

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



HUMAN
RIGHTS
LEAGUE
LIGA ZA LUDSKÉ PRÁVA

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INTRODUCTION

Civic associations are an essential part of any healthy **democratic society**. Active citizens and their projects, energy, and commitment enrich society by introducing innovative approaches, methods, and inspiration for change.

The year 2023 was once again a **year of assistance** for displaced persons, but also a challenge in managing the significant growth of our organization, which required setting up several internal processes and a new structure.

Our activities primarily consisted of providing **legal advice** at the Assistance Center on Bottova Street in Bratislava and at the

Integration Center in the Košice region. These activities were supplemented by services in the online environment.

The Human Rights League (HRL) continued to co-chair the **Working Group on Protection and Inclusion**, which was established within the Coordination Forum for Refugees to connect governmental, international, municipal, and non-governmental organizations.

In the fall of 2023, we historically participated for the first time in the **Regional Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations** organized by the UN in Geneva. In the second half of the year,

we assisted the state and the capital city of Bratislava in managing transit migration, providing assistance to 686 people arriving primarily from Syria. We also presented at the **Ukrainian Central European Forum** in Lviv, Ukraine.

In collaboration with other institutions or independently, we participated in several **training sessions** on asylum and immigration law during the year. In addition to legal advice, we also provided social services and community interpreting to people under temporary protection.

In 2023, we successfully legally represented **asylum seekers**, with 11 of our clients being granted international protection in Slovakia.

As part of a project focused on **assisting victims of hate crimes and terrorism**, which was funded by a grant from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, we increasingly focused on the issue of radicalization and de-radicalization and continued to provide legal, social, and psychological services to victims of crime.

In the past year, the Human Rights League had **the highest number of employees** in its history.

Altogether, we employed 65 people in various employment relationships. Employing such a number of people was a challenge, especially in terms of internal organizational management. We were still in the process of setting up procedures, adopting policies, and striving to respond as responsibly as possible to the growth.

This **annual report** will guide you through all our projects, main activities, and events to which we dedicated our time in the past year. It was a challenging but interesting year.

We are glad that in this year we welcomed several key individuals who fit perfectly into our team, and together we form a community of migration experts with shared values.

I would like to thank everyone who works for or collaborates with the Human Rights League, contributing to the protection of the rights of people who need various forms of protection in Slovakia.

Miroslava Mittelmannová
Program Director



LEGAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE IN NEED IN SLOVAKIA

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the HRL has played a crucial role in supporting the state, municipalities, and partner organizations. The goal of the emergency response was to ensure that all people seeking international protection in Slovakia had **safe access** to Slovak territory and the appropriate **services**. In 2023, we continued to provide legal assistance and interpreting services at the **Assistance Center for Help** (abbreviated as "ACP") in Bratislava and at the **Integration Center of the Košice Region** in Košice.

While in 2022, the aim of the project by the **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** was to cover the immediate needs related to the arrival of displaced people from Ukraine to Slovakia, by 2023, the humanitarian environment and **the nature of humanitarian aid** had changed. Slovakia was not only the first EU country to activate the Temporary Protection Directive, but thanks to coordinated efforts, people under temporary protection gained access to state-supported housing, healthcare, employment, education, and social benefits.

ASSISTANCE CENTER IN BRATISLAVA

In 2023, the Human Rights League continued to provide legal assistance and counseling, strategic advocacy, and community interpreting.

The central focus of our activities remained the **Assistance Center in Bratislava**, where we provided legal aid to Ukrainians and third-country nationals. We also offered interpreting services for institutions and organizations operating within the center (Border and Foreign Police Office, UNHCR "CBA desk", Migration Office of the Slovak Republic, and the City Hall of Bratislava).

From January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, the Assistance Center was visited by **66,238** individuals who

received assistance. Since the Human Rights League provided community interpreting services to various present entities, we estimate that all 66,238 visitors to the ACP used legal and interpreting services at some stage of their visit to the center. Of the total number of clients, nearly **20%** were children under the age of 18.

During this period, we provided legal assistance to 17,210 households, representing **24,898** people. Among them were 15,274 women (63%) and 8,974 men (37%). Nearly 20% of them were minors. In Bratislava and Košice, we helped a total of 25,548 applicants and people with temporary protection status.



INTEGRATION CENTER OF KOŠICE REGION IN KOŠICE



Together with partner organizations (Človek v ohrození, Mareena, Nadácia DEDO), we provided assistance services at the **Integration Center of Košice Region (IC KK)** in Košice. In Košice, we offered legal aid in the form of personal and email legal consultations, supported by a community interpreter. From January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, we provided **legal assistance to 650 people**—442 female clients and 208 male clients. Children made up 12 percent of the total number.

TRANSIT MIGRATION

In September and October 2023, when the city of Bratislava declared a state of emergency due to **transit migration**, we helped **686 people** in migratory situations through a project. In coordination with partner organizations, we supported the Bratislava city hall by deploying **mobile teams in the field**. The situation in the capital is discussed in more detail in the "Transit Migration" section on pages 18-21.

UNHCR Project in Numbers:

- ✓ 66,238 visitors to the Assistance Center in Bratislava
- ✓ 650 clients at the Integration Center of Košice Region in Košice
- ✓ 20% of clients at the ACP and 12% at the IC KK were children
- ✓ 686 people in migratory situations were assisted in the field

COLLABORATION

Coordination and collaboration among humanitarian actors were at the core of project activities in 2023. Our advocacy and legal assistance activities were coordinated with various state and municipal entities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and initiatives. Notable joint efforts include:

Slovak Bar Association:

Collaboration on webinars and seminars for people with temporary protection, focusing on temporary protection, family law, and legal representation of victims of human trafficking, in line with referral mechanisms.

Legal Aid Center: Provided legal support to the Human Rights League team five times a week at the Assistance Center in Bratislava.

Asylum Law Clinic of the Faculty of Law, Trnava University:

University students offered legal advice at the ACP under the supervision of lawyers and community interpreters at the "Legal Desk."

Faculty of Arts, Comenius University: The departments of interpreting and ethnography provided us with supplementary

training courses and intercultural seminars, along with specialized training in community interpreting.

National Criminal Agency and Prosecution: The Human Rights League collaborated on the investigation of war crimes in Ukraine, gathering testimonies and organizing interviews.

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic: Our NGO reviewed the "Emergency Plan for Addressing the Crisis Related to Illegal Migration in Transit on the Territory of the Slovak Republic for 2023" at the request of the Ministry. The Program Director of the Human Rights League called for a systematic approach, rather than relying solely on NGOs to supplement state activities. We also submitted comments and participated in negotiations on the amendment to the Foreigners' Residence Act at the Ministry of Interior.

Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic: Participated in a working group of the Ministry focused on accommodation contributions for Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia. For optimal policy settings, we emphasized the need for

pre-registration of refugees from Ukraine (to determine the actual number and structure of refugees on the territory of the Slovak Republic, along with other data needed for policy formulation) and the establishment of systematic data collection, regular evaluation, and dissemination at all relevant levels. Additionally, we developed and submitted feedback on the UNHCR document regarding the new support system for housing persons with temporary protection from 2024 onwards.

City Hall of Bratislava: We achieved a change in the city's approach to parking for refugees in Bratislava. In 2023, we regularly participated in meetings of the Institutional Coordination Platform for the Support of Foreigners in Bratislava, organized by the City Hall of Bratislava.

National Labor Inspectorate: We held discussions with the head of the labor relations department on the employment of foreigners in Slovakia.

Research and Innovation Authority (VAIA): Collaborated with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the migration and integration center.

Together with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, we contributed to the proposal for a migration and integration “one-stop shop.” We discussed client issues and needs, the functioning of the Assistance Center, and the cooperation between the state and the non-governmental sector.

Data Office of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatization of the Slovak Republic:

Participated in the workshop "Open Data to the Max: Collecting Input," aimed at creating a space for discussion on what data on refugees the state should publish in selected areas.

UNHCR: Actively engaged in various UNHCR working groups, including the Refugee Coordination Forum, the Working Group on Protection and Inclusion (which we co-chaired), the Sub-Working Group on Child Protection, and others. Through this collaboration, we were able to coordinate our activities and contribute to improving the lives of people with migration and asylum experience in Slovakia.



KEYINFO: PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION SERVICES TO REFUGEES IN SLOVAKIA

In collaboration with the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**, we continued to provide information and legal advice to Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia in 2023.

The aim of the **KeyINFO** project was to ensure access to reliable, accurate, and verified information for those who had to leave their homes due to the war.

Project Activities:

Personal Information Meetings: Organized in cities like Bardejov, Bratislava, Humenné, Ilava, Košice, Michalovce, Modra, Prešov, Snina, Spišská Nová Ves, Trenčín, and Trnava.

Online Information Channels: We utilized a Telegram channel, phone hotline, email, Facebook profile, and webinars to share information about access to healthcare and other topics.

Social Media: Over 550 posts were created on the Telegram channel to provide information to the Ukrainian community in Slovakia.

Information Dissemination in Communities: We spread awareness about the project and our services in locations where the Ukrainian community gathered. Personal recommendations from clients also contributed to the spread of information.

From our experience, the demand for information in the KeyINFO project has a **seasonal nature**. Early in the year, clients were interested in tax returns, while in spring and summer, the focus shifted to education opportunities and travel abroad. Throughout the project, we observed a transition from basic information requests to more detailed consultations and **case management**. Clients now seek not only general information but also individual assistance in solving specific issues, affecting both the length and nature of the consultations.

Over
5,000
followers on
the Telegram
channel

43
information
sessions

9
webinars

More than
1,150
phone calls
handled

90%
positive
feedback



Illustrative image
(Pexels)

ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Thanks to a project supported by the **Ministry of Justice of Slovakia**, we continued to provide specialized **assistance to victims of hate crimes** in 2023. These crimes include acts of terrorism and offenses committed through violence or threats of violence based on gender, sexual orientation, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, or belief.

One reason for focusing on this target group is the **ongoing intolerance and discrimination** against people of foreign origin.

As intolerance rises across Europe, so does the number of hate-motivated crimes or other xenophobic manifestations, such as discrimination or **hate speech**.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent arrival of war refugees in Slovakia have exacerbated this trend.

Several Ukrainian refugees have sought our assistance after experiencing hate speech or discrimination from Slovak citizens.

Project Activities:

- Individual consultations and provision of social, psychological, and legal assistance to victims of criminal offenses
- Information campaigns to raise awareness of victims' rights and available forms of assistance
- The "Forum on Integration 2023" conference
- Regional meetings with local government representatives
- Meetings in shelters for Ukrainian refugees
- Creation and distribution of an informational leaflet in seven languages

Thanks to the information campaign and activities aimed at raising awareness about victims' rights and available support, more people came forward, willing to report their negative experiences to the appropriate authorities.

In 2023, we provided specialized assistance to **13 clients** through a total of **37 social, psychological, and legal interventions**.

One of our clients shared her experience of a hate crime attack in a **blog interview published by the Human Rights League**.

She sought our services in June 2023, several months after experiencing an attack on a train shortly after the terrorist attack in front of Tepláreň bar in Bratislava. The lawyer we partnered with on this project represented her in court. The interview is available on [the HRL blog](#).

An important milestone for HRL in 2023 was also providing specialized assistance to a victim of a terrorist act for the first time, as part of our accredited services.





SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT

As part of the Skills for Employment program, in collaboration with IKEA, we assisted foreigners in finding employment and integrating into the labor market.

Project Activities:

Language Courses: 16 participants completed over 400 hours of personalized Slovak language lessons focused on job-related vocabulary and interview preparation.

IKEA Training Day: At an event held in IKEA Bratislava, the company shared information about available job positions, corporate values, and work culture. Seven individuals met with an employment expert from Profesia to gain insights into job searching.

Online Workshop: The aim of this workshop on labor law essentials was to inform foreign employees about their basic rights and responsibilities in Slovakia. Sixty people attended.

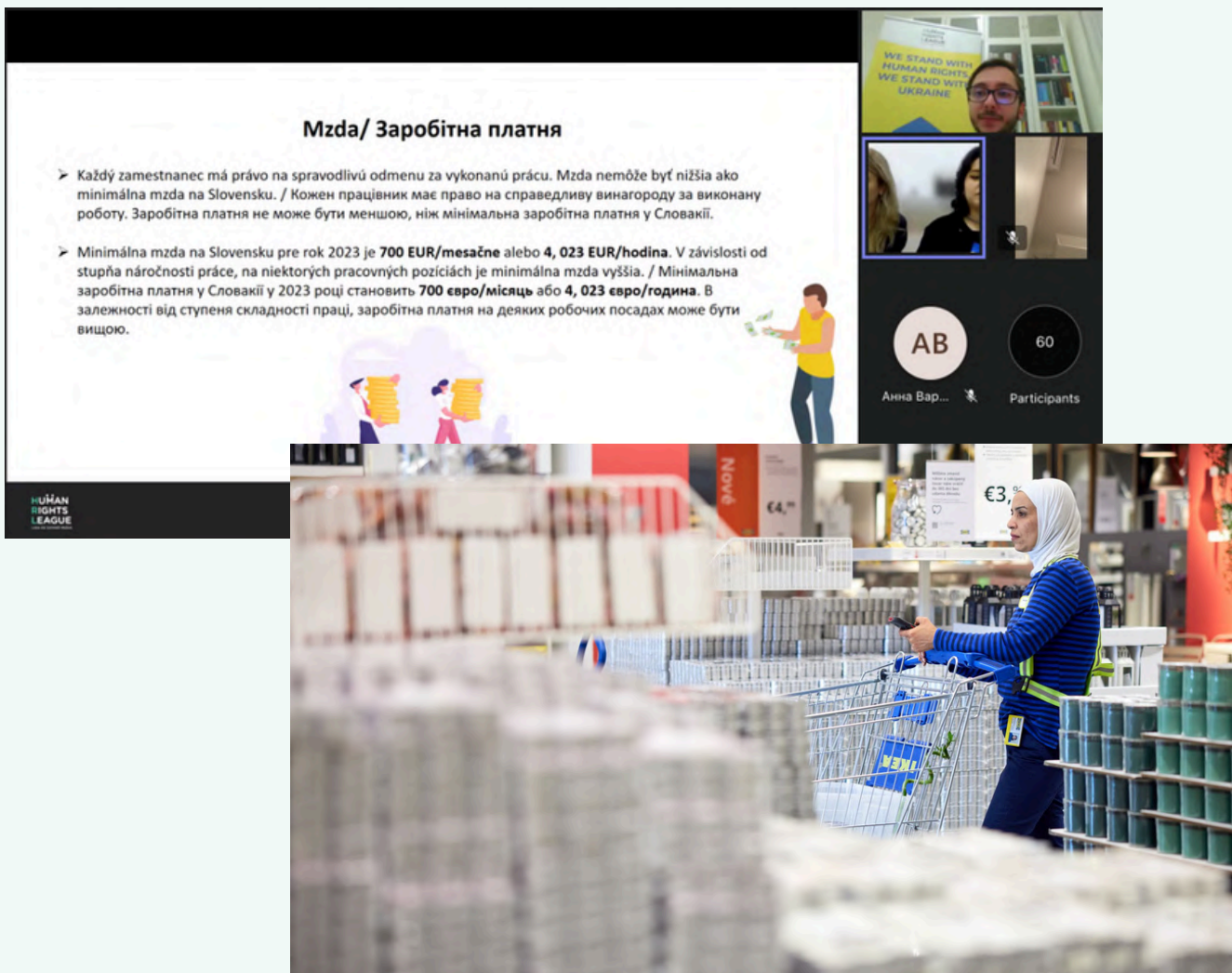
Intercultural Training: The training "Together in a Slovak Team" covered topics such as cultural customs, unwritten rules, effective collaboration, and adapting to a new workplace.

Video Courses: In cooperation with the platform "Učíme (sa) slovenčinu ako cudzí jazyk" (Learning Slovak as a Foreign Language), we produced a series of videos for Ukrainians focused on job searching.

The Skills for Employment program contributed to integrating people with migration and asylum experiences into the Slovak labor market. Through project activities, participants improved their language skills, gained knowledge about labor law, and acquired valuable practical experience. The program also strengthened intercultural cooperation and tolerance in the workplace.

IKEA Project in Numbers:

- ✓ 400 hours of Slovak language training
- ✓ 60 participants in the online labor law workshop
- ✓ 16 program participants





ASYLUM CONSULTANCY

In the field of international protection, we provided **legal support to 54 people**. The Human Rights League took on the legal representation of **20 people** from seven different countries - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Iran, Russia and Ukraine. We have successfully litigated 12 cases with the Migration Office of the Slovak Republic. Thanks to our legal representation, **10 persons** of Afghan and Cuban origin were granted asylum in Slovakia. Two persons from Afghanistan and Ukraine were granted subsidiary protection. At the request of the EU Asylum Agency (EUAA) and UNHCR, we informed the EUAA about a pending legal representation case in which

the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic overturned a lower court's **decision to refuse asylum to a Belarusian family**, citing legitimate fears of possible persecution upon return to their country of origin. According to data from the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, **416 persons** applied for international protection in Slovakia in 2023. **Asylum was granted to 37 people**, 11 of whom were successfully represented by the Human Rights League. In addition to legal representation and legal assistance, we provided counseling to two stateless persons and **9 people** who had already received asylum or subsidiary protection in Slovakia.

Among those seeking asylum were two LGBTQ+ people originally from Serbia who feared persecution and discrimination upon return to their country of origin.

Asylum advice was provided to persons passing through Slovakia as part of transit migration (Syria, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran) through mobile teams in the field. A total of **686 people** were assisted during the crisis situation in September and October 2023.

“ Being in Slovakia is like a dream. Starting a new life from scratch is not easy, but we are managing, client Aziz Gharwal



A successful case

One of the foreigners who received asylum in Slovakia in 2023 was **Aziz Gharwal from Afghanistan**. We represented Aziz and his family in the asylum proceedings. Aziz also spoke about his story in an interview on [the Human Rights League blog](#). "It's a great feeling to see your former clients gradually putting down new roots in Slovakia. Aziz is a great example of this. Since he and his family arrived in Slovakia, they have been working hard to integrate and become full members of society, but at the same time not forgetting where they came from," said lawyer **Lukáš Novák**, who legally represented the family.



Illustrative image
(Getty Images)

ADVOCACY

In 2023, we intensified and strengthened our legal advocacy in different areas of protection, inclusion and integration of Ukrainian refugees.

Together with partner organizations, we developed a list of **recommendations for the successful integration** of people with temporary protection and presented it to political parties.

The Human Rights League, as part of a UNHCR-led working group, contributed to a **draft scheme of state support** from 2024 for people

with temporary protection seeking housing. We continued our advocacy work in the field of **education**, where we urged for **compulsory school attendance** to apply to all children of foreigners with valid residency in Slovakia.

Access to education for all Ukrainian children, access to state child protection services, a timely and safe identification process for unaccompanied and separated minors, and ensuring transparency in the process of appointing a legal guardian remain **key priorities** regarding temporary protection.

Legislative comments:

in 2023 we were involved in the legislative process and submitted **three comments** on the amendment to the Law on the Residence of Aliens. We proposed that persons granted temporary protection in Slovakia should have **the right to do business**, as foreseen in the European Directive 2001/55/EC, which sets out the minimum rights that EU Member States must grant to persons with temporary protection.

In the second comment, we proposed the introduction of a **new type of temporary residence** - temporary residence for temporary protection holders. Currently, persons granted temporary protection have a tolerated stay, which is the least stable form of residence among the other types of residence of foreigners in Slovakia. In the interests of legal certainty and the need to stabilize the legal status of temporary protection holders in Slovakia, we have proposed that they should have a simplified approach to obtaining temporary residence in Slovakia.

In our third comment, we proposed **simplified access to the labor market** for Ukrainian people who wish to change their legal status from temporary protection to temporary residence for the purpose of employment.

Success at the supreme administrative court of the Slovak republic:

In June 2023, the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic reversed the lower court's judgment by annulling the Migration office's **decision not to grant asylum** and remanded the case back to the Migration Office for further proceedings. The case concerned a **Belarusian mother and her minor son**, whom we represented in the asylum proceedings and subsequently in proceedings before the administrative courts. The asylum seeker did not want to return to Belarus because she feared persecution on political grounds. She publicly criticized the regime of President Lukashenko, protested against it during her stay in Slovakia, gave interviews to the media and expressed support for the Belarusian opposition. However, the Migration Office did not grant her asylum or subsidiary protection. **The Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic** agreed with our reasoning and recognised that the applicant's fears of persecution were well-founded. The Court referred to the specificity of refugee law, according to which a "reasonable degree of likelihood" that a person faces persecution in the country of origin is sufficient. After the court overturned the Migration Office's first decision, the client and her son were eventually **granted asylum**.



TRANSIT MIGRATION IN SLOVAKIA

In October 2023, when the city of Bratislava declared a **state of emergency** due to transit migration, the Human Rights League, in coordination with partner organizations, supported the Bratislava City Hall by deploying mobile teams in the field twice a day to provide **humanitarian assistance and legal counseling** to women, men and children.

HRL mobile teams informed vulnerable persons about their right to apply for international protection in Slovakia through **face-to-face counseling** as well as **leaflets** in Arabic, Farsi, Turkish and English languages.

Lawyers and volunteers with the help of interpreters **explained the Dublin procedure**, provided information on how to apply for international protection and offered support in the process. Mobile teams monitored the situation, provided legal information and distributed material assistance. Given the nature of the crisis and the number of people involved, we organized a **workshop** for all emergency intervention teams. During the fieldwork we observed a low level of awareness of people in a migration situation. At the same time, we also noted a lack of awareness among humanitarian aid providers.

The workshop covered basic migration terminology, the issue of a permission to stay, the right to asylum, basic information on how to apply for asylum in Slovakia and the principles of providing information. More than 80 members of partner organizations from all over Slovakia attended the workshop. **As a result of our legal advocacy**, discussions at government level and the publication of an open appeal calling on the state to activate the contingency plan, a tent city providing basic services and accommodation for the most vulnerable (women with children, separated children, people with disabilities, injuries and chronic conditions) was set up in the premises of the Ministry of the Interior.

“ My colleagues and I are gaining a lot of experience in the field; it's theory in practice. Working in the field is both physically and mentally demanding. However, the grateful and honest feedback from the people we help is a patch on all the fatigue.

interpreter Martin

Call of Slovak civic associations on irregular transit migration

In Bratislava, 11 October 2023

We, representatives of associations that have long been engaging in the field of migration, integration and humanitarian and development aid, after a year, once again express our deep concern about the current crisis situation in connection with irregular transit migration, this time on the entire territory of the Slovak Republic.

This year, more than 40 000 third-country nationals, including women and children, have crossed and continue to cross and stay temporarily in Slovakia. The fundamental human rights of all persons in a migration situation must be respected, as required by the international obligations to which we have acceded. Human dignity is one of the fundamental values, and it is therefore essential

that people arriving have access to life-saving services - food, emergency medical care, basic hygiene and material needs, as well as access to comprehensible information, on the basis of which they will be able to make adequate decisions about their next steps. At the same time, in deteriorating weather conditions, we urgently call for the provision of safe and dignified overnight accommodation.

We draw special attention to the situation of particularly vulnerable persons, such as single mothers with children, unaccompanied minors, the elderly, people with special needs, the sick, the injured and the traumatised, as well as possible victims of human trafficking and victims of conflict-related sexual violence, who require greater attention from the state authorities. The deteriorating situation of irregular migration requires management at the national level and coordination at the international level. We highly appreciate the work of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic on the preparation of the so-called Contingency Plan for dealing with the emergency situation of irregular transit migration on the territory of the Slovak Republic for the year 2023.

Regarding its readiness to respond to the current situation, we call for this plan to be revised immediately and implemented promptly. Many local and regional municipalities in Slovakia do not have sufficient knowledge or information on how to proceed if migrants in need are found on their territory.

It is necessary that the affected municipalities are timely and sufficiently informed about the activities of the state in this area and receive adequate assistance in dealing with the situation on their territory. We call for the adoption of standard operating procedures at state level, which will include expert guidance in preparing local solutions and practical support in providing humanitarian aid, emergency accommodation, medical treatment and information to people in migration situation.



It is equally important that public officials' communication on the situation remains factual and contributes to maintaining peace in the local communities concerned. We must not allow unreasonable and populist statements to lead to rising tensions, discrimination and violence.

We are also concerned about the widespread network of smugglers used by these people to take them to other countries in the European Union. We call for addressing this situation to be an integral part of

the plan for responding to irregular transit migration in Slovakia. We therefore call on the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Slovak Republic to present and immediately begin to implement solutions that respect the human rights and dignity of people in a migration situation. We, the representatives of the organizations, offer our cooperation in solving the current situation in all areas of work with people in a migration situation.

[List of signatories](#)

aktuality.sk SLOVENSKO REGIÓNŮ SVET TÉMY EKONOMIKA PRÉMIOVÉ ČÍTANIE KOMENTÁRE CES

Štát by mal urýchlene konať v oblasti migrácie, vyzývajú organizácie. Chcú sa stretnúť so zástupcami vlády

11. okt. 2023 o 17:00 | 1 min. čítania

Štát by mal urýchlene konať v oblasti migrácie, vyzývajú organizácie. Chcú sa stretnúť so zástupcami vlády

Migranti na Regrútskej ulici v Bratislave

TASR

Organizácie hovoria, že doterajšia aktivita štátu zameriava na ľudí v migračnej situácii a nedostatočná pozornosť sa venuje potrebám a ľudským právam.

Štát by mal urýchlene konať v oblasti tranzitnej neregulárnej migrácie. Vyzývajú organizácie, ktoré sa venujú migrácii, integrácii, humanitárnej a rozvojovej požiadali o stretnutie so zástupcami vlády SR a Ministerstva vnútra SR. TASR informovali z Lígy za ľudské práva.

11. okt 2023 o 18:18

Štát by mal urýchlene konať v oblasti migrácie, vyzývajú organizácie

Mimovládky považujú za potrebné systematickejšie celoštátne riešenia.

TASR
Tlačová agentúra

Migranti v dočasnom pracovisku cudzineckej polície v priestoroch Okresného riaditeľstva Hasičského a záchranného zboru v Nových Zámkoch. (Zdroj: TASR)



INTEGRATION FORUM

Under the auspices of the Mayor of the Capital City of the Slovak Republic, Matúš Vallo, we organized another year of **the Integration Forum**. At the event we addressed the topic "Ukraine". We presented the key role of municipalities and international organizations in providing, securing and financing assistance to people coming from Ukraine, as well as the cooperation of state institutions with non-governmental organizations in the investigation of war crimes committed in Ukraine.

In the first panel, a representative of the City Hall of the Capital City of Bratislava presented how

the city responded to **the arrival of refugees** last year. First, the Assistance Centre on Bottova Street was established, which is a unique place where state institutions, international organizations and NGOs jointly provide services. This center would not have come into being without the help of the private sector. At the beginning of May 2023, the Support Department for People of Foreign Origin was established at the Bratislava City Hall, which provides support to people under temporary protection as well as other foreigners in the city. Furthermore, we also discussed the concepts of integration at the level of the European Union.

The representative of the city of Mechelen presented how the approach of the mayor has turned the city into an inclusive city, where not only Belgians, but also foreigners, as well as Belgian people with a foreign background, feel accepted. We also heard an inspiring presentation about the setting of integration of foreigners at municipal level in the Czech Republic and how integration of foreigners works in Bavaria. The aim of this panel was to present the reasons for the creation of the agencies, their mandates and the activities they support in Slovakia. The third panel dealt with the

topic of war crimes investigation by Slovak state authorities. Our invitation was accepted by a representative of Eurojust, the prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's Office and an investigator from NAKA, who explained why we joined the states **investigating war crimes**, what a war crime is and what the procedure is if someone has been a witness or a victim of a war crime. The Integration Forum was made possible thanks to the financial support of the European Union, the Erasmus+ Programme and the Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung Foundation.



EDUCATION OF LAW STUDENTS

In the past year, we once again secured the practical part of the Asylum Law Clinic and the Migration Law Clinic at **the Faculty of Law of Trnava University** in Trnava. The students gained valuable work experience and skills mainly at the Legal Desk at the Assistance Centre in Bratislava, but they also participated in searching for information about countries of origin or accompanied our clients to different institutions. In addition to students from Trnava, we also involved students from **the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava** and interns from **the University of Hong Kong** in our activities. Some of the students have been working with us continuously since 2022. They help people coming from Ukraine as well as people in transit migration. A big thank you to all of them.

UNHCR REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS IN GENEVA

For the first time ever, the Human Rights League, through the participation of its Programme Director, participated in **the UN Regional Consultations with NGOs in Geneva**. We had the opportunity to engage in debates and share information regarding assistance to persons coming from Ukraine, to compare protection systems in other countries and to gain valuable contacts abroad.

PARTICIPATION IN THE UKRAINIAN CENTRAL EUROPEAN FORUM IN LVIV

The Program Director accepted an invitation from the Slovak Foreign Policy Association when she attended **the Ukrainian Central European Forum** in Lviv, Ukraine in early November. The entire conference took place in the shelter of the Ukrainian Catholic University and was attended by a number of experts from different countries. Discussions were focused on political, defense, humanitarian and agricultural topics. We talked about setting up assistance to people coming to Slovakia from Ukraine, as well as our observations and trends related to this target group.

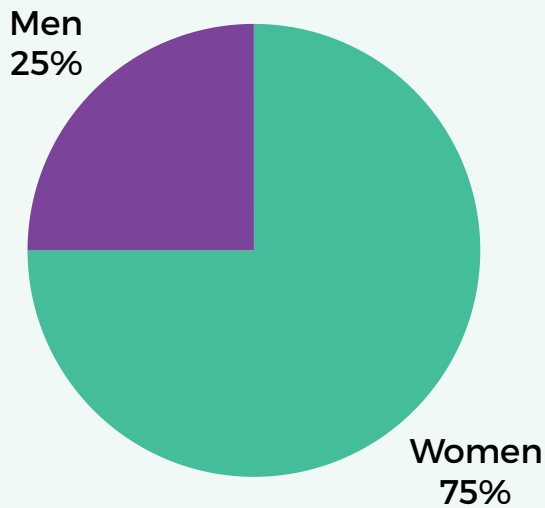


PEOPLE IN HRL



65 EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIPS

TEAM REPRESENTATION



WORKING POSITION



Legal profession: 46 %



Community interpreting: 26 %

NATIONALITY



Other support functions: 28 %



COMMUNICATION

In 2023, we strengthened our communication team. We tried to bring the topics of migration and integration closer to the public both in face-to-face meetings and online.

We took part in the Pohoda music festival, the community event Živé Račko, we were also present at the World Children's Day in Košice or the World Refugee Day celebrations in Bratislava. In the **online space**, we communicated with the Ukrainian community mainly on the Telegram channel, where we informed people coming from Ukraine about the changes in Slovakia.

We reached out to the wider public on other social media platforms, and we started publishing again on the **Human Rights League blog** on the website of the daily newspaper SME. Among the published texts were, for example, an interview with a former client from Afghanistan, an expert on gender equality or a survivor of a hate crime attack. Our advocacy work was also supported by a number of **media outputs**, in the form of press releases and through interviews. Media were mainly interested in development in the field of irregular transit migration and the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia.





Kolko je **nelegálnych migrantov** na Slovensku? **Nula.**



PROJECTS/FUNDING SOURCES

PROJECT "LEGAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN SLOVAKIA"

PROJECT "KEYINFO - PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION SERVICE TO REFUGEES IN SLOVAKIA"

EMERGENCY AID UKRAINE

PROJECT "ÚSPEŠNÁ INTEGRÁCIA MIGRANTOV V REGIÓNOCH"

PROJECT "SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT"

PROJECT "RESPONSE TO UKRAINIAN CRISIS IN SLOVAKIA"

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES

EMERGENCY SUPPORT - UKRAINE

LEGAL SERVICES IN THE INTEGRATION CENTRE IN KOSICE

KIND FELLOW (SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF MIGRANT CHILDREN)

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

DONATIONS FROM NATURAL PERSONS

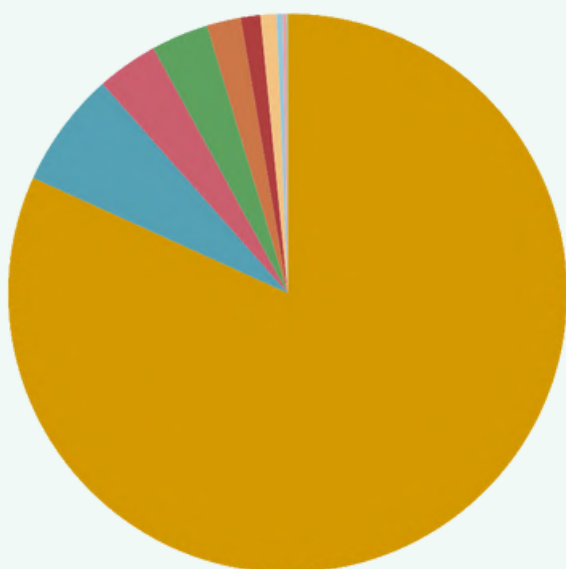
NON-FINANCIAL DONATIONS

SHARE OF PERSONAL INCOME TAX (2 %)

PUBLIC COLLECTION

OWN ACTIVITY

FUNDING SOURCES REVENUE SHARE



- International organizations: 647 274,31 € (82,77 %)
- Foundations in Slovakia: 53 078,54 € (6,71 %)
- EU source: 28 048,81 € (3,54 %)
- Corporate collaborations: 26 226,50 € (3,31 %)
- State budget: 15 601,06 € (1,97 %)
- Non-financial donations: 9 023,63 € (1,14 %)
- Own activities (sales and other income): 7 272,27 € (0,92 %)
- Share of individual income tax: 2 893,27 € (0,37 %)
- Financial donations from individuals: 1 564,46 € (0,2 %)
- Public collection: 615,20 € (0,08 %)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our heartfelt **thanks** go to all our employees, volunteers, students, and supporters who helped us assist refugees and foreign nationals in 2023.

We would also like to extend our thanks to:

The Legal Aid Centre
European Commission
FES – Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Faculty of Arts, Comenius
University
IKEA
IP-čko
IRC – International Rescue
Committee
KIND – Kids in Need of Defense
Kinstellar
Košice Self-Governing Region
City Hall of Bratislava
Ministry of Justice of the Slovak
Republic

Nadácia Centra pre Filantropiu
Open Society Foundation
Faculty of Law, Trnava University
Sdružení pro integraci a migraci,
Czech Republic
Siemens
Slovak Telekom
Slovak Bar Association
SFPA - Slovak Foreign Policy
Association
Swiss Re
The Sigrid Rausing Trust
UNHCR



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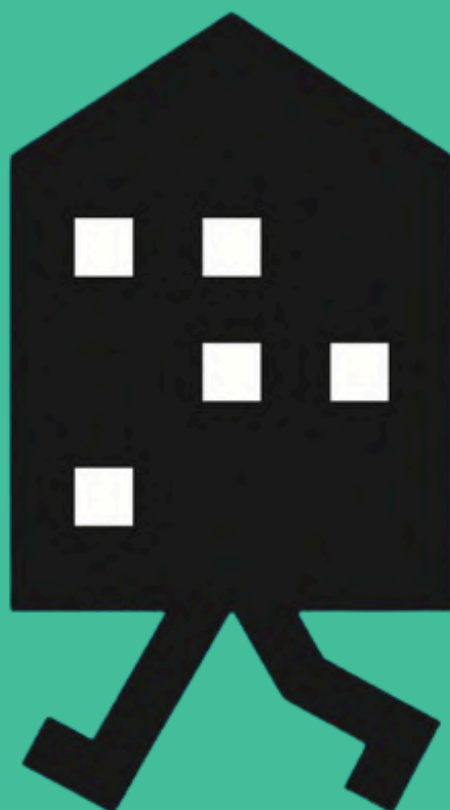
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**HUMAN
RIGHTS
LEAGUE**
LIGA ZA LUDSKÉ PRÁVA

