



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
HOUSE**
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

**17 Human Rights Houses connected across Eastern & Western Europe,
the Caucasus and the Balkans:**

Armenia (Yerevan); Azerbaijan (Baku, Nakhchivan); Belarus (located in Vilnius); Croatia (Zagreb)
Georgia (Tbilisi); Norway (Bergen, Oslo); Poland (Warsaw); Russian Federation (Grozny, Kazan,
Moscow, Voronezh); Serbia (Belgrade); Ukraine (Chernihiv, Crimea in exile in Kyiv); United Kingdom
(London)

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Cover image

"PORTRAITS OF STRENGTH" COMPETITION WINNER

Salome Sagaradze's portrait of Baia Pataraia taken in 2019.

Human Rights House Foundation's "Portraits of Strength" photography exhibition honours and celebrates eight independent women human rights defenders from the network of Human Rights Houses.

Copyright Human Rights House Foundation

SOLIDARITY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT

Reflections from Maria Dahle, Director

As human rights defenders around the world are under renewed attack for their vital work, we are reminded that “international solidarity is a precondition to human dignity, the basis of all human rights,” as reflected by Rudi Muhammad Rizki, independent expert, in his 2010 report to the UN Human Rights Council. Certainly, solidarity has never been more important.

Over the last decade, Europe has been on a gradual march towards illiberal democracy, bringing a challenge unseen since the Cold War. Without a coordinated response, underpinned by the values which led to the creation of the Council of Europe in 1949, Europe faces the prospect of once again having islands of democratic values in a sea of illiberalism.

The Human Rights House concept is founded on the enduring values of solidarity and partnership. From the River Thames to the Caspian Sea, over 80 civil society organisations are united in the network of Human Rights Houses which offer protection and support to those on the frontlines against illiberalism. Houses provide safe harbour for civil society and physical space for independent voices to unite in calling for freedoms of expression, association, and assembly.

As illiberalism has advanced, Human Rights Houses have proven themselves resilient and adaptable to worsening situations and their vital work continues on through the Covid-19 pandemic.

While “strongman” leaders shrink from responsibility, the weaknesses of authoritarian governance are becoming even more visible. In the absence of leadership, civil society has stepped in, providing people with essential information, protecting vulnerable groups such as children, women, the LGBT+ community, and domestic abuse survivors.

The Covid-19 crisis provides opportunity for authoritarian forces to accelerate attempts to undermine democracy and independent civil society. In Azerbaijan, President Aliyev spoke in early March 2020 of exploiting the pandemic to crack-down on political opposition, accusing them of coming from a “fifth column,” a chilling harking back to fictitious internal enemies who wish to spread fear and misinformation during times of crisis. Since then, dozens of opposition figures have been detained and fined and the authorities have continued to try to silence independent voices.

Elsewhere, human rights defenders are fighting for free and fair elections. In Poland, the government was only recently thwarted in its attempt to hold Presidential elections which would have severely limited the ability of opposition parties to fully participate. Elections scheduled for summer in Belarus and autumn in Georgia also bring into question how democratic values can be protected during health pandemics.

In occupied Crimea, human rights defenders report health crises in prisons full of political prisoners. The de facto Russian authorities continue to refuse independent monitors access to these facilities. Within Russia, defenders report the silencing of journalists and doctors trying to share information about Covid-19. In this, Russia offers a blueprint for authorities in countries like Hungary, Belarus, Serbia, and Azerbaijan in dealing with a free media and independent civil society.

As priorities are evaluated and revised in the wake of the pandemic, civil society has, again, more than proven itself essential. International support, including financial support, for human rights must not be reduced. In these times, the work and voices of independent civil society are critical and international solidarity must accompany them.

“To stem the tide of illiberalism in Europe, democratic voices must unite and be heard.”



Maria Dahle
Director
Human Rights House Foundation

HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE FOUNDATION

HRHF, in its 2019 - 2023 strategy, advances its vision and mission through four key objectives:



Establish and support Human Rights Houses

HRHF engages with and builds the capacity of Human Rights Houses, empowering Houses and their members to effectively address the human rights needs of their societies.



Connect Human Rights Houses

HRHF supports the development of strong local coalitions with access to international partnerships, continuously strengthening the network of Human Rights Houses.



Protect human rights defenders

Human Rights Houses and HRHF respond to and advocate against reprisals, ensuring that network members and associated human rights defenders and organisations are better protected and systematic gains are achieved.



Advance four rights core to human rights work

HRHF and Human Rights Houses promote the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression and the right to be a human rights defender, advocating together for strong international mechanisms and standards and joining with partners on national advocacy campaigns.

Empowering defenders, strengthening civil society

Human Rights House Foundation (HRRF) envisions a world in which everyone can freely and safely promote and enjoy all human rights.

Empowered human rights defenders and strong and independent civil society are key to this vision.

HRRF establishes, supports, and connects Human Rights Houses - coalitions of civil society organisations working together to advance human rights at home and abroad. Today, 17 Houses in 11 countries are united in an international network of Human Rights Houses.

Together, we advocate for the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression and the right to be a human rights defender. These four rights underpin

a strong and independent civil society and protect and empower human rights defenders.

How we make a difference

Human Rights House Foundation works closely with Human Rights Houses and partner organisations to advocate for and fulfil rights that underpin independent civil society and make it possible to hold institutions and individuals accountable.

We establish and support Human Rights Houses. The Houses and the Human Rights House concept are core to everything Human Rights House Foundation does: from advocacy and awareness raising, to capacity building and protection, all of our work is rooted in and linked to the Human Rights Houses.

The Human Rights House concept is built around the enduring values of solidarity and partnership. While each Human Rights House is unique, all houses are collaborative, independent, relevant, sustainable, effective, and united.

We connect Human Rights Houses, building an international network for change and freedoms.

Alongside Human Rights Houses and partner organisations, we advocate for the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, and the right to be a human rights defender. We support the passage, and effective implementation, of national policies and legislation, by robust and independent state institutions, based on strong international standards and mechanisms.

HRRF is an international organisation headquartered in Oslo with an office in Geneva and representation in Brussels and Tbilisi. HRRF holds consultative status at the United Nations and participatory status at the Council of Europe.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE CONCEPT

A home for human rights

Human Rights Houses are coalitions of civil society organisations working together to advance human rights at home and abroad.

Human Rights House Foundation (HRRF) works with civil society organisations to establish and support Human Rights Houses as bases for human rights activities.

While member organisations are often co-located under one roof, the structure and make-up of House reflect local needs and local context. This allows Houses to provide relevant benefits to a local human rights community as a whole and enhance the national capacity to uphold and protect human rights and independent civil society.

We connect Human Rights Houses, building an international network for change and freedoms, and today, the network extends across 11 countries with 17 Houses.

Membership in Human Rights House provides solidarity as well

as opportunities for collaboration and networking. Working together, member organisations have a greater opportunity to influence the human rights agenda. House members are also able to more effectively pool resources and benefit from reduced administrative costs. Finally, in a time of closing space for civil society and attacks against human rights defenders, House membership offers a level of security and protection from increased threats and harassment.

HRRF's Human Rights House concept is built around the enduring values of solidarity and partnership. It remains as important today as when the first House opened its doors in Oslo in 1989.

While each Human Rights House is unique, all houses are collaborative, independent, relevant, sustainable, effective, and united.



04



HRHF LOCATIONS

17



HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSES

11



COUNTRIES



TOGETHER WE HAVE IMPACT

The numbers we celebrated in 2019



01

NEW HUMAN RIGHTS
HOUSE WELCOMED TO
THE NETWORK



27

HOUSES AND THEIR
MEMBERS BENEFITED
FROM HRHF'S "HOUSE-
TO-HOUSE" FUND AND
IMPLEMENTED JOINT
PROJECTS



290

HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS WHO
BENEFITTED DIRECTLY
FROM HRHF AND
HUMAN RIGHTS
HOUSES' PROTECTION
EFFORTS



07

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS MECHANISMS
STRENGTHENED
FOLLOWING HRHF
ADVOCACY, REPORTING,
ENGAGEMENT, AND
DIRECT COMMUNICATION
WITH POLICYMAKERS,
MANDATE HOLDERS, AND
HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

EMPOWERING HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSES

Capacity building and welcoming a new network member

Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) works with coalitions of civil society organisations to establish Human Rights Houses as bases for human rights activities. In November, the network of Houses welcomed Human Rights House Kazan as a new member. For existing Houses, HRHF provides on-going support to further develop their capacity to advance human rights. In June, HRHF hosted representatives of eight Houses in Tbilisi for a fundraising workshop.

Human Rights House Kazan joins the network

Kazan Human Rights Centre, the Association of Attorneys Akmetgaliyev, Khrunova & Partners Law Firm of the Republic of Tatarstan, and Zona Prava make up the Human Rights House Kazan. They have worked together since 2009. In this regard, the House is a well-established human rights centre in Tatarstan, Russia.

Commenting on the importance of network membership, Pavel Chikov from Human Rights House Kazan reflected, “Currently, Russia is not friendly to human rights work at all. Joining the network of Human Rights Houses brings safety and security. Any types of solidarity, any ways to show that we are not alone and that we will be supported from inside and outside the country, from different partners and friends, is very important.” “It will be good to learn how our partners operate in their home countries, to learn from mutual challenges and successes.

We can develop some projects together and successfully address various legal issues related to human rights,” concluded Chikov.

The members of Human Rights House Kazan work on a variety of issues related to prison conditions, police abuse, access to medical treatment, violence in the army, domestic violence and the conditions for children in institutional care.

The House members have a thematic focus on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. There is a uniquely close cooperation between licensed professional lawyers and lawyers working for organisations in the House.

Human Rights House Kazan was accepted by the newly established Membership Review Group (MRG) at the 2019 network meeting of Human Rights Houses. The MRG is comprised of four representatives of different Houses. In addition to Kazan, two active members, Human Rights House Crimea, and Resource Centre Grozny, were formally accepted to the network.

Fundraising workshop in Tbilisi

From 26–28 June 2019, Human Rights House Foundation organised a fundraising workshop to build the capacity of Houses to successfully identify and secure funding to address human rights issues in their communities. Hosted by Human Rights House Tbilisi, the workshop

brought together 15 participants from 8 Human Rights Houses.

The workshop provided participants with practical tools to use when searching and applying for new funding. Participants focused on how to turn ideas into proposals, work with budgets, approach donors, and identify common mistakes in proposal drafting. However, HRHF believes that one-off workshops are only one step in building House capacity. Following the workshop, HRHF provided participants with follow-up consultations and the opportunity to submit project funding proposals for review and feedback.

“I greatly improved my skills in results-based management, and now I’m able to create more simple projects. It is very important to make our projects easy to understand and with a very clear and logical structure,” commented Kyrylo Yekymov, representative of Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv during the workshop.

Since the workshop, several Houses applied for and received funding from new donors. These Houses attributed the success to the knowledge gained from the workshop.



Human Rights House Kazan united three organisations under one roof and joins three more Houses in Russia in promoting human rights in the country.



HRHF's fundraising workshop at Human Rights House Tbilisi provided participants with tools and skills to strengthen their Houses' ability to search for and secure new sources of funding.

A NETWORK FOR FREEDOMS FOR 25 YEARS

Celebrating our strong, vibrant, and active network

A strong, vibrant, and active network of Human Rights Houses is a key objective of Human Rights House Foundation. In this regard, HRHF aims to connect Human Rights Houses with one another and to connect them into international partnerships in order to advance their human rights priorities.

Celebrating milestones, network meeting

On 12 – 14 November 2019, Human Rights House Foundation and Human Rights House Zagreb welcomed representatives of 17 Houses to the Croatian capital for a network meeting. Network meetings are always an opportunity for strengthening the ties between Houses. They nurture collaboration and often act as a catalyst for joint projects between Houses.

At the 2019 meeting, human rights defenders reconnected with international colleagues, discussed the human rights situations across the network countries, and worked on ideas and plans for future cooperation. Given recent increases in digital smear campaigns, meeting participants discussed how to counter such campaigns as well as how to counter harassment against women human rights defenders. Participants also looked at ways to build up an international education program for Houses.

In connection to the meeting, Human Rights House Zagreb hosted a panel

discussion on hate speech with representatives from the Croatian government and a number of local activists and journalists.

The network meeting concluded on 14 November at the Museum of Arts and Crafts in Zagreb with the celebration two significant milestones, the 10th anniversary of Human Rights House Zagreb and the 25th anniversary of the network of Human Rights Houses.

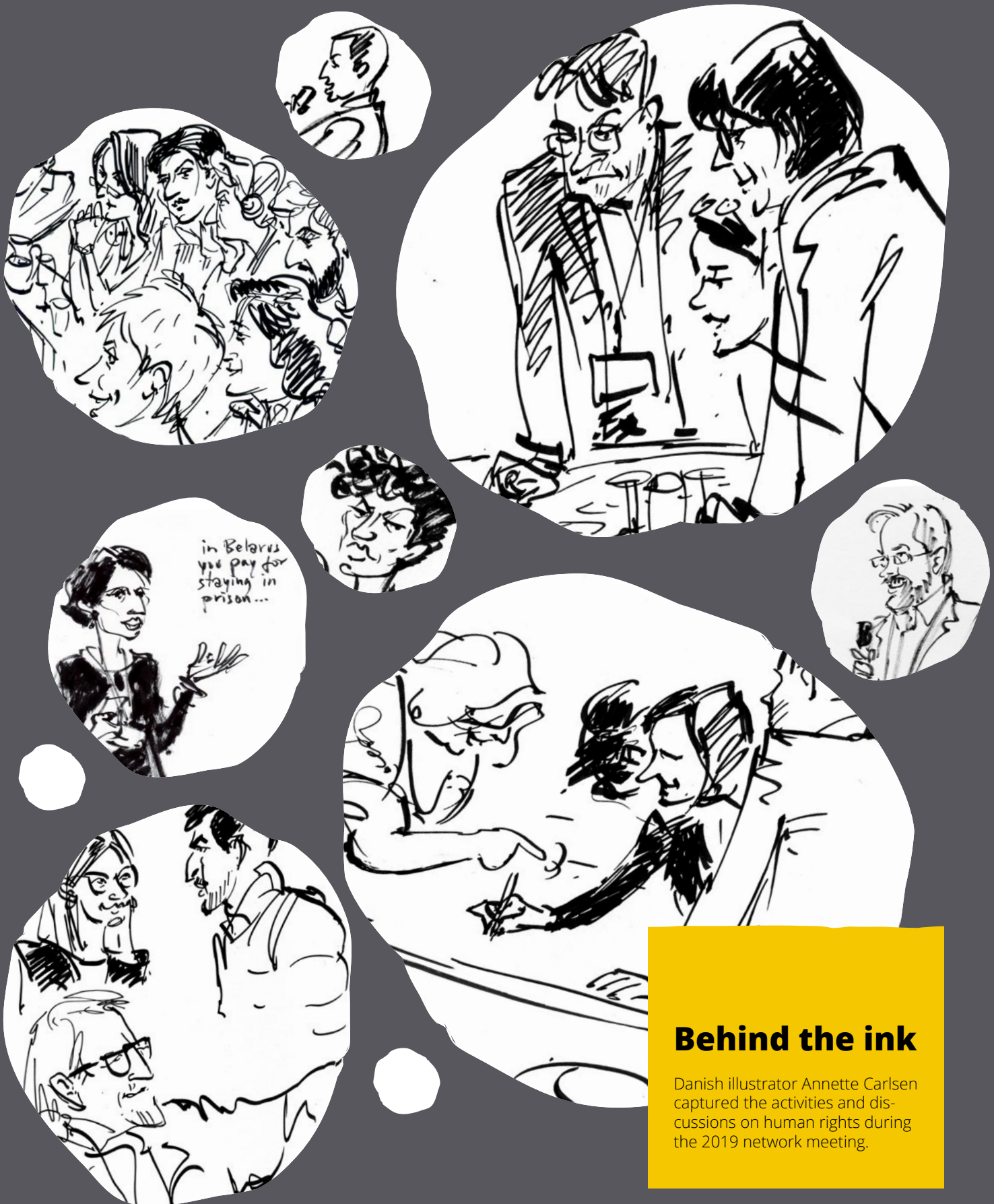
A gallery of photographs highlighting the network's history was on display as participants listened to guest speakers recount stories, achievements, and other milestones from the network. Speakers included Ivan Novosel, director of the Zagreb House; Maria Dahle, director of Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF); Bernt Hagtvet, chairperson of HRHF's board; Lora Vidović, Croatian Ombudsperson; Haakon Blankenborg, Norwegian Ambassador to Croatia; and Nicolaas Roger R. Buyck, Belgian Ambassador to Croatia.

"The Human Rights Houses, both as a network, and as individual Houses, constitute an extremely important element to, first of all, empower different organisations in every country, and to create a network internationally. Human Rights Houses are one of the more important institutions we are supporting," commented Haakon Blankenborg, Norwegian Ambassador to Croatia during the event.

Working together on Human Rights

Throughout the year, Human Rights Houses worked together to implement a dozen joint projects supported by HRHF's House-to-House fund. The House-to-House fund provides financial and technical support to groups of two or more Houses working in partnership to address common human rights issues in their communities. Established in 2017, the fund embodies the solidarity and collaborative nature at the heart of the network of Human Rights Houses. It helps to strengthen and connect Human Rights Houses, encourages knowledge and competency sharing, increases capabilities and capacities, and ultimately enhances impact on human rights in local communities.

In 2019, the House-to-House fund expanded further from previous years. More Houses and organisations utilized the fund to implement a number of new and innovative projects; including human rights schools for young activists, protection of human rights defenders, exchange of skills and tools to monitor closed institutions, and promotion of international standards for treatment of minors in fostering institutions. A total of 21 organisations from 9 countries received funding from the House-to-House fund in 2019.



Behind the ink

Danish illustrator Annette Carlsen captured the activities and discussions on human rights during the 2019 network meeting.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AZERBAIJAN

Celebrating victories in challenging times

Human Rights House Foundation and the network of Human Rights Houses strive to increase the protection of human rights defenders and their organisations in the countries of the network. One strategy for doing so is to identify and support opportunities for human rights defenders to tell their stories before key international and regional bodies. Despite troubling negative trends in recent years, some positive stories of HRHF's protection work emerged in 2019.

In February, human rights lawyer Fuad Aghayev, a prominent and targeted human rights defender in Azerbaijan, delivered a statement to the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights about the persecution of human rights lawyers in Azerbaijan. The Sub-Committee is a key forum for civil society to raise fundamental rights violations at the European Parliament.

In his remarks, Aghayev raised concerns about political bias in the Azerbaijani Bar Association and how politically motivated suspensions and disbarment have left only a handful of human rights lawyers available to take politically sensitive cases.

"The Bar Association of Azerbaijan has – over the past 20 years – gone from bad to worse, and sadly today it is at its worst," reflected Aghayev during his speech.

Fuad Aghayev's appearance at the European Parliament, organised by HRHF,

was a success in more ways than one. Primarily, the powerful speech was an opportunity for a human rights lawyer to describe the plight of fellow human rights lawyers in Azerbaijan. But it also provided the opportunity to make recommendations to Azerbaijan and the international community. Among his recommendations, Aghayev called on the Azerbaijani authorities to guarantee the independence of the Bar Association.

He also called on the international community to raise cases of disbarred and disciplined lawyers and called on the EU and the Council of Europe to cease cooperating with the Presidium of the Azerbaijani Bar Association. Aghayev also used his statement to raise reprisals against fellow human rights lawyers Intigam Aliyev, Alaif Hasanov, Asabali Mustafayev, and Annagi Hajibeyli, among others.

Aghayev's personal experience and impassioned plea raised greater awareness about the critical situation of human rights lawyers in Azerbaijan.

In the following months, travel bans affecting some human rights lawyers were gradually lifted; however, repressive environment persists.

HRHF and the network of Human Rights Houses also work in partnership to shine a light on cases of reprisal against human rights defenders across network countries.

Indeed, less than a month before Aghayev's statement at the European Parliament, some 41 member and partner NGOs of 13 Human Rights Houses raised concerns about government responses to activists calling for the release of then-imprisoned Azerbaijani blogger Mehman Huseynov.

Protection highlights

In 2019

- Prison release - Mehman Huseynov, vlogger and human rights defender
- Travel ban temporarily lifted - Intigam Aliyev, human rights defender
- Travel ban lifted - Annaghi Hajibeyli, Human rights lawyer
- Travel ban lifted - Asabali Mustafayev, Human rights lawyer
- Travel ban lifted - Emin Aslan, Human rights lawyer



In February 2019, Azerbaijani human rights lawyer Fuad Aghayev called out the Azerbaijani Bar Association for politically motivated suspensions and disbarment at a hearing of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights. Photo: frame from video feed.



Mehman Huseynov reunited at a conference at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg with Ukrainian colleague Tetiana Pechonchyk following his release from prison in March 2019.

ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS

Important steps on a long road

Improving human rights in Belarus remains a top priority for Human Rights House Foundation's advocacy. HRHF's strategy includes advocating for due attention by international mechanisms on Belarus and encouraging and supporting on-going engagement between government and civil society. In 2019, HRHF and its Belarusian partners advocated for a series of formal and informal measures in order to advance these priorities in the country.

For Belarusians, access to regional human rights mechanisms is not available. Belarus is neither a member of the European Union nor the Council of Europe. As such, Belarusians have limited options when they are subjected to serious human rights violations at home. To further compound the issue, Belarus reneged for many years on its legal obligations to be reviewed on its implementation of some international human rights treaties. For this and other reasons, the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus remains a key international human rights mechanism to provide on-going independent monitoring of the situation and highlight worrying trends for human rights in the country.

In 2019, HRHF ensured the voice of civil society was heard in negotiations on a

UN Human Rights Council resolution on Belarus. Ultimately, when those negotiations failed to produce a strong outcome, HRHF called for the extension of the Special Rapporteur's mandate in the absence of any human rights reforms in Belarus. HRHF advocated before the Human Rights Council to recognise the on-going human rights violations in Belarus and extend the Special Rapporteur's mandate accordingly.

HRHF also advocated for an unofficial visit of another UN mandate to Belarus: that of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders. During his visit in April 2019, the Special Rapporteur held a public lecture and met with Belarusian defenders, members of the international community and the Belarusian government. This was the first time that this mandate had an opportunity to meet face-to-face with independent Belarusian civil society in Belarus.

In May, HRHF helped to facilitate a workshop in Minsk between a member of the UN Human Rights Committee, representatives of various Belarusian government departments and a cross-section of independent civil society. The workshop was ground-breaking for a number of reasons. Belarus had just been reviewed by the Human Rights Committee for the first time

in 21 years and it was unusual that Belarus agreed to an unofficial follow-up visit from a Committee member. Furthermore, the workshop included the participation of independent civil society and resulted in robust discussion on implementation of civil and political rights obligations. Both civil society and government officials acknowledged that it was the first such conversation of its type in the country and both sides signalled their desire that it should be only the first of more regular and robust dialogues.

However small, these are visible steps towards better communication between Belarus, UN human rights bodies and selected representatives of Belarusian civil society. Much work remains to ensure these small steps lead to real reforms in Belarus. This will require continuous joint efforts from Belarusian civil society and international organisations, among others.



"We can see dialogue beginning [between government and independent civil society]," remarked Ilize Brands Kehris, member of the UN Human Rights Committee, during a May 2019 workshop facilitated in part by HRHF in Minsk. Photo: Viasna.



The April 2019 visit by UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defender Michel Forst was the first time this mandate met face-to-face in Belarus with independent civil society. Photo: Viasna.

CELEBRATING WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

HRHF's "Portraits of Strength" Photography Competition

*It was inspiring
and uplifting to see
photographs of such a
variety of brave women
human rights defenders
fighting for their causes
across so many countries,
each expertly captured
by a local female
photographer.*

Jury joint statement

Human Rights House Foundation's "Portraits of Strength" photography competition honours and celebrates eight independent women human rights defenders from the network of Human Rights Houses. The exhibition launched from the competition highlights the vital role that women play locally, nationally and internationally in protecting and advancing human rights.

Women human rights defenders work to protect and advance freedoms, while facing discrimination and stereotypes, based on their gender, about their role and participation in society.

In civil society, women often face additional threats, violations, and abuse – from smear campaigns to sexual and gender-based violence.

In Autumn 2019, Human Rights House Foundation launched its second "Portraits of Strength" photography competition. Eight Human Rights Houses collaborated with local female photographers to portray, and share the stories of strong, inspirational and determined defenders from around the network of Human Rights Houses.

On Friday 17 January 2020, the winning photograph was selected by an independent and international jury comprised of three photography industry professionals; chair of the jury Maria Fuglevaag Warsinska-Varsi, Norwegian photographer and filmmaker; Daro

Sulakauri, Georgian photographer; and Christine Tolpinrud, Gallery manager at Fotografiens Hus in Oslo, Norway.

The jury unanimously chose Georgian photographer Salome Sagaradze's photograph of Baia Patarai of Human Rights House Tbilisi as the competition's winner.

History of the competition

A landmark UN resolution in 2013 (General Assembly resolution 68/181), acknowledged these serious challenges women human rights defenders face, and urged far greater efforts to protect and empower them. In the following year, marking the International Day for Women Human Rights Defenders on 29 November 2014, HRHF launched the first "Portraits of Strength" competition on women human rights defenders representing several Human Rights Houses.

The exhibition created from the photographs of the competition were used to lift and celebrate the work of these courageous and determined women, as well as highlighting the challenges that they face.

Exhibitions in 2020

The photographs from the competition will be exhibited through 2020, with the first already held at the Human Rights Human Wrongs international documentary film festival in Oslo from 24-29 February 2020.

See the full exhibition at:
<https://humanrightshouse.org/we-stand-for/women-defenders/portraits-of-strength-2020/>



HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSES

An overview of Human Rights Houses and partners in the network.



In November 2019, members of the network of Human Rights Houses gathered for a network meeting hosted in Croatia by Human Rights House Zagreb.

Balkans

Human Rights House Zagreb

ESTABLISHED:
2008 – Croatia
8 organisations

TEL: +385 15 513 395
WEB: kucaljudskihprava.hr

E-MAIL: kontakt@kucaljudskihprava.hr
ADDRESS: Selska cesta 112c, HR-10000
Zagreb, Hrvatska/Croatia

Human Rights House Zagreb was established in 2008 with a goal to contribute to building a democratic, pluralistic and inclusive society based on the values of human rights, social justice and solidarity. Today, the House in Zagreb is renowned as the centre of expertise on human rights in Croatia. The House works on research, monitoring, advocacy and education within three programs: democracy and human rights; justice and human rights; and socio-economic rights.

Centre for Peace Studies
cms.hr

B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated
babe.hr

Documenta – Centre for Dealing with the Past
documenta.hr

Civic Committee for Human Rights – CCHR
goljp.hr

The Association for Promotion of Equal Opportunities – APEO
upim.hr

The Association for Promotion of Mental Health “Svitanje”
udruga-svitanje.hr

The Croatian Youth Network
mmh.hr

CROSOL – Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity
crosol.hr

Human Rights House Belgrade

ESTABLISHED:
2012 – Serbia
5 organisations

TEL: +381 11 3344425
WEB: kucaljudskihprava.rs

E-MAIL: marija.maljan@yucom.org.rs
ADDRESS: 4 Kneza Milosa Street, 11000
Belgrade, Serbia

Supporting civil society, Human Rights House Belgrade has a focus on economic and social rights, discrimination, hate crime, minority issues, and access to justice. The House supports human rights defenders, providing free legal aid in the first instance. It is also a leader in Serbia's EU negotiation process, coordinating with the National Convention on the EU – the platform for discussion on Serbian accession – as a genuine civil society movement for reforms and further EU integration.

Civic Initiatives
gradjanske.org

Policy Center
policycenter.info

The Lawyers' Committee For Human Rights (YUCOM)
yucom.org.rs

Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
helsinki.org.rs

Caucasus

Human Rights House Yerevan

ESTABLISHED:
2012 – Armenia
5 organisations

TEL: +374 10 329 032

WEB: hrhyerevan.org

E-MAIL: hrhyerevan@gmail.com

ADDRESS: 119/2 Hovsep Emin
street, Yerevan 0012,
Republic of Armenia

Human Rights House Yerevan is committed to a safe, accessible, and common space for activists, civil society organisations, movements, civic initiatives, and human rights defenders, who are often targeted for the work they do. Its mission is to protect, empower, and support human rights defenders and organisations in Armenia. The House's daily work is based on the principles of proactivity of all members, the absence of privileges, the reduction of vulnerability, and everyone's equal protection.

Pink
pinkarmenia.org

Real World, Real People
realwrp.com

Women's Resource Centre
womenofarmenia.org

Socioscope
socioscope.am

PEN International Armenian Centre
pen-international.org/centres/armenian-
centre

Human Rights House Azerbaijan

ESTABLISHED:
2007 – Baku, Azerbaijan
3 organisations

WEB: humanrightshouse.org/members/
azerbaijan

First established in 2007, Human Rights House Azerbaijan was forced to close its doors due to the crackdown on civil society in the country in 2014. In December 2017, three independent human rights organisations formed a new core group for Human Rights House Azerbaijan. With HRHF, they aim to continue a policy of engaging constructively with the Azerbaijani authorities and have developed a road-map with a view to relaunching the activities of the House in Baku.

Women's Association for Rational Development (WARD)
facebook.com/Womens-Association-
for-Rational-Development- WARD-
542540899191883
info@ward.az
ward.azerbaijan@gmail.com

Legal Education Society
legal@azeurotel.com

Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS)
smdtaz.org
info@smdtaz.org

Resource Centre Nakhchivan

ESTABLISHED:

2013 – Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan

CONTACT: malahat.nasib@gmail.com

The Resource Centre in Nakhchivan opened in 2013 as a place where local human rights defenders, journalists and organisations could work on improving the human rights situation in the Azerbaijani exclave, and was unofficially called a “House of Hope” by locals in the region.

It was forced to cease its activities when Malahat Nasibova, head of the centre, and her husband Ilgar Nasibov were forced to flee the country in December 2014. This followed an increasingly violent and dangerous situation for independent media and organisations working on human rights. On 21 August 2014, three men raided the centre and severely beat Nasibov, who was director of the centre. While under House arrest, they were not able to access sufficient medical expertise. “It was a horrible time,” said Nasibova in 2015, “My husband was suffering and I feared for his life.”

The doors of the House of Hope may be closed, but it is still there, and Malahat, now living in Norway, dreams of one day returning to Nakhchivan and re-opening the centre as a home for the local civil society to thrive.

Human Rights House Tbilisi

ESTABLISHED:

2010 – Georgia
5 organisations

TEL: +995 32 2 38 20 18

WEB: hrht.ge

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ADDRESS: 11a Akaki Gakhokidze
0160 Tbilisi, Georgia

Human Rights House Tbilisi is a membership-based organisation that unites five civil society organisations working in the field of human rights. The member organisations have developed a joint strategy focusing on protecting and strengthening human rights defenders and human rights organisations, and raising awareness on human rights issues.

Rights Georgia

article42.ge

Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT)

gcrt.ge

Human Rights Centre (HRIDC)

hridc.org

Media Institute

facebook.com/Instituteofmedia

Union Sapari - Family without Violence

sapari.ge

Eastern Europe

Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House

ESTABLISHED:
2006 – Vilnius, Lithuania
9 organisations

TEL: +370 5 212 77 03
WEB: humanrightshouse.org/members/belarus
E-MAIL: belarus@humanrightshouse.org
ADDRESS: Olimpičių str. 1-45,
Vilnius, LT-09235.

The Barys Zvozkau Human Rights House (BHRH) was registered in 2006 in Lithuania due to impossibility to register in Belarus. The organisation was founded by eight Belarusian human rights NGOs and one Norwegian. Today the members of BHRH are the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ), Belarusian Helsinki Committee (BHC), Human Rights Center Viasna, Legal Initiative, Belarusian PEN Center, Belarusian Language Society, the Leu Sapieha Foundation, Supolnasc Center and Human Rights House Foundation (Norway).

The Belarusian Association of Journalists
baj.by

Belarusian Helsinki Committee
belhelcom.org

Belarusian PEN Centre
pen-centre.by

Human Rights House Foundation (Norway)

Lev Sapieha Foundation
sapieha.org

Francišak Skaryna Belarusian Language Society
tbm-mova.by

Legal Initiative
legin.by

Viasna
spring96.org

Supolnasc Center

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

ESTABLISHED:
1993 – Warsaw, Poland

TEL: +48 22 556 44 40
WEB: hfhr.pl

E-MAIL: hfhr@hfhr.pl
ADDRESS: Zgoda 11 Street,
00-018, Warsaw Poland

A long-time actor in human rights protection, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR) works to develop a culture based on respect for human rights in Poland and abroad.

It is one of the oldest non-governmental organisations acting in the field of human rights protection in Poland. HFHR's main areas of activity are: international and national education; strategic litigation; providing legal advice; monitoring the human rights dimension of actions taken by public authorities; and organising WATCH DOCS human rights in film, one of the world's largest human rights film festivals.

Resource Centre Grozny

ESTABLISHED:

2016 – Chechnya, Russian Federation

CONTACT: For security reasons, contact with the resource centre should be made through HRHF.
info@humanrightshouse.org

Resource Centre Grozny acts as an independent platform for its member organisations, which are individually and jointly involved in protecting and supporting human rights defenders in the North Caucasus. Through their work, they ensure support of independent media, improved public access to independent information, and increased protection and promotion of human rights, especially those of women. Despite an increasingly hostile environment, the members of the centre continue to operate in Chechnya.

Human Rights House Kazan

JOINED NETWORK:

2019 – Kazan, Russian Federation
3 organisations

TEL: +791 787 03157
WEB: humanrightshouse.org/human-rights-houses/kazan/
E-MAIL: accent.pravo@gmail.com
ADDRESS: 420097 Russia, Kazan,
Staro-Pugachevskaya street, 22,
office 1

With member organisations that have worked together since 2009, Human Rights House Kazan was already a well-established human rights centre in Russia when it joined the network of Human Rights Houses in 2019.

The member organisations of the House work on a range of issues including prison conditions; police abuse; access to medical treatment; violence in the army; domestic violence and the conditions for children in institutional care. The House members have a thematic focus on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Kazan Human Rights Centre
investigation.ru

Zona Prava
zonaprava.com

The Association of Attorneys "Law Firm of the Republic of Tatarstan", "Akhmetgaliyev, Khrunova and partners"
buro-advocat@yandex.ru

Eastern Europe

Human Rights House Voronezh

ESTABLISHED:

2009 – Russian Federation
11 organisations

TEL: +7 (473) 254-55-29

WEB: hrdom.hrworld.ru

E-MAIL: hrdom@hrworld.ru

ADDRESS: Tsyurupy, 34, Voronez
Voronezhskaya oblast' 394036
Russia

Enhancing awareness of human rights, Human Rights House Voronezh targets the local community through hosting and organising public events inside and outside of the city. Its regular operations include providing human rights education for young people, work on public oversight, and offering legal aid to victims of human rights violations.

Civic Initiatives Development Center

cidc.vrn-net.org

Russian Union of Writers

hrdom.hrworld.ru/ru/profsouz-literatorov

Memorial Voronezh

hrdom.hrworld.ru/ru/voronezhskii-memorial

**Interregional Human Rights Group
"Voronezh-Chernozemie"**

irhrg.ru

Olga A. Gnezdilova, independent lawyer

hrdom.hrworld.ru/ru/advokatskii-kabinet-olgi-gnezdilovoi

Lawyers for Labor Rights

hrdom.hrworld.ru/ru/uristy-za-trudovye-prava

Confederation of Free Labor

hrdom.hrworld.ru/ru/konfederacia-svobodnogo-truda

Charitable Foundation "For environmental and social justice"

article20.org

Youth Human Rights Movement

fond-mpd.ru

Free University

students.yhrm.org/msps

Youth Human Rights Group

hrdom.hrworld.ru/ru/molodeznay-pravozasitnaya-gruppa

Russian Research Center for Human Rights

ESTABLISHED:

1992 – Moscow, Russian Federation
8 organisations

TEL: +7 (495) 625 0667

WEB: humanrightshouse.org/members/russian_federation

E-MAIL: HRightscenter@gmail.com

ADDRESS: 101000 Luchnikov Lane
Building 4, Doorway 3, Suite 2
Moscow, Russia

The Russian Research Center for Human Rights (RRCHR) is the oldest hub for human rights organisations in Russia. It plays a key role in supporting its member organisations, which cooperate, support and defend one another amid a climate in which human rights organisations are often under threat. Its member organisations work to help some of the most vulnerable people by providing access to experts such as lawyers and psychiatrists.

Independent Psychiatric Association of Russia

npar.ru

Right of the Child

right-child.ru

Moscow Center for Prison Reform

prison.org

Social Partnership Foundation
Union of the Committees of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia

vk.com/ucsmr

Moscow Helsinki Group

mhg-main.org

Centre d'Initiative du Caucase

doshdu.ru

Regional civic initiative - the right to life and civil dignity

Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv

ESTABLISHED:

2014 – Chernihiv, Ukraine
13 organisations

TEL: +380 462 610 508

WEB: ehrh.org

E-MAIL: ehrh.che@gmail.com

ADDRESS: Lugoviy lane 1-G Vil. Kolychivka
Chernihiv region 15563 Ukraine

A centre for Ukrainian organisations, Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv is a modern and well-equipped educational conference and resource centre with accommodation facilities. It was founded by organisations from different regions of Ukraine, and welcomes civil activists and organisations engaged in civil and human rights education.

Ahalar
ahalar.org

Centre of Civil Education “Almenda”
almenda.org

Association UMDPL
umdpl.info

Chernihiv public committee of human rights protection
protection.org.ua

“East-SOS” Charitable Foundation
vostok-sos.org

Human Rights Vector NGO
hrvector.org

ZMINA. Human Rights Center
humanrights.org.ua

NGO “Mart”
mart-ngo.org.ua

Moloda Prosvita Prykarpattia
facebook.com/molodaprosvita.if

No Borders Project
noborders.org.ua

Postup
postup.lg.ua

Transcarpathian Public Center
facebook.com/gromcenter

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
helsinki.org.ua

Human Rights House Crimea

JOINED THE NETWORK:

2019 - In exile in Kyiv, Ukraine
4 organisations

TEL: +38 067 4694229

E-MAIL: crimeahrh@gmail.com

Established in exile in Kyiv, Human Rights House Crimea aims to develop, strengthen, and coordinate the capacity of organisations involved in human rights protection in Crimea, ensuring more effective and systematic human rights work. The house focuses on promoting and observing the human rights of all citizens on the occupied peninsula.

Centre of Civil Education “Almenda”
almenda.org

Crimean Human Rights Group
crimeahrg.org

ZMINA. Human Rights Centre
humanrights.org.ua

Regional Centre for Human Rights
rchr.org.ua

Western Europe

Rafto Foundation

ESTABLISHED:

1986 – Bergen, Norway

TEL: +47 55 21 09 30

WEB: rafto.no

E-MAIL: rafto@rafto.no

ADDRESS: Menneskerettighetenes plass 1
5007 Bergen, Norway

Raising recognition for human rights defenders, Rafto awards the annual Professor Thorolf Rafto's prize for human rights work. This helps to bring the work of human rights defenders to an international audience, and to promote human rights globally.

Rafto continues to support the work of laureates through funding and organisation of projects, and carries out other work such as human rights education.

Human Rights House Oslo

ESTABLISHED:

1989 – Oslo, Norway
6 organisations

WEB: [facebook.com/
HumanRightsHouseOslo](https://facebook.com/HumanRightsHouseOslo)

E-MAIL: oslo@humanrightshouse.org

ADDRESS: Mariboegate 13,
0183 Oslo, Norway

The first Human Rights House was founded in Oslo in 1989, during a time of great change and hope for human rights in Europe. Human Rights House Oslo is today home to six diverse organisations that champion a variety of thematic and geographical human rights issues. These range from women's rights in Norway, to the human rights situations of Burma, Tibet, Eastern Europe, and the entire African continent.

Health and Human Rights Info
hhri.org

Human Rights House Foundation
humanrightshouse.org

The Women's Front
kvinnefronten.no

The Norwegian Council for Africa
afrika.no/fellesradet

The Norwegian Myanmar Committee
burma.no

Voice of Tibet
vot.org

Index on Censorship

ESTABLISHED:
1972 – London, United Kingdom

TEL: +44 0203 848 9820
WEB: indexoncensorship.org

ADDRESS: 1 Rivington Place
London EC2A 3BA
United Kingdom

Index on Censorship is a non-profit organisation that campaigns for and defends free expression worldwide. It publishes work by censored writers and artists, promotes debate, and monitors threats to free speech. Index's vision is that everyone should be free to express themselves without fear of harm or persecution – no matter what their views.

As part of its mission to strengthen freedom of expression globally, Index awards four fellowships each year to help nurture and expand the skills of human rights activists. Winners in 2018 included Cuban arts collective Museum of Dissidence, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, Habari RDC, and journalist Wendy Funes.

Index's annual Freedom of Expression Awards attract a broad spectrum of people who support free speech.



In November 2019, members of the network of Human Rights Houses gathered for a network meeting hosted in Croatia by Human Rights House Zagreb.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

With thanks to our donors

We offer our sincere thanks for the generous financial support that we received from donors such as the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs and Foundation Open Society Institute.

We continue to seek new partnerships in order to expand our ability to advance human rights through empowering human rights defenders and strengthening independent civil society.

Accounts 2019

For the fiscal year ending 31 December 2019, Human Rights House Foundation's revenues totalled 25 208 418 NOK (2 559 178 EUR).

TOTAL EXPENSES

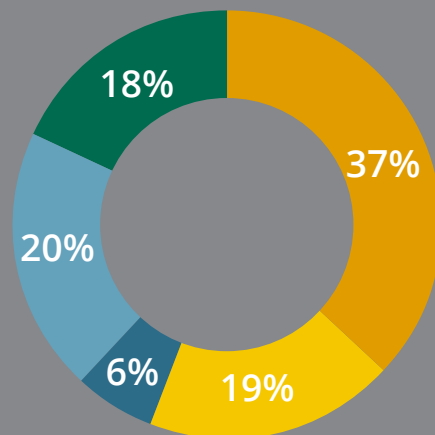
25 043 058 NOK

(2 542 391 EUR)

Average exchange rate 2019 1 EUR= 9.8502 NOK

BREAKDOWN PER PROGRAMME

- Establish and support Human Rights Houses
- Connect Human Rights Houses in an international network
- Protect human rights defenders and organisations
- Advance four freedoms
- Build and maintain organisational capacity

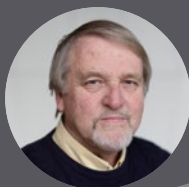


This financial data has been summarised from HRHF's annual accounts. For a complete copy of the annual accounts and the accompanying independent audit report, please visit humanrightshouse.org

HRHF BOARD

2019 Board members

The Board of the Human Rights House Foundation meets four times a year. It oversees the work of Human Rights House Foundation, guides its strategy and direction, and approves its budgets. The Board is comprised of academics, lawyers, civil society representatives and experts.



BERNT HAGTVET (CHAIRPERSON)

Professor,
Department of Political Science, University of
Oslo / Bjørknes University College, Oslo



CHRISTOPHER HANSTEEN (DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON)

Partner,
Hjort law firm



LAILA BOKHARI

Kistefos fellow,
Harvard Kennedy School of Government



MINDA HOLM

Research fellow with the research group on
foreign policy and diplomacy,
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
(NUPI)



PÅL LIEUNGH

Partner,
Thommessen law firm



HILDE LUNDEBY

Psychologist, former Senior Advisor
Directorate of Norwegian Correctional Services



KETEVAN ABASHIDZE

Staff-elected Board member
/ Human Rights Officer for Eastern Europe,
Human Rights House Foundation

HRHF STAFF 2019/20

15

MEMBERS
OF STAFF



Maria Dahle (Oslo)

Director

maria.dahle@humanrightshouse.org



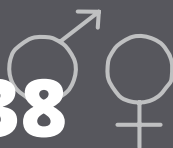
Daiva Petkeviciute (Oslo)

Head of House Development and Support

daiva.petkeviciute@humanrightshouse.org

62/38

GENDER
BALANCE (% F/M)



Kety Abashidze (Tbilisi)

Human Rights Officer for Eastern Europe

ketevan.abashidze@humanrightshouse.org



Doriane Anfrie (Geneva)

Programme Assistant

doriane.anfrie@humanrightshouse.org

14

LANGUAGES
SPOKEN



New in 2020 (Oslo)

International Media Officer



Craig Jackson (Oslo)

International Communication Officer

craig.jackson@humanrightshouse.org

10

NATIONALITIES
REPRESENTED



Kateryna Oleinikova (Oslo)

Administrative Assistant

kateryna.oleinikova@humanrightshouse.org



Liudmila Ulyashyna (Oslo)

Human Rights Officer

liudmila.ulyashyna@humanrightshouse.org

04

LOCATIONS





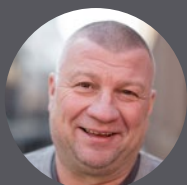
Dave Elseroad (Geneva)
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Prisca Jaobelison (Geneva)
Administrative Assistant
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Matthew Jones (Geneva)
International Advocacy Officer
matthew.jones@humanrightshouse.org



New in 2020 (Brussels)
International Advocacy Officer

Thanks to our former colleagues!

Birgitte Brekke
Head of Operations

Christian Parker
Communication Officer

Yanina Unnli
Administrative Assistant



2019 IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Memories from around the network of Human Rights Houses





Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) envisions a world in which everyone can freely and safely promote and enjoy all human rights.

Empowered human rights defenders and strong and independent civil society are key to this vision.

HRHF establishes, supports, and connects Human Rights Houses - coalitions of civil society organisations working together to advance human rights at home and abroad.

Today, 17 Houses in 11 countries are united in an international network of Human Rights Houses.

Together, we advocate for the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression and the right to be a human rights defender.

These four rights underpin a strong and independent civil society and protect and empower human rights defenders.

Human Rights House Foundation
Org. no. 976 055 365

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Mariboegate 13
0183 Oslo, Norway
info@humanrightshouse.org

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1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
advocacy@humanrightshouse.org



humanrightshouse.org