

HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

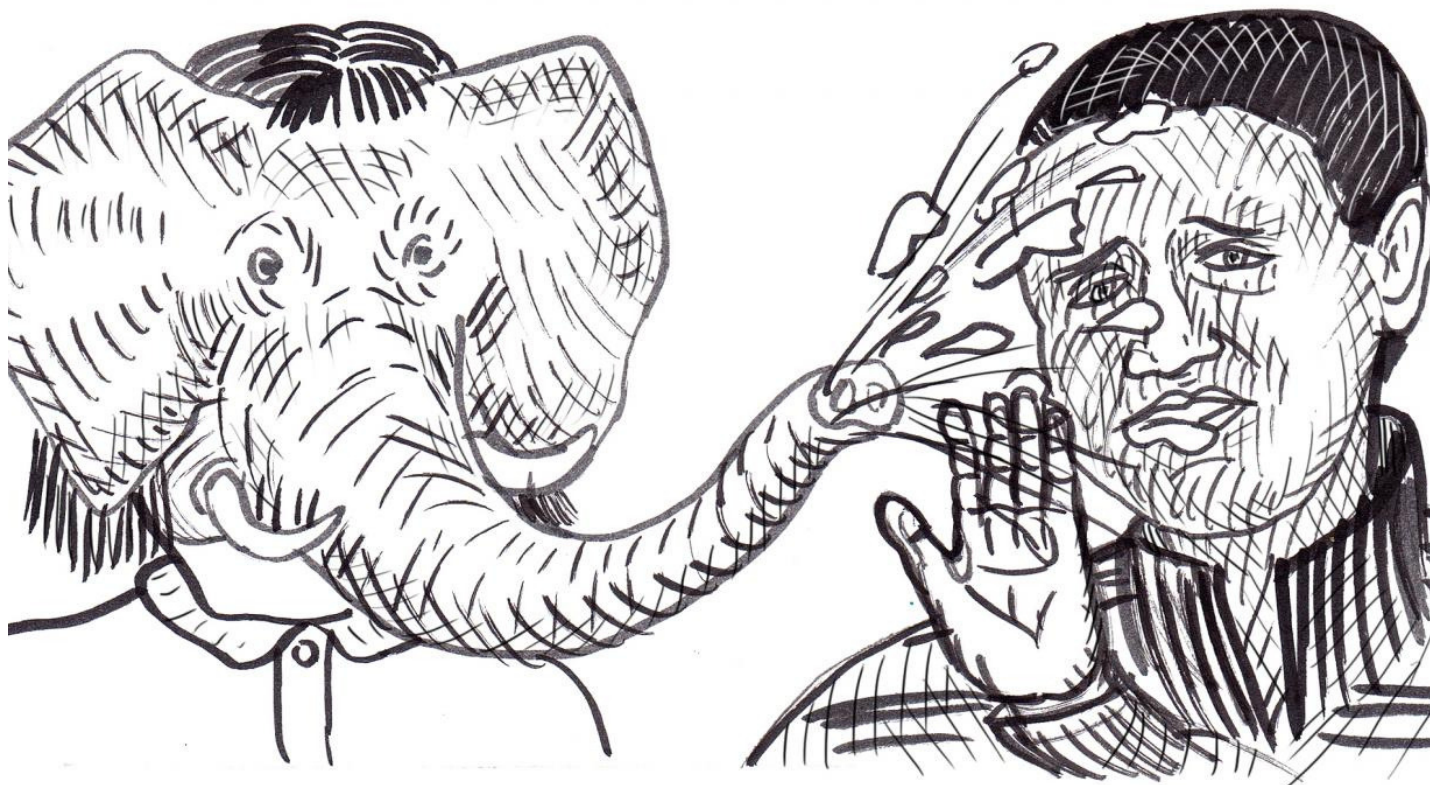


Illustration: Daniela Krajčová, Uletenci, 2018

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
LEAGUE**
LIGA ZA LUDSKÉ PRÁVA

ABOUT US



WHAT WAS 2018 LIKE?



Just as our parents remember where they were during the events of November 1989, our generation will remember the day we learned about the murder of Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová, and also how we stood at public squares all over Slovakia from March to June. We at the Human Rights League were part of this social and political event and will never forget it. Hopefully, this year, which began with a great tragedy, triggered profound social and political changes that will ultimately be beneficial for the country as well as us all. In our annual report, you will learn how we tried to make Slovakia a better place to live for people that were not born here, but for whom the country has been a home, whether for a longer or a shorter time.

OUR TOPICS: REFUGEES

In 2018, we continued the Legal Asylum Counseling Center project which includes visits to the asylum reception camp in Humenné and residential camps in Opatovská Nová Ves and in Rohovce, where asylum seekers are accommodated. As part of the project, we provided them with free legal assistance in asylum proceedings, including representation in front of the Migration Office of the Slovak Republic and Slovak courts.

During 2018, we provided legal aid to 109 new clients. Out of this number 79 were men, 30 women and 27 children. Up to 46 new clients were evaluated as vulnerable. The largest countries of origin were Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq and Iran. In addition to new cases we continued to represent 30 cases which were still open from previous years.

Our legal assistance resulted in:

2 asylums granted

33 subsidiary protections granted

In 2018 we also successfully represented our clients in asylum matters in courts:

7 cases at the Regional Court in Bratislava

2 cases at the Regional Court in Košice

10 cases at the Supreme Court

This means that **30 asylum seekers** have been successfully represented at the courts (in some cases whole families have been represented).

178

people applied for asylum in Slovakia in 2018

5

people were granted asylum

37

people were granted subsidiary protection



Photo: Residential camp for asylum seekers, Rohovce, archive of the Human Rights League

MIGRATION

121 264 FOREIGNERS LIVED IN SLOVAKIA AT THE END OF 2018



Photo: archive of the Human Rights League

Legal aid: Foreign residence legislation is very complicated and administratively demanding. That is why we have been **helping foreigners in Slovakia** with legal advice and representation for many years.

Laws and policies: In 2018, we also **commented** on the Aliens Stay Act and the Asylum Act. We always strive to translate our experience and protection of human rights into legislation.

Information and facts: Migration in recent years has been marked by hoaxes and disinformation. We strive to provide information and facts to help you form your opinion and argue. In 2018, we were involved in a debate on the Global Migration Compact and we were the only organization which brought facts into the debate on this subject. The media also took information from us. You can find more details on our website under "**Global Compact is not a Global Complot.**"

INTEGRATION

FOREIGNERS IN OUR CITIES



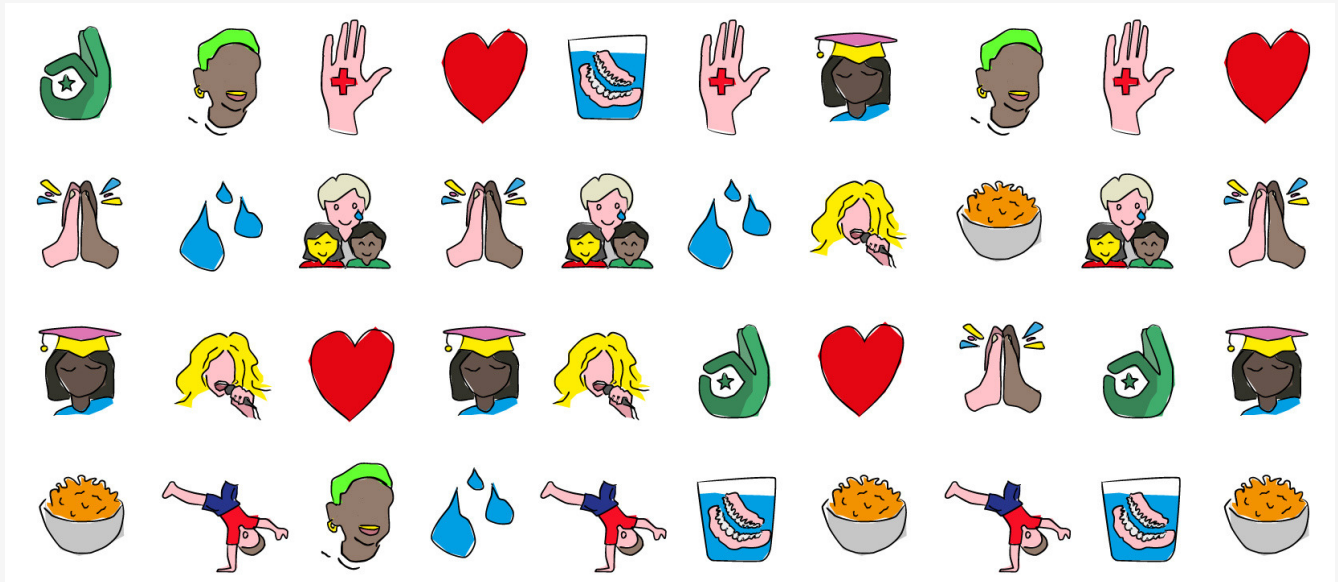
Photo: Sunday parade 2018, archive of the Human Rights League

In January 2018, we launched our largest project - KapaCITY. This project brings together 4 NGOs: us, Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, Milan Šimečka Foundation and Marginal, 4 Self-Governments: the Towns of Bratislava, Trnava, Banská Bystrica and Košice Self-Governing Region, and the Union of Towns of Slovakia. Our goal is to map out the situation in these cities in detail and to set up individual integration policies in the cities and regions accordingly. If we succeed, these 4 municipalities will be an example of how good policies for integration of foreigners and for mutual understanding can be implemented in Slovakia. Keep your fingers crossed and read the research reports that are already posted on our website!

**KAPACITY -
SUPPORTING
INTEGRATION OF
FOREIGNERS ON A
LOCAL LEVEL**

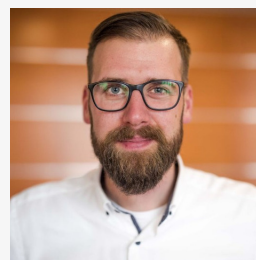
INTEGRATION FORUM 2018

Open cities in times of fear



The 5th Integration Forum responded to the current social debate on migration and refugees. Integration of people from abroad happens in the streets of towns and villages in which they live. But how do today's cities approach foreigners and refugees and how to talk about them with people in an atmosphere of general fear and refusal? At the Integration Forum, we presented inspirational examples from different European cities that can provide guidance on how to do so.

The guests were the first female Afghan MI-17 pilot [Latifa Nabizada](#) who had to leave Afghanistan and currently lives as a refugee in Vienna, [Richard Kaniewski](#) who is active in the integration of the government of Saxony, and [Salah Uddin](#) of the Rohingya community who talked about integration of Rohingya people in Bradford.



DETENTION OF FOREIGNERS

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY AND STAY OF A FOREIGNER IS ONLY AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENCE, BUT THE ONLY ONE FOR WHICH A PERSON CAN BE DEPRIVED OF HIS/HER PERSONAL LIBERTY.

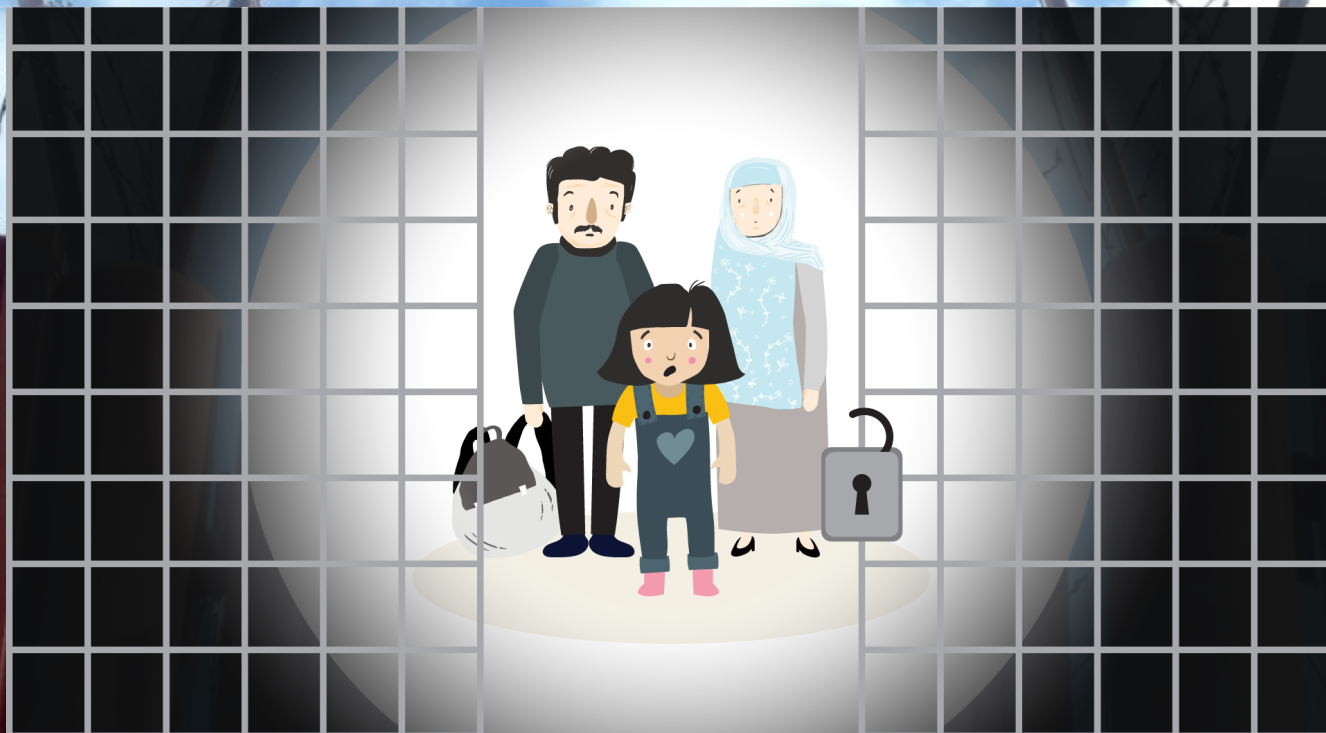


Illustration: Campaign "Children do not belong to prison", archive of the Human Rights League

Detention of foreigners is a big topic for the Human Rights League, because it is the only administrative offense for which a person can be locked in "jail." Therefore, since 2005, we have been providing free legal aid to foreigners detained in Slovakia and represented them in proceedings reviewing the lawfulness of their detention in front of the courts, but also in asylum proceedings.

In fact, when asylum-seekers are detained, no legal aid is given to them in asylum proceedings. In 2018, we managed to raise funds from the grant scheme for the support and protection of human rights of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and from the funds of the US government (Julia Taft Refugee Fund) - we greatly appreciate it!

**196 FOREIGNERS
WERE PLACED INTO
DETENTION
CENTERS
IN SLOVAKIA
IN 2018**

**151 FOREIGNERS
WERE RELEASED
FROM DETENTION
WITHOUT THEIR
REMOVAL -THUS
DETENTION DID NOT
MEET ITS PURPOSE**

In the first five months of 2018, we provided legal assistance in police detention centers for foreigners thanks to a financial donation from the Society of Jesus, from June to December 2018 within the project Let's give refugees a chance II supported by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and also thanks to the Legal Assistance in Detention project supported by the US Embassy in Bratislava as part of the Julie Taft Refugee Fund (this project lasts until the end of September 2019).

We provided legal counseling and **legal representation primarily to asylum seekers in asylum proceedings with the Migration Office** of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, and we also represented some asylum seekers in **proceedings about their detention at the Slovak courts**. We regularly visited police detention centers in Medveďov and Sečovce. In total, we provided legal assistance to **52 clients in detention**, of which 23 were Afghan, 10 Iraqi, 9 were from Pakistan, 2 from Syria, 1 stateless, 2 from Turkey, and 1 from each of these states; Vietnam, Morocco, Russia, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We have also provided legal assistance to **vulnerable persons**. For example in Sečovce, a group from Iraq included a **3-year-old child, his lonely grandmother with health problems, and an applicant with heart problems**. In Medveďov we dealt with several cases of young men who claimed to be under 18 years of age, and in some cases their status of an underage minor was confirmed on the basis of a medical examination or an original ID obtained from their home country, and they were subsequently released and placed in a home for foster care of children.

As part of the asylum procedure, **12 clients** were provided with **subsidiary protection and temporary residence permit** in the Slovak Republic. We **succeeded in detention proceedings 5 times at the Regional Court in Bratislava**, when based on our administrative action filed against the decision of the Foreign Police, the court cancelled the detention decision of the Foreign Police and ordered the **immediate release of our clients**. **In 3 cases of detained clients, we succeeded based on our appeal to the Supreme Court** of the Slovak Republic.



DISCUSSIONS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, MEDIA

WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO PEOPLE



Photo: discussion on foreigners in entrepreneurship, archive of the Human Rights League, December 2018

Since 2015, migration has become one of the dominant themes of public debate in the European Union and Slovakia. However, since this topic had not been given proper attention before, general public as well as many political and other leaders entered this debate unprepared. At the same time, there are not many refugees and foreigners living in Slovakia, compared to other EU countries, and so many people do not have personal experience with them. These factors cause that public receives the information predominantly from the media and is subjected to various conspiracies or misrepresentations, and is more prone to believe in ideas that are spread by different extremist parties and movements.

In 2018, we concluded a contract with the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic to implement the [Migration Compass](#) project. The main objectives were to raise awareness on migration, integration and asylum issues at the regional level, and to improve decision-making processes related to these issues. We organized round tables with foreigners, which gave space for opinion and common discussion. At the end of the year, we organized a special event aimed at foreign entrepreneurs, who explained the biggest obstacles they encountered not only in starting a business in Slovakia, but also in their own integration. All project outputs are available [HERE](#).

COMIC BOOK ULETENCI

FIRST COMIC BOOK ABOUT REFUGEES IN SLOVAKIA



We managed to do a great thing for Christmas 2018 - we released a comic book Uletenci, the first Slovak comic book that presents the stories of 5 refugees living in Slovakia. Katka Fajnorová, Katka Marinová and Danko Krajčová had the idea to create the book in 2015. Since then they created drawings and stories based on real people's lives.

Comic heroes from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Syria tell stories of their childhoods, about escapes from their countries, and how they have become integrated into life in Slovakia. We are pleased that we managed to collect € 2,000 from a crowdfunding campaign, got financial support from the Bratislava Self-Governing Region and were supported from the Goethe Institute as well. Thanks to all of these, the book could come out and today you can find it on the shelves of all good bookshops. Pleasant reading!

FOR DECENT SLOVAKIA MOVEMENT

WE WANT TO BELIEVE IN THE STATE AGAIN

In the context of the protest movement For Decent Slovakia, the Human Rights League became a member of the NGO coalition "We Want to Believe" in the spring of 2018, which negotiated with the state on important legislative and personnel changes, especially with regard to the Police Corps Act and the election of the new Police President. We are pleased that with our contribution, we helped to make Slovakia a better country. However, we are extremely saddened that the trigger for the changes was the the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová. We honor their memory.



PROJECTS/SOURCES OF FUNDING

PROJECT NAME & SOURCE OF FUNDING	SUM/REVENUE
PROJECT KAPACITY - SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AT A LOCAL LEVEL ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND	139,895.36 €
LEGAL COUNSELLING FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND	95,282.43 €
INSTITUTIONAL GRANT OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION	34,494.10 €
PROJECT LET'S GIVE REFUGEES A CHANCE 2 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG FOUNDATION	22,765.27 €
PROJECT HOW TO EFFECTIVELY INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, MINORITIES AND MIGRATION EUROPEAN COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND	17,542.77 €
PROJECT MIGRATION COMPASS EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND'S EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONAL PROGRAM. SHARE OF PERSONAL INCOME TAX + OWN RESOURCES	13,201.05 €
PROJECT LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN DETENTION EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	4,047.39 €

PROJECT NAME & SOURCE OF FUNDING**SUM/REVENUE****COMIC BOOK ULETENCI**

5,103.67 €

BRATISLAVA REGION

STARTLAB

**PROJECT ADDRESSING SECURITY CONCERNS
IN ASYLUM PROCEDURE - A COMPARATIVE
STUDY IN THE V4 COUNTRIES**

2,286.17 €

INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND

**PROJEKT MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS IN V4
COUNTRIES: REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF
STARTUP COOPERATION**

1,441.22 €

INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND

**PERSONAL FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO
HELP REFUGEES**

958.84 €

FOUNDATION PONTIS - PROGRAMME "DOBRÁ KRAJINA"

PROJECT KOŠICE WOMEN PEERS

421.09 €

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS

OWN & OTHER RESOURCES

6,384.48 €

SHARE OF PERSONAL INCOME TAX

394.01 €

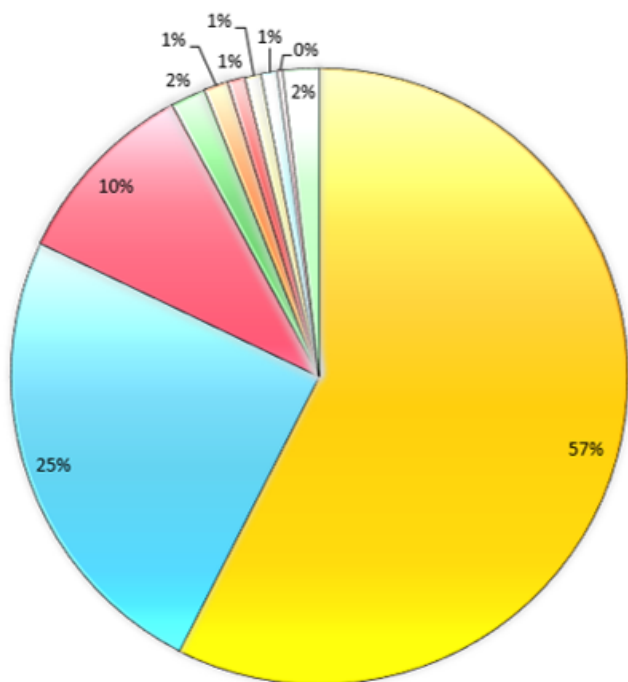
TOTAL**344,217.85 €**

2% of the personal income tax received in 2018 were used to co-finance activities of the Migration Compass project and as financial contributions to the clients in the Slovak Republic to cover their accommodation costs.
Thank you!



BUDGET 2018

Sources of Funding in 2018



- EU (57,51%): 197.955,14 €
- State Budget (24,58%): 84.623,61 €
- Open Society Foundation (10,02%): 34.494,10 €
- International Visegrad Fund (1,82%): 6.269,21 €
- Embassies of other states (1,30%): 4.468,48 €
- Donations by natural persons (0,89%): 3.062,51 €
- Bratislava Region (0,87%): 3.000 €
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation (0,83%): 2.849,81 €
- Personal Income Tax Share (0,31%): 1.051,11 €
- Own & other sources (1,87%): 6.443,88 €

STRUCTURE OF PROFITS 2018

PROFITS	SUM
PROFITS FOR SERVICES	6,996.44 €
PROFITS FOR GOODS	252 €
PROFITS FOR OWN SERVICES & GOODS	7,248.44 €
OTHER PROFITS	1,112.36 €
CONTRIBUTIONS ACCEPTED FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	6,447.72 €
CONTRIBUTIONS ACCEPTED FROM NATURAL PERSONS	1,215.67 €
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A SHARE OF PAID INCOME TAX	1,051.11 €
ACCEPTED CONTRIBUTIONS	8,714.50 €
GRANTS & DOTATIONS	327,142.55 €
TOTAL PROFITS	344,217.85 €

STRUCTURE OF COSTS 2018

COSTS	SUM
MATERIAL CONSUMPTION	5,779.29 €
ENERGY CONSUMPTION	1,040.15 €
CONSUMED PURCHASES	6,819.44 €
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	534.45 €
TRAVEL COSTS	3,548.46 €
RENTAL FEE & SERVICES	8,640.32 €
ECONOMIC SERVICES	5,698.00 €
LEGAL SERVICES	1,072.50 €
INTERPRETING & TRANSLATION	4,604.81 €
COMMUNICATION COSTS	101.23 €
POSTAL FEES	538.54 €
OTHER SERVICES	3,2832.11 €
SERVICES	57,570.42 €
SALARY COSTS	136,696.72 €
STATUTORY SOCIAL INSURANCE	46,905.91 €
STATUTORY SOCIAL COSTS	3,391.73 €
PERSONNEL COSTS	186,994.36 €
TAXES & FEES	249.42 €
FINES & PENALTIES	17.84 €
DEBT WRITE-OFFS	4.17 €
DONATIONS	1,173 €
PROJECT SETTLEMENTS - PARTNERS	75,277.95 €
OTHER SPECIFIC COSTS	7,473.29 €
BANK FEES	93.78 €
PROPERTY & SERVICES INSURANCE	468.41 €
OTHER COSTS	784,508.44 €
TOTAL COSTS	336,142.08 €



Photo: Human Rights League Archive

PEOPLE IN THE LEAGUE 2018



Zuzana Številová, director



Zuzana Kažimírová, financial coordinator



Petra Egry, financial coordinator



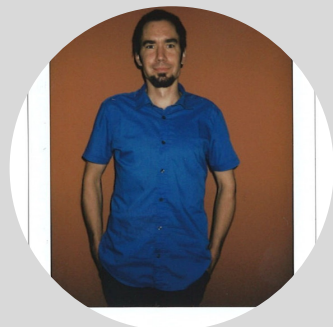
Barbora Meššová, lawyer,
Member of the Board of
Directors



Katarína Fajnorová, lawyer,
Member of the Board of
Directors



Michaela Dojčinovičová, lawyer



Peter Ivanič, project coordinator



Viktória Hollá, lawyer



Paola Bichara, cultural mediator



Miroslava Stará, Member of the Board
of Directors



Miroslava Mittelmannová,
Member of the Board of Directors



Helena Tužinská, Member of the Board
of Directors

Photos: archive of the Human Rights League

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