. At the first court level Dmytro Zhariy lost. Then the Dnipropetrovsk Administrative Court of Appeal declared unlawful the inaction of the State Medicines Service in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast regarding checks on whether licensing requirements were being observed. The court also ordered cancellation of the licence to sell medicines of the pharmacy which advocate Zhariy had taken to court.

"This ruling is in itself unique in obliging a state body to consider the question of annulling the licence of an entire network of pharmacies because of discrimination. There has definitely been nothing like this in Ukraine, and I've never heard of cases anywhere in the world where people were punished so harshly for violations of the rights of people with disabilities to access. If the cassation level does not revoke the court of appeal's ruling, we will have a unique precedent in defending the rights of the disabled". Dmytro Zhariy says.

Head of the Stara Zburyivka Village Council freed from criminal liability

<http://www.vgoru.org/index.php/our-investigation/item/501-marunyak>

On 14 March 2008, Viktor Marunyak, Head of the Stara Zburyivka Village Council, was arrested on a charge of bribe-taking. This was preceded by his opposition to the unlawful removal of land reserves held by the Stara Zburyivka Village Council which were supposed to form part of the Nyzhnyodniprovsk National Park. On 18 May 2007 at the instruction of the Head of the Holoprystansk District Administration in the Kherson oblast privatization was initiated of 50 hectares of particularly valuable Village Council shore land. In June Viktor Marunyak turned in vain to the Head of the Kherson Regional Administration asking for the instruction to be revoked. After this Mr Marunyak began civil proceedings demanding the return of the village community's land.

Before the next scheduled court hearing, on 14 March Viktor Marunyak was arrested. The Head of the Village Council was arrested as he was receiving a document from a businessman on the payment of 50 thousand UAH into the Village Council's account for the social needs of the community. "In the 18 years of my practice, this is the first case where money which is called a bribe was paid into the account of a village council", Viktor Marunyak's advocate commented. Mr Marunyak was only allowed to see a lawyer on the third day following his arrest. During that time the head of the Stara Zburyivka Village Council signed a "confession". Professional legal support and the active position of the community made it possible to free Mr Marunyak from custody. However justice has not conquered to the end. In 2012 the court freed Mr Marunyak from custody not through an acquittal, but in connection with the case being time-barred.

Ukraine to answer for violation of freedom of peaceful assembly

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1326717027>

The European Court of Human Rights has passed the case of Mykhailo Shmushkovich to the Ukrainian Government for its comments.

On 19 March 2009 Mykhailo Shmushkovich, Vice-President of the youth organization "Zelenka" and a member of the Odessa City Council held a peaceful gathering in Odessa. There were not many people on the picket which passed

without any infringements of public order. 16 days after the picket a senior police officer from the Prymorsk District Police Station turned up at his flat and drew up a protocol on an administrative offence under Article 185-1 of the Code of Administrative Offences, supposedly committed on 19 March 2009. The protocol did not indicate what the offence was.

Both the first instance and the appeal court judges agreed without demur to this presentation of the facts. Mykhailo Shmushkovich was fined 170 UAH. In their rulings, the courts insisted that the notification of the planned picket needed to have been submitted 10 days prior to the event, not 2 days as had been the case. Arguments that there is only one single legislative norm regulating freedom of peaceful assembly, that being Article 39 of the Constitution, and that this does not demand notification 10 days before, that it stipulates that the right to peaceful assembly can only be restricted by a court and only on the grounds stipulated by that article which do not include lack of notification made no impression on the court.

Court of Appeal orders Kyiv's Mayor to read the Constitution

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1338451934>

In a separate judgement issued on 16 May 2012 in a suit brought by the Kyiv City State Administration against a number of civic organizations, the Kyiv Court of Appeal gave the Kyiv City Council a month to bring its local self-government regulations on holding mass events into line with Ukraine's Constitution.

The judgement was prompted by the Kyiv City State Administration's violations of the right of citizens to peaceful assembly. On 29 November 2011 a number of NGOs planned to hold a protest in Mariyinsky Park on Bankova St. The planned peaceful action was a picket of the Verkhovna Rada and Cabinet of Ministers, and the Kyiv City Council was of course informed. The District Administrative Court on application from the Kyiv City Council banned the action, citing the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR from 28 July 1988 "On the procedure for the organization of meetings, political rallies, street events and demonstrations in the USSR" The District Administrative Court stated that "in breach of the given decree the respondents did not inform of their plan to hold a peaceful demonstration 10 days in advance".

It should be noted that this decree is quite often used by domestic courts as grounds for banning peaceful gatherings. The Court of Appeal's ruling and separate judgement in pointing out the absurdity of such rulings are therefore truly a landmark.

The ruling states: "The conclusion by the first instance court is erroneous and in breach of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine". The Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR "is in breach of Ukraine's Constitution since it establishes a permission-based system for peaceful gatherings while Article 30 of the Constitution (speaks of) notification. Peaceful gatherings according to the Decree may be banned by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Soviet, whereas Ukraine's Constitution states that restriction can only be imposed by the court".

The Court of Appeal ruling, moreover, refers to the European Court of Human Rights Judgement in the Case of *Bukta and others v. Hungary* which reiterated that Article 11 of the European Convention means that the public authorities must 'show a certain degree of tolerance towards peaceful gatherings' which present no danger to public order except for a minor, inevitable level of disturbance.

Family with many children wins important case against Lviv authorities

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1360218079>

It took the Kiselyov family three years of drawn-out court proceedings, to gain justice. All that time the Kiselyovs argued to the Lviv City Council that with three children, they were entitled to large family status and the according benefits. Officials disagreed, for which they will now have to pay the family 5 thousand UAH in compensation.

Representatives of the Lviv City Council had deprived the parents of their benefits claiming that they did not constitute a family with many children. This is despite the fact that they are married and are bringing up three children from a previous marriage.

During the court hearing, the representative of the City Council also asked for the suit to be rejected on the grounds that the state had limited resources, and money for social guarantees had not been allocated.

The court found these arguments unconvincing and declared the actions of the Lviv City Council to be unlawful. Writ proceedings in the case have already been initiated, therefore the family will soon receive compensation for their treatment over several years by officialdom.

2

INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Studies of the situation in the country

Annual Report «Human Rights in Ukraine»

Since 2005 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union has each year published the report Human Rights in Ukraine which is the result of monitoring of observance of human rights; court and administrative practice during the relevant period. It contains an analysis of the situation and recommendations on improving the situation. The report is the basis of a public campaign carried out to make the state authorities and the public aware of the need for change. Each report is made up of two parts. In the first part there is an overall assessment of the human rights situation in the country and the main trends, as well

as an analysis of implementation of recommendations presented in previous reports. The second considers specific rights and freedoms. Each section of the report contains an analysis of legislative changes over the relevant period, generalized information about violations of the right or freedom with examples, of the most flagrant violations; information about the most important court cases, for example, judgements from the European Court of Human Rights versus Ukraine passed during the period in question, and information about the activities of human rights organizations in defence and affirmation of this right (freedom). Each section sets out key factors which are of critical importance for making improvements and provides recommendations on changes needed to improve the situation.

Material from the UHHRU reports has been quoted in their annual human rights reports by the US State Department; the Council of Europe, for example, the European Committee for the Protection of Torture and Ill-Treatment; the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance; as well as the European Court of Human Rights in its judgements. Material from the reports has been used by Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; Freedom House and other international human rights organizations.

On 13 March 2012 at a press conference in Kyiv the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union presented the report Human Rights in Ukraine — 2011. The press conference was attended by Yevhen Zakharov, Head of the UHHRU Board; Kateryna Levchenko, President of the La Strada Ukraine International Women's Human Rights Centre; Arkady Bushchenko, advocate and UHHRU Executive Director. Around 30 journalists from central TV channels, printed media and Internet publications were present. The press conference and the content of the report were widely reported by the media.

That same day, in order to give wide coverage to the human rights workers' conclusions on the human rights situation in the country and to draw the attention of the authorities and international organizations to flagrant violations of human rights, a roundtable was held "Presentation of the human rights organizations' report Human Rights in Ukraine — 2011" The roundtable was organized by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union together with the Kharkiv Human Rights Group. It was attended by representatives of many public bodies; foreign embassies in Ukraine; nongovernmental organizations; human rights workers; and journalists. There were over 60 participants in all.

The roundtable programme included discussion of the main trends in the sphere of human rights and recommendations on the most problematic issues regarding observance of human rights in Ukraine:

- political persecution in Ukraine;
- violation of civil and political rights and freedoms;
- the right to a fair trial, issues of judicial reform;
- brutality of criminal — legal policy; flagrant violations of human rights by the police;

- increase in economic stratification; increased pressure from the state on the poor and on small and middle-level business; etc.

There are electronic versions of the report on two sites (UHHRU site):

- In Ukrainian: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b7c7>

and (Kharkiv Human Rights Group site):

<http://khpg.org/index.php?r=1.6>

- In English: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?r=a2b3c7>

and <http://khpg.org/en/index.php?r=2.4>.

Printed copies of the report were sent to:

- International and foreign organizations; embassies in Ukraine;
- State bodies of power; — to the President; parliament and parliamentary committees; central (ministries and departments) and regional executive bodies; court and other bodies of power;
- Libraries;
- Civic institutions and nongovernmental bodies..

Immediately after presentation of the report, work began on preparing the report Human Rights in Ukraine — 2012:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=1.4.1.9>

Coordinating preparation of a «shadow report” from civic organizations for the Universal Periodic Review

During 2012 UHHRU coordinated preparation by human rights organizations of an alternative report to the UN Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

UPR is a mechanism created in accordance with the UN General Assembly's Resolution from 15 March 2006. Each country goes through this procedure once every 4 years. During the Review, the country presents its report on the human rights situation. Human rights groups in their turn provide their "shadow report":

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1326974353>

The coalition which included more than 40 human rights organizations under UHHRU coordination, prepared 12 shadow reports on various aspects of human rights which were then sent to the UN Human Rights Council. These included reports on Ukraine's observance of fundamental rights; environmental rights; the right to life; property rights; the rights of prisoners; the rights of people with HIV; the rights of the disabled; the rights of women; children's rights; socio-economic rights; the right to education; as well as problematic aspects of discrimination in Ukraine. The documents highlighted failings in judicial reforms which, the authors believe, have made judges even more dependent. They draw attention to selective court prosecutions of the regime's political opponents; and other human rights violations.



During the process of preparation of the shadow reports, training was carried out for members of civic organizations on basic aspects of the functioning of the UPR mechanism, as well as on the fundamental requirements in preparing these shadow reports.

UHHRU was actively involved in the preparation by the Justice Ministry of the National UPR Report. There was discussion both at the stage of preparing this report, and when the final version was being approved. Joint topic-based meetings were organized with State bodies on particular categories of human rights which enabled the public to present their position on this or that aspect of the National Report. As a result of this interaction, certain provisions of the

National Report were changed considerably and some steps on resolving the issues raised by the public began in the preparation process.

An advocacy campaign was also run on promoting the most important recommendations among representatives of foreign countries, both within the country and directly in Geneva. The relevant summary and selection of the most important recommendations were prepared. As a result of this campaign, effectively all the most important recommendations were put forward by countries at the UN Human Rights Council session during review of Ukraine's report.

The UPR resulted in Ukraine receiving 145 recommendations from 57 UN member states:

<http://www.undp.org.ua/ua/media/41-democratic-governance/403-un-member-states-pointed-out-to-kyiv-on-issues-with-human-rights>

After the recommendations were received, UHHRU did all in its power to ensure that the majority of recommendations were accepted by Ukraine's government. Letters were sent supporting acceptance of the recommendations both from UHHRU and from various international organizations.

The UHHRU website and social networks

The UHHRU website is an important resource for providing information about human rights. It contains the reports of human rights organizations and international bodies, material from the Council of Europe and UN institutions with regard to Ukraine, as well as a lot of other useful information.

The resource provides visitors with Ukrainian and world human rights news in three languages: Ukrainian, Russian and English.

In 2012 the website underwent change in order to make it more convenient for users, for example, through improved search facilities.

hits	visitors	hosts
654 181	383 700	354 039

Statistics for visits to the site in 2012

month	hits	visitors	hosts
January	36 619	17 925	18 861
February	79 021	48 129	43 317
March	66 103	40 090	37 928
April	58 512	35 120	32 658
May	63 819	36 308	28 729
June	50 189	28 623	21 429
July	42 201	23 521	21 164
August	32 901	16 009	15 887

month	hits	visitors	hosts
September	37 619	18 925	18 861
October	46 327	27 680	27 535
November	52 476	32 666	32 475
December	49 322	30 476	30 498

600 **Twitter** users follow UHHRU news

<http://twitter.com/UGSPL>

and 479 — **Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ugspl/161635813884383>

UHHRU collects videos on cases of human rights violation in Ukraine or about other human rights events in the country. Human rights videos may be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/ugspl>

3 HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

UHHRU is the initiator and one of the most important partners of the national educational programme “Understanding Human Rights”. (<http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua>), which began its work in 2008. It is a long-term civic campaign aimed at ensuring access to human rights education in Ukraine both within civic society and at official level.

At the present time within the framework of the campaign the efforts are united of many civic organizations and activists working to defend and support human rights both in Ukraine and abroad. More than 50 organizations have become programme partners, with these including both those directly carrying out components of the programme, people sharing expert experience or providing financial support.

The work of the programme makes it possible to engage young activists in the human rights movement. Human rights schools and specialized training courses on various types of human rights defence and protection are run at local and national level for civic activists and young people, and public campaigns are organized. There are particular training courses on swift response to topical issues. For example, in 2011–2012 there were training seminars on Human Rights in Places of Confinement which involves training a group of activists on efforts to influence the human rights situation in closed institutions belonging to different state departments — healthcare, education, social policy, the Penitentiary Service, police bodies, etc. Activists who prepared three discussion-provoking video clips for civic protests and campaigns in defence of people with disabilities took part in the training course “Using videos

in civic protest and campaigns in defence of people with disabilities” in 2012. an alternative report on Ukraine’s implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities took part in a human rights school on the needs of people with disabilities in 2011 The programme supports as an educational platform the initiatives of the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement.

Journalists take part in active measures, and in the long-term Course on the Role of Journalism in Defence and Support of Human Rights. Their material encourages people to look at specific cases and social problems through the prism of human rights. They have the capacity to consolidate the efficiency of public campaigns.

The official system of human rights education is influenced first and foremost through involvement of educational workers with a strong civic position. At present a network is being created “The School — Human Rights Territory” from general educational institutions, pedagogical workers and administrators who undergo training as part of the programme. Proposals are drawn up on integration of human rights themes in the curriculum on educational programmes within the training system for the Interior Ministry. Members of staff from higher educational institutes within the MIA are involved in this.

Educational measures are gradually opening up Ukraine’s penitentiary system. In 2012 civic activists were able to carry out educational events in corrective colonies using a specially created educational video.

The task of how to continue activists’ practical training is a permanent element of the programme “Initiatives of human rights activists” thanks to which activists undergoing training can gain expert accompaniment and small resource support for their initiatives in defence and support of human rights.

The information platform for the programme is provided by its website:

www.edu.helsinki.org.ua

and social network:

www.hr-activists.net

As well as providing information about the work within the programme, the most important events from the point of view of human rights and problems for activeness of those who’ve completed the course, these information resources also create additional possibilities for direct action in defence of human rights, planning for such action and public discussion.

The programme is aimed at international acts of solidarity in defence of human rights. Having partners in other countries, within the framework of the programme since 2011 there has been a partner international Human Rights Course for Young Activists. This new initiative arose out of actions of solidarity by Ukrainian youth with Belarusian activists. In 2012 two training courses and two distance learning sessions were held for a group of 18 activists from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. At present these activists are working on the planning and running of solidarity campaigns.

In 2012 as part of the programme there were over 20 training measures, 13 of which, together with the conference “Development of human rights education” were directly run by UHHRU. 135 activists and publicly active young people took part in these measures, together with 32 journalists; 12 employees of the penitentiary system; and 32 educational workers. More than 140 activists of the human rights movement, educational workers, scientists, advocates and others took part in the conference “Development of human rights education”.

The programme works closely with the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival DOCUDAYS. Both initiatives have common plans and are united by a common aim.

The programme’s immediate plans envisage the development and support for a network of graduates; increase in work at the level of local communities; enhancing the effectiveness of national educational measures which have become traditional; paying particular attention to training courses on organizing civic campaigns in defence and support of human rights; increasing influence on the formal system of education.

The programme wishes to thank the sponsors who supported its activities in 2012, namely the International Renaissance Foundation; the US Embassy in Ukraine; the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation (Poland); the Norwegian

Helsinki Committee; the UN Development Programme; the Vyshehorod Fund (Czech Republic).

More on the Understanding Human Rights programme can be found here:

<http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua>

Training of advocates

Each day hundreds of Ukrainians, among them a fair number of lawyers, approach international human rights courts to defend their rights or the rights of their clients. However statistics show that in 2012 70% of applications from fellow Ukrainians were found inadmissible by the European Court of Human Rights.

This reflects the lack of advocates with experience in the area of international law. The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, with the support of the Human Rights House Fund, has set to filling this gap. UHHRU coordinates the project “Distance Human Rights Education for Advocates” carried out as part of the Human Rights House Network’s programme “International Law in Advocacy”. This was attended by 25 advocates from all Ukraine. The importance of the course is reflected in the number of applications which was submitted — 208 for 25 places.

Within the course authoritative international specialists train advocates free of charge in effective mechanisms for defending human rights through the use of international bodies.

A similar course is also taking place in Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Azerbaijan. The lawyers who have attended the course say that the project is unique. The knowledge they gain is immediately used in practice. The course in other countries has already resulted in more than 100 applications being sent to international and regional systems of human rights defence. In addition, the project participants defend human rights workers and take part in joint projects with partner organizations in their countries.

The Distance Human Rights Education programme does not set out to provide specific answers to difficult questions pertaining to human rights defence. The primary task of the project is to make participants aware of basic approaches

and concepts in the area of international human rights law and provide a platform for discussing them. The material presented as part of the project is the basis for more in-depth individual study in future by its participants.

The main aim of the project is to provide advocates and lawyers with the opportunity to gain a systematic distance education in human rights and to show them how to apply human rights standards in their everyday practice at the national level, and promote implementation of international human rights standards.

The project is aimed at:

- developing deeper understanding of human rights law among lawyers and advocates;
- improving access to information on human rights with the help of electronic channels of communication;
- improving the quality of court suits through application of human rights standards;
- improving the quality of applications to international bodies;
- consolidation of strong initiatives put forward by lawyers and human rights activists.

The course is still in process for Ukrainian participants however important results have already been achieved. These include the precedent for Ukraine made by the case of Dmytro Zhariy mentioned above (the section on Support for Strategic Litigations).

Course participants are convinced that the course needs to be developed and continued. According to advocate Serhiy Zayets, Ukraine is at a turning point. Judges have begun fearing that they will be held liable for infringements established by ECHR judgements. And specifically this period needs to be used for getting judges used to the idea that European Court case-law needs to be applied. For this Ukraine needs people capable in practice of competently applying European Court of Human Rights judgments in national courts. In each region a group of advocates or lawyers should be formed capable of applying the judgements of international bodies in practice. They need to be in contact with each other, have the opportunity to communicate and discuss problematical issues.

Work on consultative-advisory bodies attached to the authorities

UHHRU representatives are members of the Commission for the Strengthening of Democracy and Affirmation of the Rule of Law under the President <http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/12615.html> and the Constitutional Assembly <http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/14752.html>

In **October 2012** the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group proposed for discussion a draft Constitution which could become the new Main Law of the state. The draft envisages a new approach to defining the principles of the constitutional system of Ukraine; a two house structure for Ukraine's parliament — a National Assembly of Ukraine. It proposes a presidential form of government (the President being the head of the executive branch of power); rethinks the entire range of subjective human and civil rights and freedoms, etc. The ideological basis for the draft is formed from the achievements both of national, and general — Euro-Atlantic constitutional thinking. The draft was passed to the Constitutional Assembly which found the document to be “an important scientific document in the constitutional sphere” which will be the subject of open professional discussion and debate, both within society and within the framework of the Constitutional Assembly's work:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1350387367>

The text of the document can be found here:

<http://khpg.org/index.php?id=1340884962>

Participation in the process of electing a Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and further cooperation

Election of a Parliament Human Rights Commissioner

In February 2012 UHHRU was one of the initiators of a public campaign on the election of a Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights in order to pre-

vent the process being decided through behind the scenes deals. It then took an active part in the campaign.

At first human rights activists proposed that MPs put forward and support the candidacy of Yevhen Zakharov, Head of the UHHRU Board. In their appeal, they stated that: “We are convinced that the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights should be a representative of civic society, a person who is active, tolerant, free from party influence, who has enormous experience of human rights activity and standing among nongovernmental organizations”. The appeal was signed by 595 people and organizations:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1327750631>



The other candidate was Valeria Lutkovska. During the first vote neither candidate received a sufficient number of votes. Yevhen Zakharov refused to put forward his candidacy for a second vote and UHHRU supported Kateryna Levchenko, President of the International Women's Human Rights Centre La Strada — Ukraine which is part of UHHRU. UHHRU called on MPs to put aside their political struggles and view this post not as another trophy in the

battle between the majority and opposition, but as an effective tool for defending the rights of Ukrainians:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1333083697>

Unfortunately the members of opposition factions did not put forward Kateryna Levchenko's candidacy for the vote:

http://lb.ua/news/2012/03/28/143131_oppozitsiya_opredelilas_novim.html

and the only candidate for this post was Valeria Lutkovska. On the eve of the vote in the Verkhovna Rada on UHHRU's initiative nongovernmental organizations held consultations with Valeria Lutkovska during which the view of civil society with regard to the proper functioning of the institute of Ombudsperson in Ukraine was formulated, including priority areas of work. It should be noted that the majority of positions discussed during the consultations were later implemented in the activities of the Human Rights Commissioner's office.

UHHRU was one of the forces behind the creation of a Consultative Council under the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights. This was made up of members of human rights organizations; trade union figures; journalists and academics (28 members in total). The Consultative Council is chaired by Valeria Lutkovska and Yevhen Zakharov. The Council's objective is to provide the Human Rights Commissioner with consultative support; to carry out scientific research; study proposals for improving the situation with protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms through effective use of the potential in institutions of civil society.

In March 2012 the Consultative Council supported the Commissioner's proposal on drawing up a strategic plan for Ukraine's development in the human rights sphere. So that this plan would not become one of many so far unimplemented, the Consultative Council members at the request of the Commissioner prepared a document summarizing the recommendations of the UN and Council of Europe institutions for Ukraine and made an analysis of existing plans from the point of view of whether they comply with full implementation by Ukraine of its commitments to the UN and Council of Europe. On the basis

of this document a strategic plan is being drawn up for the activities of the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights.

UHHRU representatives also joined expert councils on access to public information under the Commissioner for Human Rights; on observance of the rights of people with disabilities; and the expert council on observance of labour rights; and a national preventive mechanism:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1327750631>

Monitoring and informing about the situation

In 2012 work over a period of many years on the Criminal Procedure Code [CPC] was successfully concluded. UHHRU representatives had taken a direct part in drawing up the Code. On 14 May 2012 the President signed the new CPC.

During 2012 UHHRU continued its monitoring of political persecution in Ukraine and recorded such cases here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1349257536>

Other events

On 22 March 2012 a UHHRU representative took part in the meeting of a civic expert council regarding adoption of a new law on civic organizations. Recommendations were drawn up for the authorities regarding the positive and negative aspects of the draft law. On 15 May, at a meeting of the Ukrainian-American Commission for Strategic Partnership, attended by the UHHRU Executive Director, the Commission drew up a number of recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities, including with respect to the draft Law on Civic Associations. The Law, with the corrections taken into account, was passed on 05.08.2012:

<http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4572-17>

In May the presentation took place in Brussels of the book "Effective Criminal Defence in Eastern Europe" which the UHHRU Executive Director took part in

writing. The book is based on a study carried out in Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania; Moldova; and Ukraine. It is aimed at identifying the standards of criminal defence in EU countries and the Council of Europe. It can also become an effective manual for politicians in drawing up practical mechanisms of access to defence in criminal justice.

<http://www.legalaidreform.org/news/item/383-effective-criminal-defence-in-eastern-europe>

Appeals to the authorities

Open Appeal to the President: Zero Tolerance for Political Persecution

On 10 January 2012 UHHRU published an appeal to the President expressing strong protest and demanding an end to political persecution. The appeal states: "As elected President, you took on the responsibility for defending citizens' constitutional rights and building a law-based democracy. You must also bear the responsibility for a retreat from democracy and the demoralization of the country's people".

The appeal was endorsed by over 200 organizations and individuals.

Please see:

<http://khpg.org/admin.php?r=1.18&p=2>

And correct this can't find it in english on your site — it's here in english:

<http://khpg.org/index.php?id=1325325198>

Political persecution in Ukraine is, however, continuing. This is demonstrated, for example, by the results of monitoring:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b7c8>

Lutsenko Verdict still further dismantles the rule of law in Ukraine

On 27 February UHHRU issued an open statement to those in power condemning the verdict passed on former Interior Minister Yury Lutsenko, calling it politically motivated. The statement called on the courts at higher levels to revoke the unjust verdict and on the international community to give its political assessment of the attempts by the Ukrainian government to destroy the

independence of the judicial system. 27 human rights organizations from different countries endorsed the statement:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1330367159>

The UHHRU statement was in unison with the statements of international leaders. High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle issued a joint statement in which they said: "We are disappointed with the verdict against Mr Lutsenko which signals the continuation of trials in Ukraine which do not respect international standards as regards fair, transparent and independent legal process."

The UK Foreign Ministry condemned the verdict and called for honest parliamentary elections. British Minister for Europe David Lidington called the decision "deeply concerning" and said it was yet another example of the deterioration of rule of law in Ukraine.

Marieluise Beck (Germany, ALDE), Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe called Yury Lutsenko the victim of a political vendetta. "As a reformist Interior Minister who — among other things — dismantled the criminal hit squad within the Ministry responsible for such high-profile crimes as the murder of journalist Giorgyi Gongadze, he angered some persons who are now back in power", — said Mrs Beck, reacting to the verdict.

http://24tv.ua/home/showSingleNews.do?virok_lutsenku_zasudzhuye_svitova_spilnota&objectId=192762

UHHRU asks Council of Europe to send back Russia's list of candidates for ECHR Judge

On 9 April UHHRU called on the Council of Europe to note a number of infringements in the Russian Federation during the selection of European Court of Human Rights Judge and to send back the list of candidates submitted by the Russian Federation

UHHRU noted, for example, that the notification of the competition had been published by the Russian authorities in the specialized publication only at the beginning of August 2011, i. e. after the 1 August 2011 deadline for applica-

tions had expired. "This breach of procedure resulted in many candidates with sufficient credentials to participate in the national competition being prevented from taking part in the election process. This and other deficiencies in the selection procedure were challenged in the Russian courts". UHHRU considered the actions of the Russian authorities to pose a threat to the European system of protection of human rights:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1333974682>

Appeal regarding Initiatives aimed at restricting the competence of the European Court of Human Rights

On 10 April UHHRU turned to Ukraine's Justice Minister regarding moves to restrict the right to individual application and the European Court of Human Rights' jurisdiction as stipulated in Protocol No. 14 to the Convention on Human Rights. UHHRU called on the Ukrainian Delegation to the High Level Conference in Brighton to not support initiatives aimed at restricting the Court's jurisdiction and reducing the right to individual application:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1334078717>

UHHRU in defence of freedom of peaceful assembly

During 2012 UHHRU issued a number of appeals in which it called on Ukraine's parliament to protect participants in peaceful gatherings and to pass the relevant law. These appeals can be read here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1338923524>
and <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1347611150>
and <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1347022225>

Appeal by members of civil society regarding inadmissibility of signing the Kivalov-Kolesnichenko Language Bill

On 6 July UHHRU called on the President to not sign the Law on the Principles of State Language Policy. The appeal stressed that "the Law on the Principles of State Language Policy was passed in an illegitimate manner with the

hallmarks of usurpation of the people's power by the parliamentary majority. If it enters into force it will cause irreparable damage to the constitutional order and legal system of Ukraine". The appeal was endorsed by 98 individuals and organizations:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1341581479>

However the law was signed by the President and entered into force.

Members of civic organizations ask the Verkhovna Rada to review the Law on Personal Data Protection



On 27 August 14 civic organizations, among them UHHRU wrote to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Science and Education and the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine with a request to review the Law on Personal Data Protection. The authors of the appeal stated that the law contains a number of problematical provisions which do not comply with European standards. The authors had drawn up and provided proposals on improvements:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1346083178>

It is anticipated that parliament will review this law in 2013.

UHHRU: New Law on Prosecutor does not remove unconstitutional supervisory role

On 26 September UHHRU called on the President and parliament to confirm that their intention to fundamentally reform the Prosecutor's Office system and work remains unchanged; to accelerate work on reforming the work of the Prosecutor's Office; to activate cooperation with experts from the Council of Europe and Venice Commission; and carry out further measures on reforming the Prosecutor's Office basing this on their conclusions and recommendations.

UHHRU also called on the Working Group on Reform of the Prosecutor's Office and the Bar " to continue its work on drawing up proposals for comprehensive reform of the Prosecutor's Office system in accordance with generally recognized international democratic standards, taking into account the recommendations and comments of experts from the Council of Europe and Venice Commission":

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1348639911>

Statement on the creation of a Coalition of NGOs in connection with Ukraine's Presidency of the OSCE

On **27 September** representatives of non-governmental organizations from Ukraine and other OSCE states, as well as international civil society networks, announce the creation of an NGO Coalition on the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013. The Coalition's aim is to support Ukraine as the Chairman in Office in its efforts to increase the effectiveness of the OSCE and improve the implementation by all participating States of their OSCE obligations in the Human Dimension. The Coalition believes that Ukraine should use its chairmanship to improve the human rights situation and address real human dimension problems both at home and in the OSCE region as a whole:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1348750654>

Human Rights Activists call on the President to Veto the Law on a Single State Demographic Register

On 5 October UHHRU called on the President to veto the Law on a Single State Demographic Register since the law is introduced with no comprehensible aim and for an indefinite period and does not specify the grounds for inputting personal data and the purpose of this data's processing. This results in the infringement of a number of articles of the Personal Data Protection Act and Article 32 of the Constitution, as well as international human rights agreements:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1349453405>

However the Law was signed into effect by the President.

Open Appeal over the Abduction of Leonid Razvozzhaev

On 25 October UHHRU issued an open appeal regarding the abduction of the Russian opposition figure Leonid Razvozzhaev from Ukraine by the Russian Security Service.

UHHRU demanded that the Verkhovna Rada undertake a parliamentary enquiry into the events around the abduction of Leonid Razvozzhaev; that the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner on Human Rights initiate proceedings over this abduction; that the President suspend the Heads of the Security Service and State Border Guard Service pending clarification of the circumstances behind the abduction of Leonid Razvozzhaev and of possible involvement of the Ukrainian enforcement agencies in this abduction; that the Prosecutor General's Office carry out a full investigation into the circumstances behind the abduction and publish the results; and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs demand an explanation from the Russian Federation regarding statements from spokespersons of the Russian authorities regarding the involvement of the Russian Security Service in the abduction and send a note of protest asking for clarification of the legal grounds for the actions of the Russian Security Service on Ukrainian soil and cessation of actions which violate Ukraine's

sovereignty; and that all Ukrainian authorities take measures to ensure the protection of asylum seekers in Ukraine:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1351166974>

However no investigation was carried out.

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union: Open statement regarding censorship in the UNIAN agency

On 7 November UHHRU issued an open statement in which it expressed concern over encroachments on freedom of speech on the website of the information agency UNIAN:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1352281523>

Following this, the UNIAN management, having examining the conflict situation in the department of the Internet projects and editorial office of the UNIAN website made a number of staff changes. This was stated in an agency announcement. An internal investigation was to be carried out into into alleged exceeding of official powers by Mykola Kondratenko, Chief Editor of the UNIAN website in threats of penalties not envisaged by labour legislation:

<http://www.telekritika.ua/news/2012-11-21/76910>

On 14 November UHHRU and 13 other human rights organizations wrote to the Infrastructure Ministry calling for plans to introduce railway tickets with people's names on them to be abandoned. They stated that this was a violation of the right to privacy guaranteed by Ukraine's Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1352909037>

Sale of railway tickets on presentation of ID was postponed:

<http://zik.ua/ua/news/2013/01/02/386808>

International Cooperation

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union is an active member of the Civic Solidarity Platform <http://civicsolidarity.org/page/about-us> which was created to bring together nongovernment organizations committed to improv-

ing the human rights situation in Europe, Eurasia and the US. As part of this Platform, in 2012 UHHRU signed more than 20 appeals in support of human rights and civic activists in various countries. The texts of the appeals can be found here:

<http://www.civicsolidarity.org/cname/joint-statements>

On 31 August UHHRU representatives took part in a meeting with the permanent representative offices in Geneva to provide information the alternative reports within the framework of the UN Universal Periodic Review.

On 24–27 September UHHRU took an active part in the presentation in Warsaw by the Coalition of Nongovernmental Organizations on Ukraine's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013.

On 29 and 30 September during an International Conference in Moscow UHHRU representatives presented the results of the work of the Ukrainian corps of the course on International Law in Human Rights Advocacy. Distance Human Rights Education.

On 5 and 6 December in Dublin a UHHRU representative took part in an alternative meeting of the coalition of civic organizations within the framework of the OSCE during which recommendations were presented on improving the human rights situation in Ukraine which would be assuming the chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013.

On 9 and 10 September in Budapest a meeting took place between advocates working in human rights organizations entitled "Lessons and steps towards moving forwarding in the fight against torture" which was attended by UHHRU representatives. In October a report was published on the reform activities of the European Court of Human Rights which was drawn up by human rights organizations from the Czech Republic; Hungary; Italy; Poland; Moldova; Russia; and Ukraine. It was UHHRU representatives who took part in making up the report from Ukraine:

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/briefing-papers/european-court-reform-national-implementation-interlaken-declaration>

Media events

13 March saw the presentation of the human rights organizations' report Human Rights in Ukraine — 2011. The authors identified three dangerous trends which had arisen during the past year: an increase in poverty among the Ukrainian population; political persecution of the opposition and civic movements; and destruction of the court's independence:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1331560655>

On 23 April UHHRU presented 12 "shadow reports" on various aspects of human rights which were prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The documents highlight the failings of the judicial reform which in their opinion has made the courts even more dependent. They point to selective court prosecution of opponents of the regime and other human rights violations:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1335192643>

On 17 May the UHHRU Executive Director took part in a press conference on the annual report on Ukraine as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy for 2011 "The assessment in the report of Ukraine's "achievement" in the area of fair court proceedings totally reflects the real situation and even seems very moderate against the background of moves from European countries. It should be noted with respect to selective prosecutions that in 2011–2012 the regime was not as aggressive as in 2010 when dozens of criminal cases were initiated against former government officials. However the situation remains unstable and the future elections could serve as a catalyst for developments whose direction it is difficult at present to predict", Arkady Bushchenko said:

http://euinfocentre.rada.gov.ua/euinfocentre/control/uk/publish/article;jsessionid=74172DB70838D9A4FFC92C92858DF714?art_id=46698&cat_id.=45695

On 23 May the UHHRU Executive Director took part in a press conference on the National Free Legal Aid Day:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1337770776>

On 17 September a UHHRU representative took part in a roundtable discussion on "What law on freedom of peaceful assembly is needed" and expressed the view that the Law on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly must be passed.

On 1 October a UHHRU representative took part in a roundtable on the Council of Europe's recommendations regarding the Law on the Principles for Prevention and Countering of Discrimination.

On 11 October in the Office of the Verkhovna Rada Human Rights Commissioner there was a roundtable on the inevitability of punishment in the context of the new CPC, organized by UHHRU. Leading Ukrainian and international legal experts took part in the discussion.

On 10 December at a press conference UHHRU announced the laureates of the national anti-award Thistle of the Year 2012:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1355150492>

On 13 December UHHRU representatives took part in the annual international conference on legal aid. The conference was devoted to preparations for the entry into force of the Law on Free Legal Aid which UHHRU representatives were involved in drawing up:

http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=440864432628185&set=a.180853561962608.36785.161635813884383&type=1&theater¬if_t=like

The media about UHHRU

UHHRU is always pleased to cooperate with the media and provide commentaries to journalists on human rights-related issues.

In 2012 there were over 200 mentions of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union in the media and that indicates that almost every day human rights activists tried to draw the media's attention to human rights issues in Ukraine.

UHHRU activities were covered by: UNIAN; the TV channels Channel 5; 1 + 1; Tonis; STB; TVi; Ukraina; the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda in Ukraine; the Korespondent journal; the newspaper Segodnya; Radio Deutsche Welle; Radio Svoboda, Radio ERA, etc.

More detailed information can be found at:

- The Press about us: <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b1c10>
- The Press about the anti-award Thistle of the Year: <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1184236923>

5 SPECIAL UHHRU PROJECTS

Demonstrations

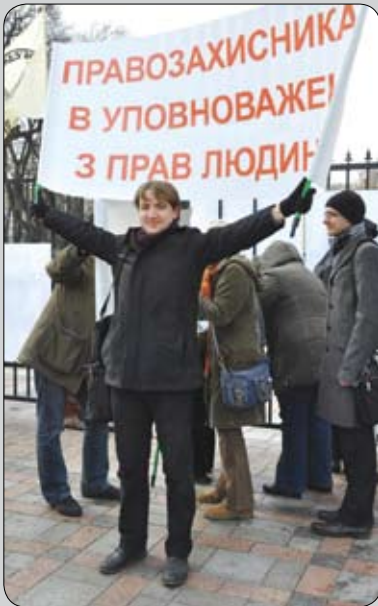
Demonstration in support of Yevhen Zakharov as Verkhovna Rada Commissioner on Human Rights

On 15 March UHHRU held a demonstration in support of Human Rights Commissioner candidate, Yevhen Zakharov:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1331719235>

Photos of the demonstration can be viewed here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.414422531907655.117060.304089532940956&type=1>



Demonstration in support of Yevhen Zakharov



Demonstration on the anniversary of Ihor Indylo's death

Demonstration on the anniversary of Ihor Indylo's death

On 17 May UHHRU, together with Amnesty International in Ukraine; the Human Rights Information Centre and the Foundation for Regional Initiatives, held a demonstration outside the Prosecutor General's Office, demanding a thorough investigation into the death of Ihor Indylo, a young student who died in police custody during the night of 18 May 2010. and that the public be informed about the outcome of such an investigation. This resulted in a response from the Kyiv City Prosecutor's Office about its intention to work with them:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1337340800>

National Legal Aid Day



On 25 May UHHRU was a partner to the National Legal Aid Day 2012 during which advocates provided professional legal assistance to those who most need it — people on low incomes; civic, charitable and other non-profit-making organizations, as well as small business owners. According to UHHRU Exec-

utive Director Arkady Bushchenko “an advocate must look after the country’s legal system, after all that’s the instrument which enables him to earn a living. If the system collapses, that inevitably impacts upon his work”:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1337770776>

As part of this event UHHRU lawyers provided free legal aid to all those wanting it at the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner on Human Rights.

Exhibition Human Rights Offside

On 8 June UHHRU joined the travelling exhibition “Human Rights Offside” held to coincide with the Euro 2012 Soccer Championship. On the basis of real stories of the victims of “unfair play” the exhibition demonstrated the most important problems with human rights violations over the last two years, these including: political repression; censorship; dispersal of peaceful gatherings; torture; unfair trials, etc.:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1339163739>



Demonstration: “Against Torture”

For the fifth year in a row, UHHRU marked International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture on 26 June with a street action. In 2012 the event was run

together with Amnesty International in Ukraine, the Kharkiv Human Rights Group; the Foundation for Regional Initiatives; and the Human Rights Information Centre.

Similar demonstrations took place in Kyiv; Luhansk; Kharkiv; and Chernihiv. In Zaporizhya the demonstration was banned. During the events, activists used visual means to demonstrate the need to create a system ensuring proper investigation of the numerous cases of torture in Ukraine.

More detail here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1340715353>



Project: Lady Justice’s Civic Helpers

“Lady Justice’s Civic Helpers” is a UHHRU experimental project. Thirty participants (journalists and civic activists) carried out a civic investigation into three cases where there were obvious human rights violations and where at the national level there had been no success in achieving progress.

Expert support for the project’s participants was provided by human rights groups: the Kharkiv Human Rights Group; the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union; and the Centre for Civil Liberties. The civic organization Debate

Academy acted as project administrator, while the information support was provided by "Poryad z Vami" and "Svidomo".

Three criminal cases were taken as models: the case of Mr Rafalsky who was sentenced to life imprisonment. The defence gathered convincing arguments which suggest that Mr Rafalsky was subjected to torture during the criminal investigation. The UN Committee against Torture alluded to the case in its recommendations to the Ukrainian Government, stating that Ukraine should carry out an investigation into unlawful force used against Rafalsky. Amnesty International stated in its annual reports for 2009 and 2010 that Oleksandr Rafalsky had been subjected to torture. Then there was the case of a 27-year-old Mr Karpylenko who was accused of having stolen a mobile telephone although his mother asserts that he was ill that day and couldn't have committed the crime. During his arrest and the subsequent investigation (diznannya) the police inflicted injuries which resulted in Karpylenko having his spleen removed. He later contracted tuberculosis from being held in the same cell as a prisoner suffering from an open form of tuberculosis and on 7 November 2011 died in hospital. His remand in custody had not been changed to a signed undertaking not to leave the city. Amnesty International in its annual report points to a violation of Karpylenko's right to proper medical care.

A third example of the impunity of Ukrainian torturers in uniform is seen in the quite unprecedented case of Kharkiv resident Yakiv Strogan. He was tortured, taken into a forest where they used an electric shock. When he lost consciousness, they revived him by pouring liquid ammonia down his throat. Then for two days and nights he was held in a room for torture, while they tried to extort money from his family. Strogan promised to bring the amount simply so as to escape the excruciating and inhuman torment. Having been released, he turned to the police, to the Prosecutor's Office; to human rights organizations and journalists and even took part in hearings of the Parliamentary Committee on Legislative Backup for Law Enforcement Activities. He met with the Ombudsperson who promised her support. After these actions Mr Strogan was again detained on false charges and tortured by the same police officers; and taken to court to be remanded in custody. Despite the fact that he was brought to the courtroom with injuries to his face and signs

of physical force to his neck, the Prosecutor's Office refused again to initiate a criminal investigation.

More information about the project is available here:

<http://old.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1324901070>

The Annual UHHRU Anti-Award Thistle of the Year



The Thistle of the Year Anti-Award has existed now for 7 years. It is aimed at drawing public attention to flagrant abuses of human rights committed by the State during the particular year and to stimulate public discussion regarding dangerous trends with regard to human rights in the country. Thistles are awarded for the most shameful and dangerous human rights violations in the particular year.

All information about the Thistle of the Year Anti-Award can be found here.

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b14>

On Human Rights Day, 10 December, the names were announced of the worst human rights offenders in 2012. The leader of this anti-award was Party of the Regions MP Vasyl Hrytsak. The list of the worst human rights offenders also included: the Central Election Commission; the National Bank of Ukraine; the Kharkiv City Council and Kharkiv District Administrative Court; as well as the President Viktor Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Speaker

Volodymyr Lytvyn. All received the human rights anti-award — the Thistle of the Year — from UHHRU.

The “laureates” of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union’s anti-award Thistle of the Year 2012 were selected by a panel of judges made up of journalists, members of civic organizations and human rights workers, with the results being announced at a press conference on 10 December.

The laureates were chosen in the following nominations:

- **Central Election Commission (CEC)**

Nominated: For numerous and flagrant violations of citizens’ electoral rights

In the view of the panel of judges CEC approved decisions from some district election commissions [DEC] containing incredible and obvious vote-counting falsifications. The CEC also refused to correct infringements and abuse at some DEC instead of using its right to re-count the votes at disputed polling stations. It was the CEC which could have significantly reduced the adverse consequences of confrontation in constituencies, but consciously failed to do so, this significantly violating people’s electoral rights and failing to take the choice of hundreds of thousands of citizens into account.

- **The Kharkiv City Council and Kharkiv District Administrative Court**

Nominated: For brazen infringement of the right to peaceful assembly

The Kharkiv City Council and Kharkiv District Administrative Court systematically banned any protests in Kharkiv, with the city in top place for the number of bans of peaceful gatherings. In 2012 over 80 events were banned with this being effectively half of all court bans of peaceful assembly in Ukraine.

- **The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU)**

Nominated: for politically motivated infringements of property rights

NBU “helped” the artificial liquidation of the Basis Bank belonging to opposition politician Arsen Avakov. At the beginning of 2012 Avakov had the highest rating among all Kharkiv politicians and was the most likely winner of the parliamentary elections in a single-mandate electoral district in Kharkiv. The National Bank of Ukraine created obstructions in the activities of the Basis Bank by demanding the formation of a security fund and later artificially suspended

the process of capitalization. All attempts by the bank to improve its situation, its staff say, were stopped from outside.

- **President Yanukovich and Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn**

Nominated: for contempt for Ukraine’s Constitution and legislation

Contempt for Ukraine’s Constitution and legislation, in particular over their signing of the Law on the Principles of State Language Policy in breach of Ukraine’s Constitution. The law contains provisions which make it possible on certain parts of Ukraine to not use the State language as obligatory form of communication in the public sphere, for example, in the courts, official documents of state bodies and bodies of local self-government, and in the relations between authorities of all levels. The narrowing by the Law on the Principles of State Language Policy of the constitutional status of the state language involved the usurping by parliament of the exclusive right of the people to change the constitutional order in Ukraine.

- **Gold Thistle to Party of the Regions MP Vasyl Hrytsak**

Nominated: for the most flagrant intrusion into privacy and for the most dangerous legislative initiative in the field of human rights

Vasyl Hrytsak tabled in the Verkhovna Rada and lobbied the outrageous draft law No. 10492 on a Unified State Demographic Register and documents which confirm Ukrainian citizenship or a person’s special status. This was passed by the Verkhovna Rada and signed by the President on 29 November. The danger of this law lies in the fact that it flagrantly violates the right of a person as enshrined in the Constitution to non-intrusion in their private and family life.

This was not Hrytsak’s first achievement. He received the Thistle for attempts to interfere in Ukraine’s private life in 2007.

Docudays UA. Human Rights Documentary Film Days

From 23 to 29 March 2012 the Ninth Docudays UA International Documentary Film Festival on Human Rights Docudays.UA took place in Kyiv. Its central theme was prevention of authoritarianism in Ukraine.

Docudays UA — is the only documentary film festival in Ukraine which enables Ukrainians to see the best examples of world documentary cinema on human rights and ways of defending them. The visual art of documentary cinema reaches out to people's feelings, and information received at the level of the senses is the most effective way of forming people's outlook. Docudays UA is not only cinema. It is also a forum for discussion; educational platforms and cultural events. The impact of the films is consolidated by meetings with prominent human rights activists, cultural and artistic figures and at topic-based discussions among young people. This festival serves to integrate dozens of human rights organizations who work together to hold the festival in Kyiv and in other cities, towns and villages in 22 regions of Ukraine. This joint work develops and strengthens the network of human rights workers at local, national and international level and promotes involvement of young people in civic organizations.



The Festival is presently the largely and most widely attended human rights event in Ukraine. Its influence grows by the year, attracting more and more people who are concerned about human rights.

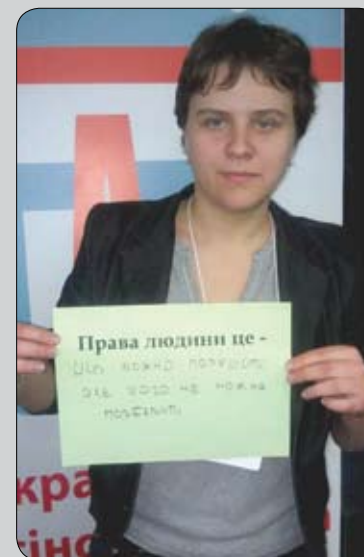
We can therefore say that Docudays.UA is an open school of strategies and techniques for defending human rights for hundreds of thousands of young Ukrainians and one of the fastest and most effective means of forming law-based awareness in Ukrainian society.

In 2012 the Festival in Kyiv attracted 25 660 viewers. There were 124 publications in the printed press and the Internet about the festival events; 12 television broadcasts, including ICTV; TVi; Channel 24; UTV-1; 8 radio broadcasts, including Era; Promin; the National Radio Broadcasting Company of Ukraine. Festival advertisements were placed in 7 electronic media and Internet publications. There were a number of interesting events during Docudays.UA, including the following:

Ukrainian students talk about what they see as human rights

On 23 March UHHRU announced the results of the competition "What are human rights?" run among students. A lot of ideas were heard including "What can be violated, but cannot be removed"; "When all are happy at the same time"; "An inalienable element of any person. Like the air"; "Freedom"; "Responsibility"; "Tolerance"; "The opportunity to be yourself"; etc. The winning definition was "Human Rights is Choice":

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1333035821>



Roundtable: Is authoritarianism possible in Ukraine?

On 27 March UHHRU held a roundtable for human rights workers; political analysts; journalists, to consider the question: Is authoritarianism possible in Ukraine? Participants in the event were: Yevhen Zakharov, Head of the UHHRU Board; Yehor Sobolyev, Head of the Svidomo Bureau of Journalist Investigations; Pavlo Zhachek, founder of the Institute for Research into Totalitarian Regimes (Prague). The event took place with the participation of well-known human rights workers; analysts; writers and journalists:

<http://ukrainian.voanews.com/content/authoritarianism-ua-2012-03-27-144395095/918630.html>

Quest for visitors to Docudays.UA: "A person is doomed to ... Freedom"

During the quest, participants had to continue the phrase "A person is doomed to..." The correct answer "Freedom" was given by three participants who received prizes from UHHRU:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=420721867944388&set=a.420721071277801.118602.304089532940956&type=3&theater>

A photographic report of the Festival events can be found on the Docudays website:

http://www.docudays.org.ua/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=41&Itemid=191

The Travelling Docudays UA Human Rights Documentary Festival

After the Festival, the films are traditionally taken around Ukraine. In 2012 113 000 viewers took part in the travelling festival, with 75% of these young people.

The film showings took place in 9 cinemas; 11 houses of culture); 36 educational centres; galleries; café studios and other cultural and civic centres; 5 children's orphanage-schools; 29 higher educational institutes, including in the Penal Service Institute; 30 comprehensive schools; 6 vocational colleges; 6 colleges; the Bila Tserkva College (Kyiv oblast); professional training for personnel of the State Penal Service (festival films were seen by around 360 students in all regions of Ukraine and staff, who took part in discussions); 18 libraries; 2 technical colleges; 6 colleges; 5 academies; 11 gymnasiums; 5 lyceums and 1 military unit.

In 2012 the festival also took place in the Central Office of the State Penitentiary Service (Kyiv); in the Department of the State Penitentiary Service (Kharkiv); the Chuyiv District Department of the Interior Ministry in the Kharkiv oblast.; as well as in 23 prison colonies; and 5 SIZO (pre-trial detention centres) in the Kyiv, Donetsk; Kherson; Lviv; and Kirovohrad oblasts; for the first time in the Ternopil oblast and in Chernihiv. Due to a change in management of the Kharkiv oblast Penitentiary Service it was not possible to hold the festival in the re-

gion's prison colonies. However as this report is being written, agreement has already been reached for holding the 2013 Travelling Festival.

During discussions, prisoners exchange views, comparing their fate with those of the people in the film. For example, in discussion of the film "Sinful Illness" (the story of the life and fight for her rights of a pregnant woman with HIV) viewers asked why the film showed a woman in Russia, as if there weren't such cases in Ukraine. One prisoner admitted that he has been HIV positive for 5 years and raised the question of whether it's possible to be treated in prison colonies. The discussion turned into a lesson on how HIV is passed on; treatment and the possibility of parenthood.

After the film showings and discussions, the human rights workers gave prisoners free legal consultations.

As has become traditional, regional partners of the festival together with members of the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors in Law Enforcement held 6 master classes for young people, students, senior school students and teachers on how to protect oneself from unlawful actions by the police.

After the film showings, the festival organizers in the regions held 264 (against 88 in 2011) discussions; roundtables; and seminars on human rights issues with the involvement of experts from civic organizations; well-known human rights workers from the region; people involved in creative professions; members of the authorities; journalists. Around 27 thousand people took part in such events, around 80% of them young people, students and school pupils.

The festival organizers in the regions held 10 press conferences and briefings to mark the opening and events of the Travelling Festival. Information about the Festival was broadcast on TV channels and radio stations, in the printed and electronic media. 108 newspapers; 178 electronic publications wrote about the Travelling Festival. Information and programmes about the festival were broadcast by 10 radio stations and there were news items about the festival on 23 regional TV channels.

Information about the Travelling Festival was placed on the websites of the Penal Service Institute; the Bila Tserkva College of the Penal Service; the State Penitentiary Service; as well as printed in the departmental newspaper of the State Penitentiary Service "Law and Duty".

Some examples of publications and video items:

Kyiv:

<http://www.kvs.gov.ua/peniten/control/main/uk/publish/article/659933>

Ivano-Frankivsk:

<http://fakty.ictv.ua/ua/index/view-media/id/24751>

Yalta:

<http://yalta-gs.gov.ua/news/8193--ldocudays-ur>

Simferopol:

<http://www.blacksea.tv/projects/o-glavnom/archive/11-12-2012>

Poltava:

<http://www.misto-tv.poltava.ua/news/13149/>

Chernihiv:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhvPGul1kGA>

Information about the festival is regularly posted on the website Docudays.UA in the section on the Travelling Festival.

More information about the festival can be found on their official website at:
<http://www.docudays.org.ua>

UHHRU Volunteers

Cooperation with volunteers is an important part of the work of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. After all practice in UHHRU is not just a good thing to add to ones resume, but also invaluable experience, the possibility of meeting interesting people; using a unique library of legal publications. Our volunteers also get the chance to take part in various seminars and training courses.

A firsthand account of what it's like to spend time working in UHHRU:

Hanna Yanova, UHHRU volunteer, 2012:

"You think that legal practice for students must be boring and monotonous, office work by the office dog's body and any hope of anything else is a pipe

dream. However I'm very glad that my experience differs from most people's expectations.

I spent a month in the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union during which time I got to various human rights events, gave dozens of legal consultations on behalf of a mysterious human rights worker on the UHHRU site and had time to become convinced that they (as in human rights workers) work, to understand that that kind of work is close to my heart and interesting.



You can write a lot about the office that it's hard to get to, but that you don't want to leave; about the jokes about the (judge corps) Gestapo; the office manager who drills sheets in the middle of the office for a flipchart; the creativity of the PR consultant; the legal questions which were sometimes such a mystery that you wanted to turn into a fortune-teller. I guess you can't list all the impressions. So that's what practice at UHHRU is in the eyes of the average volunteer":

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1335518555>

Anyone can become a volunteer by sending a resume and covering letter to:

shcherbatuc@helsinki.org.ua

More details here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1260786935>



UHHRU FINANCIAL REPORT

Income (in UAH):

Irrevocable financial assistance (grants)	5 646 375,40
Charitable donations	100,00
Passive income from sale of currency	61 124,03
Total:	5 707 599,43

Sources of financial support:

The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF)

1. Grant agreement No. 45806 from 02.12.2011 to support the project "Support for the strategic litigation in the Human Rights sphere". Period of force of the agreement: from 02.12.2011 to 30.11.2012. Amount received: 163,828.00 UAH.
2. Grant agreement No. 47370 from 02.11.2012 to support the project "Enhancing the capacity of legal empowerment network". Period of force of the agreement: from 19.11.2012 to 28.02.2013. Amount received: 116,356.00 UAH.
3. Grant agreement No. 47428 from 29.10.2012 to support the project "Life-term prisoners: opportunities for correction and return". Period of force of the agreement: from 05.12.2012 to 31.12.2012. Amount received: 18,590.00 UAH.

The Open Society Institute (OSI-ZUG)

1. Grant agreement No. 40020577 for institutional support in 2010–2012/ 2nd year. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.2011 to 30.06.2012. Amount received: 399,395.00 UAH (\$50 000,00).
2. Grant agreement No. 40023186 for institutional support in 2012–2015 (1st year from 3). Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2013. Amount received: 399,650.00 UAH (\$50 000,00).

National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

1. Grant agreement No. 2011-141.0 to support the project "Ukraine human rights report — 2011". Period of force of the agreement: from 01.03.2011 to 31.03.2012. Amount received: 23,969.10 UAH (\$3 000,00).
2. Grant agreement No. 2012-121.0 to support the project "Ukraine human rights report — 2012". Period of force of the agreement: from 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013. Amount received: 343,559.27 UAH (\$42 994,00).

Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC)

Grant agreement from 13.12.2011 to support the project "Program for Human Rights Education in Ukraine". Period of force of the agreement: from 31.01.2012. Amount received: 1,102,413.01 UAH (€108 361,23).

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (USA)

Grant agreement No. 2006-00484.02 for institutional support. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.12 to 30.06.14. Amount received: 697,405.00 UAH (\$85 000,00).

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine (Embassy of Netherlands)

Grant agreement No. 24994 from 07.12.2012 to support the project "Contributing to development of effective system of free legal aid in criminal cases through independent monitoring and advocacy efforts". Period of force of the agreement: from 10.12.2012 to 10.12.2013. Amount received: 693,696.00 UAH.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1. Grant agreement No. CSDP-GA-HR-12-1 from 20.01.2012 to support the project "Civic initiative on writing an alternative Universal Periodic Review report". Period of force of the agreement: from 20.01.2012 to 20.07.2012. Amount received: 443,515.00 UAH.
2. Grant agreement No. CSDP-GA-MG-12-05 from 04.04.2012 to support the project "School for PR-managers / activists of human rights organisations". Period of force of the agreement: from 04.04.2012 to 04.06.2012. Amount received: 62,952.81 UAH.

Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Grant agreement No. 2012/299-181 from 07.09.2012 to support the project "Enhancing legal opportunities for vulnerable groups in society to defend their rights". Period of force of the agreement: from 08.09.2012 to 07.09.2014. Amount received: 943,044.05 UAH (€90 098,31).

The US Embassy in Ukraine

Grant agreement No. SUP30012GR112 from 15.05.2012 to support the project "Electronic Human Rights Education for Lawyers". Period of force of the agreement: from 01.08.2012 to 31.03.2013. Amount received: 99,017.28 UAH.

Council of Europe

Grant agreement No. DGI/2012/358437 from 07.06.2012 to support organizing of in-depth seminar for lawyers of Ukraine. Period of force of the agreement: from 15.05.2012. Amount received: 111,269.37 UAH (€11 424,58).

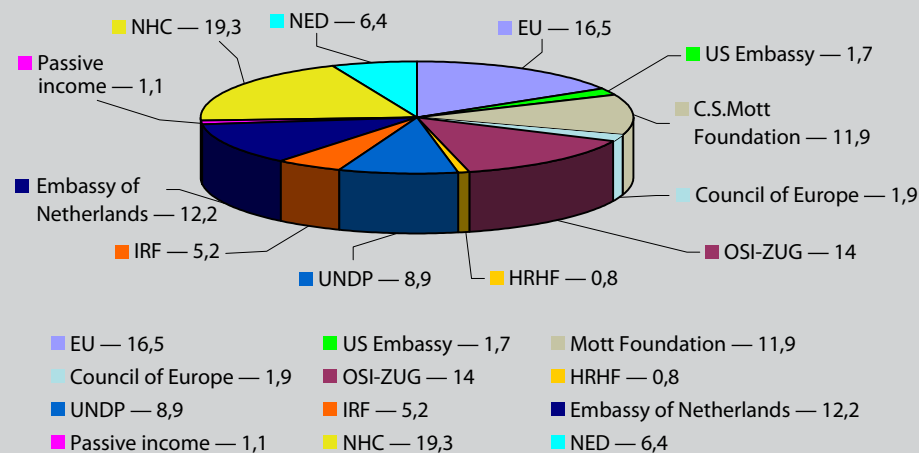
Human Rights House Foundation (HRRF)

Grant agreement from 02.07.2012 to support the project "Electronic Human Rights Education for Lawyers". Period of force of the agreement: to 01.08.2012. Amount received: 45,715.51 UAH (€4 486,68).

Charitable donations

Charitable donations of individuals — 100 UAH.

UHHRU income in percentages (by donors)

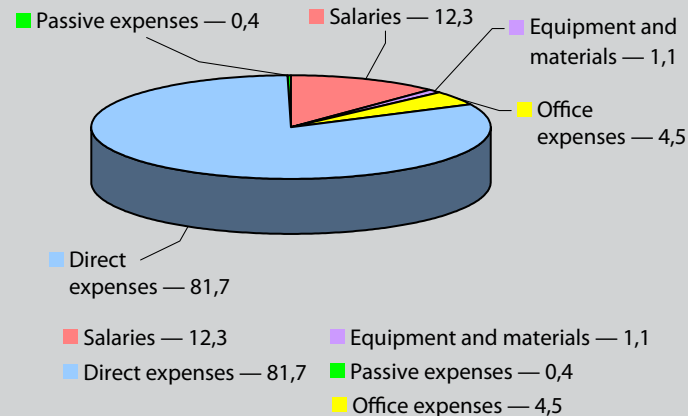


Expenditures (in UAH):

Salaries	529 921,08
Office Expenses	
Office rent	109 866,90
Communication (postage, phone, Internet, hosting)	22 951,36
Databases, literature, periodic	12 989,80
External audit	23 000,00
Bank fees	25 795,81
Total	194 603,87

Equipment and Materials	
Equipment, software	36 486,76
Office supplies, stationery	12 851,91
Total	49 338,67
Direct Expenses	
Educational and public events	1 725 019,75
Subgrants and aid in form of goods	136 784,70
Publications	243 539,00
Translation	258 002,57
Legal services	342 725,35
Contracting services	813 008,57
Total	3 519 079,94
Passive expenses from the sale of currency	16 757,93
OVERALL TOTAL	4 309 701,49

UHHRU expenditure in percentages



Funds statement in 2012 (UAH):

Balance for 01.01.2012	1 394 015,10
Incomes	5 707 599,43
Expenditures	4 309 701,49
Balance for 01.01.2013	2 791 913,04



INFORMATION FOR SPONSORS

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union is a non-political, non-profit making and independent civic organization. All of its work is aimed at defending victims of human rights violations and preventing such abuse in the future.

We never take any payment for the assistance we provide. This is in fact effectively prohibited by current legislation however in the vast majority of cases those people whom we help would simply not be in a position to pay anything.

This unfortunately entails considerable expenditure with all the costs linked with running an organization and paying staff.

If you would like to support our work through donations, we would be enormously grateful.

All such donations will go towards helping those victims of human rights abuse who are not able to help themselves. The money spent is all checked by the Audit Commission and independent auditors.

We are grateful for any support, and all those who contribute to our work will receive our annual report, financial report, as well as information about how the donations were spent.

We would be grateful if you could inform us, in whatever way is convenient (by telephone, post, etc) of when you made the payment and how much it was for. Please also tell us if you would like to receive our reports, and whether you are happy for us to make your generosity known.

If needed, we can provide any documentation required to confirm a charitable donation against tax.

In the case of legal entities, assistance to non-profit making organizations of more than two percent, but not exceeding five percent of the taxable profit from the previous tax year is included in the gross expenditure amount (Article 5.2.2 of the Law of Ukraine "On taxing businesses' profits").

Details of payment in Euro

Bank name: PODOL Branch of PJSC «UKRSOTSBANK»

Bank address: Sagaydachny str. 22/1, Kyiv, 04070 Ukraine

Bank account holder: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

Bank account number: 2600 900 0017 574 / SWIFT code: UKRSUAUX

Correspondent bank:

Bank name: Commerzbank AG / Bank address: Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Bank account number: 400886615401 / SWIFT code: COBADEFF

Details of payment in USD

Bank name: PODOL Branch of PJSC «UKRSOTSBANK»

Bank address: Sagaydachny str. 22/1, Kyiv, 04070 Ukraine

Bank account holder: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

Bank account number: 2600 800 0017 575 / SWIFT code: UKRSUAUX

Correspondent bank:

Bank name: Commerzbank AG / Bank address: Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Bank account number: 400886615400 / SWIFT code: COBADEFF

We should also mention that in accordance with Ukrainian legislation when receiving charitable assistance from abroad, we need to receive written confirmation of the donation. This can be sent by email, fax or normal post.

Details of payment in UAH

Recipient: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union / ВАГО «Українська Гельсінська спілка з прав людини»

Bank: Podil Branch, Ukrsotsbank / Подільське відділення ПАТ «Укрсоцбанк»

ЄДРПОУ: 26581566

Purpose of the payment: Donation / Благодійна допомога

CONTACT US

UHHRU address: 04071, Kyiv, Frolivska, 3/34 St, 3-rd floor / UHHRU address for correspondence: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, PO Box 100, Kyiv 04071

Tel/fax: (044) 417 41 18; (044) 383 95 19 / e-mail: office@helsinki.org.ua / www.helsinki.org.ua / <http://www.youtube.com/ugspl>

<http://twitter.com/UGSPL/>; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ugspl/>