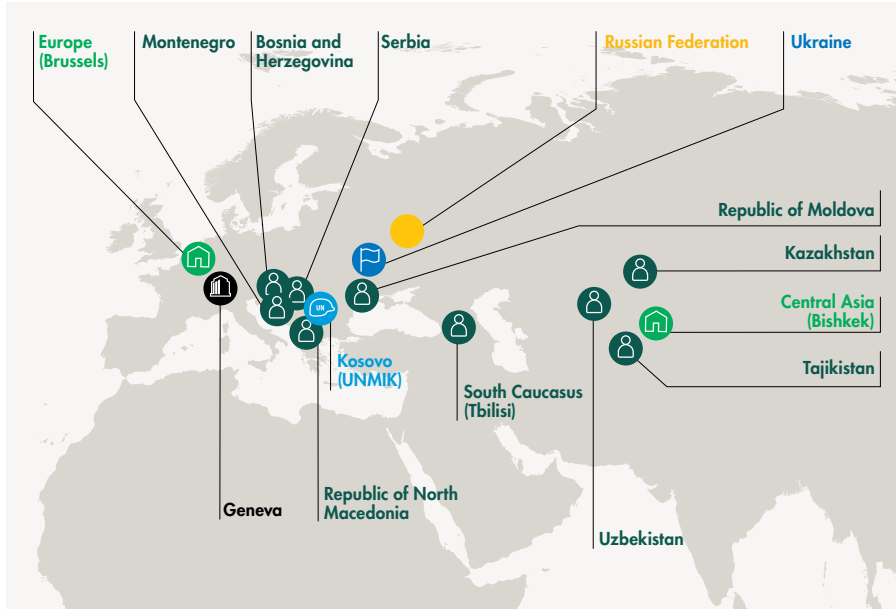


UN Human Rights in Europe and Central Asia



TYPE OF PRESENCE

- Headquarters
- Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions
- Regional Offices/Centres
- Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions
- Human Rights Advisers^a
- Other types of field presences

LOCATION

- Geneva
- Ukraine (HRMMU)
- Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
- Kosovo^b (UNMIK)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia^c, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, Georgia and also covering Armenia and Azerbaijan), Tajikistan and Uzbekistan^d
- Russian Federation

^a Human rights advisers are deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
^b All references to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.
^c On hold until funding is available.
^d Temporary support availed in 2022, to be discontinued in 2023.

LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women
- People of African descent

Shifts:

- Global constituency
- Prevention
- Civic space
- Climate change
- Corruption
- Inequalities
- New technologies
- People on the move
- Leveraging data for human rights

SDGs:



In 2022, UN Human Rights' work in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) covered a vast region comprised of 54 countries, including members and candidates of the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (COE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as several disputed territories controlled by de facto authorities. OHCHR field operations consisted of 14 field presences: two regional offices (the Regional Office for Europe in Brussels and the Regional Office for Central Asia in Bishkek); one country office (Ukraine); one human rights component in a peace mission (United Nations Mission in Kosovo¹³ (UNMIK)); nine human rights advisers (HRAs) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, South Caucasus (Georgia) and Tajikistan and Uzbekistan); and one project in the Russian Federation.

An increase in conflicts and crisis situations across the region posed significant challenges. In many of these situations, violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law were reported, notably in Russia's armed attack against Ukraine on 24 February. Other clashes took place along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and in Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region and cross-border hostilities erupted between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Protests were held in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. OHCHR ensured there was consistent coverage and monitoring of and reporting on unfolding developments. It also participated in consultations on the UN's response, engaging with the international human rights mechanisms, UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and

permanent missions. In 2022, OHCHR deployed HRAs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and engaged with Belarus through the UN system.

During the year, the Office implemented old and new reporting mandates established by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, including on the human rights situations in Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia and Ukraine/Crimea. It promoted human rights engagement, including in the contexts of Cyprus, Kosovo, Moldova, the three countries of the South Caucasus and Ukraine, participated in political processes (Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia), provided human rights inputs to UN responses and facilitated avenues for conflict resolution/prevention processes. In the Western-Balkans region, OHCHR supported the implementation of the Secretary-General's Strategy for the Western Balkans, "Sustaining peace through trust-building, dialogue and reconciliation," which included transitional justice consultations with the UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia.

OHCHR supported monitoring and advocacy on human rights issues related to people on the move, regardless of their migration status, including through its report "Nowhere but back: Assisted return, reintegration and the human rights protection of migrants in Libya."

OHCHR contributed to United Nations development, early warning and prevention mechanisms by participating in the preparation of 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) (and the Ukraine Transitional Framework), 18 Common Country Analyses (CCAs), six road maps and six joint workplans, the regional Issue-Based Coalitions on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) and on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience (IBC-LMPDR).

To support prevention and accountability efforts, OHCHR promoted the implementation by six UNCTs of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

¹³ All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
3.23 million	51,000 km ²	0.780 (rank: 74/191 in 2021)	Status A (2017)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2021	
Field office(s)		Sarajevo	
UN partnership framework		UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		3	

XB requirements 2022**US\$956,000****Key OMP pillars in 2022**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155**PILLAR RESULTS:****Participation**

P1 – Enhanced promotion and protection of the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, as well as the right to participate in public affairs.

16

OHCHR raised critical human rights issues and advocated for them to be taken up by local actors and in international forums in a timely manner.

Following the general elections that took place on 2 October and due to increased polarization, the Office prioritized the enhancement and protection of civic space and public participation. In the context of deteriorating political crises and the general elections, OHCHR conducted monitoring, providing timely analysis to the Resident Coordinator (RC) and supporting their

advocacy on civic space through events, media and bilateral engagement.

The HRA organized other activities to promote civic space and fundamental freedoms, including a conference on civic space, from 15 to 16 June, with 45 participants (28 women, 17 men), including from civil society, human rights defenders (HRDs), the national human rights institution (NHRI), the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the Parliament, as well as representatives of embassies, international organizations and the UN. This resulted in the drafting of a road map that was focused on recommendations to strengthen civil society's participation. A consultation on hate speech was also organized with 17 CSO representatives (eight women, nine men) and the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), as

well as a meeting with six journalists (two women, four men) in the context of the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications. Furthermore, in September, OHCHR issued a report entitled The Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression: The Safety of Journalists and Access to Information in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OHCHR coordinated the development of the plan of action of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to counter hate speech, which was endorsed in February. OHCHR published a factsheet on hate speech that was developed in consultation with and in support of four State institutions with a mandate to address hate speech, namely, the Human Rights Ombudsman Institution, the Gender Equality Agency of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the Central Election Commission and the Communications Regulatory Agency. In June, on the occasion of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June), which was commemorated under the auspices of the RC, the four agencies signed a pledge reaffirming their commitment to counter hate speech and all forms of discrimination, in accordance with their respective mandates, including ahead of the general elections.



Mechanisms

M2 – More systematic and inclusive engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and follow-up on the implementation of their recommendations is undertaken.

17



Through technical support and advocacy, OHCHR sought to encourage the increased understanding and engagement by national actors of the international human rights mechanisms.

In September, OHCHR coordinated UNCT inputs and drafted an alternative report for the follow-up assessment of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). Together with the EU, OSCE and CSOs, OHCHR advocated for the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) in relation to civilian victims of war and its decision concerning reparations for a survivor of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).



Accountability

A2 – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

10

16



By advocating with local and international actors, OHCHR promoted accountability and transitional justice and helped to focus the attention of the international community on these topics.

OHCHR engaged in regular early warning monitoring, analysis and reporting, which focused the attention of the UN system, including the international human rights mechanisms, on the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OHCHR played a central role in ensuring that transitional justice was one of the RC's priorities, particularly following the December 2021 visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. OHCHR widely disseminated the Special Rapporteur's report ([A/HRC/51/34/Add.2](#)) and engaged in discussions with various actors, highlighting his recommendations. As a result of the HRA's analysis and inputs, the High Commissioner emphasized transitional justice in messages that were delivered during her visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in June.

OHCHR supported the RC's advocacy on dealing with the past. This included: issuing a press statement on 19 June that focused on reparations for survivors of CRSV and children born as a consequence of rape; engaging with civil society working with survivors of war-time violations and victims' associations; and supporting the RC's advocacy for comprehensive reparations and the elimination of court fees that are imposed on victims due to statutory limitations.

CENTRAL ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), with field offices in Nursultan (Kazakhstan); Dushanbe (Tajikistan); Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
Staff as of 31 December 2022	13

XB income	US\$639,152	
XB requirements 2022	US\$2,753,000	
XB expenditure	US\$963,235	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
42%	48%	10%
\$399,943	\$465,736	\$97,556
RB expenditure	US\$881,549	
Personnel	Non-personnel	
86%	14%	
\$757,502	\$124,047	

Key OMP pillars in 2022



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – Institutions that train judges, law enforcement officials, the staff of security-related agencies, lawyers and other educational institutions, consistently include human rights in their training.

16

OHCHR contributed to the delivery and institutionalization of human rights training for law enforcement officials and State authorities, including in relation

to criminal justice, enforced disappearances, torture investigations, economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and non-discrimination.

In **Kazakhstan**, capacity-building efforts that were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions were resumed. OHCHR delivered two trainings for 34 judges on international standards related to the right of peaceful assembly.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR assisted the Academy of the Ministry of the Interior

and the Republican Training Centre in developing and institutionalizing training modules on human rights, diversity and minority rights and enhanced the capacity of 25 trainers at these institutions through a training of trainers for cadets and as part of the professional development offerings for police officers. This work will continue in 2023.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR collaborated with civil society to develop training modules for lawyers on the right to adequate housing. OHCHR reached an agreement with the Union of Lawyers to incorporate the training modules into the curricula of the Training Centre of Tajikistan's Union of Lawyers. In October, OHCHR organized two trainings on the right to adequate housing for 40 lawyers, including 13 women. In May and September, OHCHR conducted a training for 39 judges, including 15 women, on the right to adequate housing in light of the new Housing Code.

In **Uzbekistan**, OHCHR cooperated with the National Human Rights Centre (a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)), to host the “Global Forum on Human Rights Education” in Samarkand, in December. The Forum gathered together 150 experts from the field of human rights education, including those working in educational institutions, international organizations and international/national NGOs. Participants discussed the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and prepared proposals in relation to the fifth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The outcome document, *The Samarkand Action Plan for the Development of Human Rights Education 2023-2025*, included these proposals and other inputs from participants.

A2 – NHRIs are more effective, independent and interconnected, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and play a leading role in promoting and protecting human rights at the national level and across the region.



OHCHR contributed to ensuring that the work of NHRIs in the region complies with the Paris Principles, including through advocacy efforts and tailored training.

OHCHR worked closely with UNDP to lead regional consultations for Central Asian NHRIs on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights. A regional capacity-building workshop was organized for Central Asian NHRIs, parliamentarians and NMRFs from 21 to 22 November, in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop provided a platform for 44 participants to learn about and share information on central themes, including: accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); engagement with the international human rights mechanisms; the role of NHRIs in promoting and protecting human rights in a context of challenges and interlinked fragilities of conflict, climate change and business-related violations of human rights; and Central Asian experiences with repatriation, rehabilitation and the reintegration of nationals from conflict zones and the role of NHRIs in these processes.

In **Kazakhstan**, on 5 November, OHCHR's long-term advocacy efforts resulted in the adoption of a Constitutional Law on the Ombudsperson, thereby strengthening the legal basis of the NHRI, as well as its potential impact at the local level. Prior to this result,

OHCHR advocated with the Office of the Ombudsperson on the draft law to ensure it integrated the recommendations issued by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation. It also sought to undertake a capacity assessment of the NHRI, however, this is now being planned for 2023. Following the long-awaited establishment of the NHRI, OHCHR and UNDP conducted an introductory training for 31 newly recruited NHRI staff members at the regional and central level, including on the role of NHRIs. The training was founded on international standards.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, under a project supported by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), OHCHR assisted the Ombudsperson Institution in monitoring access to justice for vulnerable groups, such as migrants and stateless persons in the south of the country. OHCHR also assisted the Ombudsperson Institution of the Kyrgyz Republic in developing a toolkit to monitor the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the affected population of the Batken Province during the border conflict. From September to December, OHCHR ensured the inclusion of the Ombudsperson Institution into the Protection Sector, under the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU); facilitated the engagement and collaboration of the Institution with relevant civil society and humanitarian organizations in the Batken region; and shared protection concerns related to the affected population to inform the Institution's monitoring work in the region and on the rights of IDPs.

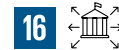
In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR organized a workshop on 23 August to raise the awareness of 16 Ombudsperson staff members about the Paris Principles, the accreditation process and their

capacities to engage with stakeholders, including the judiciary and the Parliament. Further, from 24 to 25 August, a workshop was organized for 20 human rights focal points from 16 State institutions to increase their understanding of human rights protection as a precondition for development. Entitled "Applying a human rights-based approach to development in the context of the implementation of the Agenda 2030," the workshop also highlighted how reporting on human rights and the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to data can be used when reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Participation

P1 – CSOs, HRDs and marginalized groups increasingly claim their rights and promote the rights of their constituencies and participate more freely in public life.



OHCHR contributed to the increased use of national protection systems in compliance with international human rights standards by supporting strategic litigation and training programmes for HRDs, persons with disabilities and underrepresented minorities in State institutions.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR provided six three-day trainings to build the capacities, knowledge and skills of 125 young people on human rights, participation in decision-making processes at the local level and inclusive local governance. On International Youth Day (12 August), OHCHR organized a two-day festival, in Osh, to provide a platform for young

people to exchange views and build their capacities in relation to human rights promotion and advocacy. A total of 70 participants attended the festival, including 40 women and 30 men, 12 of whom were persons with disabilities and 25 of whom were from ethnic minorities. Further, OHCHR provided support to the Ministry of Education to develop educational modules on human rights, non-discrimination, diversity and tolerance for introductory lessons at all school levels in the country. The modules are expected to be finalized, tested and widely implemented by the beginning of the academic school year, in September 2023.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR conducted training sessions and increased the knowledge of 40 activists on human rights, non-discrimination and public participation.

In **Uzbekistan**, OHCHR conducted a human rights and gender analysis of the national legal framework and an assessment of State programmes, with a focus on their compliance with international human rights standards in the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of Uzbek nationals returning from conflict zones. In April, under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), OHCHR conducted a two-day capacity-building session for NHRIs and CSOs, including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), to support the preparation of an alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In May, a public discussion was held on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). In July, a preparatory meeting was organized with five human rights activists to support the submission of an alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). As a result, the report was submitted and activists attended the CRC session in October. OHCHR also trained 20 persons with disabilities, including 11 women, on human rights, non-discrimination, advocacy and participation.

Development

D7 – When implementing the SDGs and other development plans, more Central Asian States and UNCTs adopt an HRBA and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR contributed to the satisfactory integration of human rights into the international and national frameworks for the SDGs and other development plans in Central Asia.

In April, OHCHR and UNDP partnered to organize “The Central Asian regional consultations on human rights and the SDGs: Integration of human rights recommendations into SDG implementation mechanisms in Central Asia.” Over 70 representatives from government agencies and civil society from five Central Asian States attended, representing national institutions responsible for monitoring and reporting on SDGs and human rights and collecting and analysing data on the SDGs and human rights. Participants shared their experiences in

linking human rights recommendations to the SDGs and their implementation practices in national monitoring, implementation and oversight processes towards the achievement of the SDGs. The consultation provided insight on relevant national stakeholders and existing SDGs and human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms in the five Central Asian States. Participants expressed their appreciation for the consultation and interest in continued regional exchanges.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, several capacity-building sessions were organized. In August and October, a session was held for the NMRF and human rights focal points on the linkages between reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and the Voluntary National Review (VNR). In November, OHCHR organized a workshop with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to raise the awareness of State officials about the application of an HRBA to the implementation of the SDGs. Moreover, OHCHR supported the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) and the UNCT by monitoring legislative and political developments and issues of concern with human rights impacts and shared information and key messages with UN agencies and the RCO as needed. Following the border clashes with Tajikistan from 14 to 17 September, OHCHR and UNHCR co-led the activated Protection Sector of Kyrgyzstan’s DRCU and engaged with civil society. This enabled them to convey the human rights concerns of local communities and increase the awareness of the international community about the human rights and humanitarian situations in the Batken region.



Mechanisms

M1 – NMRFs successfully fulfil their mandates, engage with the international human rights mechanisms, coordinate reporting and follow-up, consult with relevant national actors and share information with them and the public.

16 17

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the NMRFs and/or the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, following OHCHR's technical and capacity-building support, the Government submitted its initial report to CRPD, in April. OHCHR also supported the Coordination Council on Human Rights in drafting the National Human Rights Action Plan 2022-2024, which was adopted, in November. In July, OHCHR conducted a workshop for the Ombudsperson's Office on alternative reporting to the Human Rights Committee. As a result, the NHRI submitted its first alternative report, with a focus on the rights of women and children.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR and UNICEF supported the Government in organizing national consultations, in May, to discuss the drafting process of Tajikistan's periodic reports to CAT and CRC. Also in May, OHCHR participated in a meeting of the Inter-Agency Commission on the implementation of Tajikistan's international obligations in the field of human rights, organized by the Government of Tajikistan. The draft periodic reports to CAT and CRC were adopted during the meeting.

M3 – Increased use of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms by policymakers, legislators and the judiciary.

5 16

OHCHR contributed to a number of selected policy areas where the level of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights norms and standards has significantly improved.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, from 12 to 14 May, OHCHR cooperated with the UNCT, as well as development partners and CSOs, to co-organize an induction workshop for 60 newly elected Members of Parliament and staff of the Office of the Parliament. The workshop was part of a series of induction workshops aimed at strengthening their knowledge and skills, in line with constitutionally defined responsibilities, parliamentary rules and regulations and national and international commitments. OHCHR delivered a presentation on human rights concepts, international frameworks and the international human rights commitments of Kyrgyzstan.

EUROPE

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	European Union
Year established	2009
Field presence(s)	Brussels
Staff as of 31 December 2022	9

XB income	US\$242,500		
XB requirements 2022	US\$871,000		
XB expenditure	US\$339,059		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
48%	41%	12%	
\$162,003	\$138,049	\$39,007	
RB expenditure	US\$869,579		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
89%	11%		
\$772,015	\$97,564		

Key OMP pillars in 2022



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation

P5 – National, regional and international actors respond more effectively to threats to civic space.



OHCHR contributed to the extent to which critical human rights issues/situations raised by OHCHR were taken up in international forums in a timely manner.

The UN-EU high-level policy dialogue, “Protecting the safety of journalists, media freedom and pluralism in the European Union: Challenges and

opportunities” took place on 24 February. Approximately 100 attendees participated in the dialogue, both online and in person, including high-level representatives of UN bodies, all three EU institutions and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the COE, OSCE, member states, civil society, media actors, representatives of online platforms, academia and think tanks. It provided an opportunity for OHCHR to showcase its work and identify areas for cooperation and synergy between the UN and the EU.

OHCHR and the EU organized a joint public campaign on an open, free and secure Internet, aimed at tackling key

challenges faced by HRDs and citizens operating in restricted online environments. The campaign ran from the end of June until September and included a joint statement and other communication materials that were disseminated on the OHCHR and European External Action Service (EEAS) platforms.



Non-discrimination

ND1 – The EU expands and implements its policies for equality and protection against discrimination to better reflect international human rights law, especially in relation to Roma, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTI persons and women.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the EU policy framework for equality and protection against discrimination, with an enhanced focus on implementation.

OHCHR collaborated with the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), a user-led network of persons with disabilities, to organize “The European launch of the guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies” on 1 December. The goal was to present the guidelines, which were adopted by CRPD, in September, and to discuss funding implications and the provision of support and services for persons with disabilities of all ages with relevant EU, UN and civil society stakeholders.

As part of ongoing efforts to prevent and counter antigypsyism, hate crimes and hate speech, OHCHR participated in an EU high-level group on hate speech and an expert meeting in June. Following OHCHR’s advocacy, the recently published EU guidelines for National Action

Plans against Racism (NAPARs) refer to OHCHR's *Developing national action plans against racial discrimination: A practical guide*. OHCHR also contributed to the discussion on policy monitoring and the evaluation of the EU Action Plan and presented OHCHR's human rights indicators for non-discrimination and equality.

ND6 – The EU and its member states respect the right to information and procedural safeguards in migration processes and work towards ending the detention of children in migration.



OHCHR supported the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights to advise Frontex (the European Border and Coast Guard Agency), on human rights-compliant policies.

As a member of the Frontex Consultative Forum, OHCHR continued its support to ensure that Frontex implemented human rights safeguards in its activities, in line with international human rights standards. It deployed a dedicated expert on human rights and migration as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) project, which ended in mid-August. The expert contributed to issuing recommendations aimed at strengthening human rights safeguards in Frontex operations and mainstreaming international human rights standards into Frontex internal documents and procedures. The final assessment concluded that the project had exceeded its objectives. OHCHR participated in Consultative Forum missions to Poland and Spain. As a result of its engagement with national authorities during missions and during post-mission

briefings to the Frontex Management Board, OHCHR increased the awareness of EU member states about international human rights standards. OHCHR also contributed to training new Frontex Fundamental Rights Officers on international law standards in migration and helped increase their understanding of how to apply international human rights standards at the borders. This was achieved by providing expertise to the training on the Standing Corps, which will be composed of 10,000 EU border guards by 2027.



Development

D7 – The EU and the UN Brussels Team increasingly integrate an HRBA into their work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



OHCHR contributed to the extent to which UN common country programmes (i.e., the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)) have satisfactorily integrated international human rights norms, standards, principles and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In October, OHCHR collaborated with Social Platform, a civil society network of organizations working on social policy, to deliver a workshop entitled “International economic, social and cultural rights: A tool for sustainable inclusive societies in Europe.” The workshop aimed to build the capacities of 20 participants, 14 of whom were women, to use international human rights standards and an HRBA in their advocacy with EU institutions and to strengthen the collaboration of partners

working on social rights. A segment was dedicated to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to facilitate the engagement of CSOs in the EU's Voluntary National Review (VNR), which will be held in 2023.

MONTENEGRO

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
0.63 million	14,000 km ²	0.832 (rank: 49/191 in 2021)	"B" Status (2016)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2019	
Field office(s)		Podgorica	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Assistance Framework 2017-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		1	

XB requirements 2022**US\$249,000****Key OMP pillars in 2022**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat all forms of discrimination and responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind (LNOB), including by addressing the root causes of inequality.



The HRA contributed to the increasing compliance of national laws, policies and practices with international human rights norms and standards on equality and non-discrimination, in particular with regard to persons with disabilities, minorities and women.

The HRA provided comments on the new draft law on the prohibition of discrimination in May, several of which were incorporated into the draft law.

By the end of the year, a final round of public consultations was held on the draft law. The HRA will continue to analyse the draft and provide further comments, as needed, before it is adopted by the Government and the Parliament in 2023.

With a view to addressing unequal treatment and realizing the rights of persons with disabilities, the NHRI initiated a process to establish an Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The mechanism will work closely with OPDs and will operate as part of the joint 2022-2023 UN project entitled “Accelerating disability inclusion for children and adults with disabilities,” which is funded by the UNRPD. The HRA shared guidance on IMMs from the CRPD Committee, facilitated exchanges among OHCHR's disability focal point

and UN and other partners and supported the NHRI in drafting a funding proposal. Furthermore, the NHRI and OPDs increased their knowledge about different IMM modalities during a regional online conference that was organized by the NHRI and the UN in North Macedonia, in March. As of the end of 2022, the NHRI had prepared an open call for applications for OPDs to participate in the mechanism. Once established, the NHRI and participating OPDs will identify priority areas for joint monitoring and capacity-building activities in 2023. The HRA will continue providing technical assistance by sharing guidance, facilitating exchanges and commenting on documents prepared by the NHRI.

OHCHR took steps to enhance awareness about international human rights standards and practices and provided technical assistance and relevant materials to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and officials drafting legislation on gender recognition, based on the right to self-determination. These materials included an amicus curiae brief by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, a factsheet from the Equal Rights Coalition on standards and good practices related to legal gender recognition and a report by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In July, a workshop was held with members of the drafting working group, on which the HRA sits as an observer. During the workshop, the HRA reiterated the UN's support for the drafting process and commitment to ensuring the equal protection of the rights of the LGBTI community. As of late December, the draft law had been tabled for further discussion by the working group.

The HRA will continue to follow the drafting process and provide specific comments as needed.

ND8 – The new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 fully integrates an HRBA and furthers the commitment to the LNOB principle outlined in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

10 16 17 

The HRA contributed to the integration into the UN common country programmes of international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The HRA contributed to drafting the new UNSDCF 2023-2027 and designing the vision, priorities, theory of change and indicators. The new UNSDCF was signed by the Government and the United Nations in July. It sets out an overall vision of increased respect for human rights, social justice and the inclusion of the most vulnerable. One of the UNSDCF's three priorities focuses on improved implementation of the rule of law, human rights, strengthened social cohesion and people-centred governance, in accordance with recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Some of the outcome indicators that will be used to measure the enjoyment of human rights include employment, gender equality, the prevalence of child marriage and violence against children, discrimination, access to health care and education, equality before the law, the rule of law and accountability. In 2023, the HRA will lead the new inter-agency group on human rights and LNOB.

With the HRA's support, the UNCT actively engaged with various international

human rights mechanisms. It submitted three reports, with concrete recommendations for action, to CAT in March, CEDAW in July and the UPR in October. UN agencies helped a government delegation to prepare for the interactive dialogue with CAT during a mock session in Podgorica, in April. The HRA led the UNCT's work with the international human rights mechanisms.

The UNCT implemented its action plan to combat hate speech, which was drafted under the leadership of the HRA and adopted in late 2021. OHCHR's activities under the plan focused on monitoring and analysis that was used for consistent awareness-raising and advocacy by the RC and the UNCT. The HRA was featured in a documentary entitled *The virus of hate*, which was aired on national television, in February. In it, the HRA noted the increase in hate speech, including against women, and the limited engagement of leaders in respectful debate on hate speech and crime. With the support of the Senior Minority Fellow and UN agencies, the HRA facilitated a panel discussion with victims to raise awareness about hate speech. Furthermore, 60 representatives from the Government, civil society and the international community participated in the "Silencing hate" event that took place on Human Rights Day (10 December).

Throughout the year, the HRA used reporting to the international human rights mechanisms as opportunities to increase awareness about hate speech and encourage the development of relevant recommendations. The RC published two opinion pieces, which were drafted with the support of the HRA. The first was published on the occasion of the International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June) and the second, issued on the International Day of Peace (21 September), emphasized

the need to ensure transitional justice and made reference to genocide denial and hate speech. Despite these and other efforts, hate speech remained prevalent and by the end of the year, appeared to have increased in the context of heightened political tensions.

Mechanisms

M3 – Policymakers and legislators make use of outcomes issued by international and regional human rights mechanisms (strategy on inclusion of persons with disabilities, media legislation).

5 16   

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights norms and standards.

In July, the Government adopted a new Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities from Discrimination and the Promotion of Equality 2022-2027, which was developed with the technical support of OHCHR, UNICEF and UNDP and integrated recommendations from CRPD and CRC. The Strategy seeks to address violence against women and girls with disabilities, facilitate the deinstitutionalization of children and increase community-based services as a priority. Yet, the National Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is not functional, the new Directorate on Disability, set up in 2021 within the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights, was abolished in 2022 and an entity to monitor the implementation of the Strategy has not been established. In 2023, OHCHR will advocate for its implementation and the functioning of central structures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

Following the adoption of the Roma and Egyptian Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025, designed with the technical support of OHCHR, UNICEF and UNDP, the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights established a Commission that consists of various ministries, the Roma Council and CSOs to monitor its implementation. OHCHR did not participate in the Commission in 2022 but it will observe meetings and provide recommendations in 2023.

Under the joint OHCHR/UNESCO Global Media Drive, an internal analysis was conducted on the right to freedom of expression, access to information and the safety of journalists in Montenegro, which was validated with 15 journalists, in September. The Montenegro assessment, together with similar assessments undertaken by field presences in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia, were presented at a regional meeting from 18 to 19 October, in Montenegro, to 30 participants, including journalists, their associations, editors and civil society. Participants also learned how to engage with the UPR, the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies to advocate for the improved compliance of legislation, mechanisms and practices with international standards. In December, the HRA attended a panel discussion on freedom of the media and presented information on how the international human rights mechanisms have monitored the freedom of the media at the global level and in Montenegro over the past 10 years. The HRA also highlighted how their recommendations and processes can be used for advocacy. Other participants included 20 journalists, government officials, the national broadcaster, the police chief and the public prosecutor, members of civil society and diplomats.

REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
2.09 million	26,000 km ²	0.770 (rank: 78/191 in 2021)	"B" Status (2011)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2007	
Field office(s)		Skopje	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		1	

XB requirements 2022

US\$101,000

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat all forms of discrimination and responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.



OHCHR contributed to the alignment of anti-discrimination and gender equality legislation with international human rights standards and to ensuring effective protection against all forms of discrimination.

The HRA contributed to the development of the new National Strategy on Equality and Non-Discrimination, adopted in May, by engaging in national consultations and providing inputs to facilitate

its compliance with international standards. The Strategy serves as a blueprint for the identification of strategic areas, as well as the objectives and priority actions that are to be undertaken to ensure equal rights and opportunities. Discrimination is prohibited on all grounds recognized by international human rights law.

The HRA offered technical advice on drafting the Gender Equality Law, which recognizes diverse gender identities for the first time and envisions a robust gender equality machinery. More specifically, the HRA and several UN agencies produced a comprehensive assessment of the draft law, which is in the final stage of review by the Government.

The HRA delivered technical advice and actively participated in the development of legislative initiatives to enhance access to justice and the rule of law.

As a result, the Parliament adopted the Law on State Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes, in November. The Law provides access and redress for the harm suffered by victims/survivors of violent crimes, such as torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, police brutality, hate-motivated crimes, rape, domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons.

In addition, the HRA worked with the Ministry of Justice and shared its technical expertise regarding the revision of the Criminal Code, including through a detailed assessment of the definition of rape to ensure its alignment with the framework for legislation on rape (Model Rape Law), CEDAW recommendations and the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention. The Criminal Code revisions were enacted in February 2023.

ND1 – National mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of CRPD are effective, adequately resourced and comply with international standards.



OHCHR provided strategic direction and technical support on international standards to the CRPD national monitoring framework. With OHCHR's support, the monitoring framework was established in 2021 as a strategic partnership between the Ombudsperson, OPDs and civil society. In March, OHCHR, the UNCT and the Ombudsperson organized an online conference on "Strengthening national human rights institutions as independent monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the UN CRPD." More than 120 representatives attended from NHRIs, disability movements and civil society from across the Western Balkan

region and other European countries, as well as representatives of the CRPD Committee and the UN Development System. The participants came together to share their experiences and good practices on the role of NHRIs in monitoring CRPD implementation at the national level and emphasized the importance of the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the monitoring framework.

ND3 – National laws on GBV contribute to protecting women from GBV and comply with international human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance with international human rights standards of laws and policies on protection against GBV.

Following the January 2021 adoption of the Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GBV Law), OHCHR supported its implementation by providing advice on the implementation of a holistic, victim-centred approach to prevention, protection, support and the criminal justice response in secondary legislation, in compliance with international human rights standards. This support included comments and advice on the congruence and compliance with new and existing legislative initiatives on improved access to justice, new legal provisions to curtail violence against women and girls and provide compensation for GBV victims, with a focus on addressing intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination, as well as negative gender stereotypes and narratives associated with GBV.

The HRA continued to chair the UNCT Theme Group on Gender and Human Rights, in cooperation with UN Women. It assisted the RC in convening regular gender coordination meetings to improve the understanding of partners and the UNCT on national legislative and policy developments related to GBV and gender equality and their compliance with guidance issued by the international human rights mechanisms. With HRA's support, the participation of national stakeholders from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Ministry of Health was secured, for the first time, resulting in a presentation of national commitments and priorities.

The HRA led the UNCT's collective efforts to operationalize the Secretary-General's strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by developing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for addressing allegations/complaints of SEA at the national level, which was endorsed by the UNCT.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
3.27 million	34,000 km ²	0.767 (rank: 80/191 in 2021)	Status A (2018)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2008	
Field office(s)		Chisinau	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Partnership Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		11	

XB requirements 2022 **US\$2,395,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

M1 – A national mechanism implements and reports on outstanding international human rights commitments in an integrated and participatory manner.

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OHCHR provided support to integrated reporting and/or the implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR.

In supporting the Government in the development of national procedures for the implementation of decisions/views issued by the human rights treaty bodies, a study was undertaken on the conditions that are needed to facilitate the implementation of the decisions/views issued by the human rights treaty bodies in domestic law. OHCHR submitted

a proposal to the Ministry of Justice, suggesting a review of the normative framework and the establishment of a mechanism to ensure the implementation in domestic law of these decisions/views. To this end, OHCHR will continue to advocate with the Ministry and provide additional support in 2023.

In April, the State Chancellery took steps to increase knowledge at the national level about UPR recommendations and conducted four consultations on the recommendations issued during the country's third UPR cycle, with OHCHR's support. More than 60 representatives from State institutions, NHRIs, CSOs and UN agencies participated in the consultations, enabling them to analyse the recommendations. CSOs and NHRIs advocated for the Government's acceptance of the recommendations and suggested measures

that could be put in place for their implementation.

OHCHR provided support to facilitate the inclusive consultation and meaningful participation of NHRIs and CSOs in the evaluation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and the establishment of priorities for the proposed Human Rights Framework. More than 210 representatives of State structures, NHRIs and CSOs, including from the Transnistrian region, engaged in a constructive dialogue through eight thematic consultations. During consultations on the State Party report to CESCR, OHCHR facilitated the engagement of CSOs to review and provide feedback on the report.

To strengthen the knowledge of government officials in relation to reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, three human rights thematic trainings were conducted. In April, OHCHR collaborated with an expert member of CESCR and the State Chancellery and organized a training on the preparation of the fourth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Attendees included representatives of State institutions and members of the working group tasked with preparing the State Party report. In May, OHCHR partnered with the State Chancellery and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to deliver a two-day workshop on gender mainstreaming in public policy, benefiting 28 civil servants from line ministries and State agencies in various sectors. The training combined theoretical knowledge and practical skill-building, including identifying and improving

gender gaps, gender and human rights-based budgeting and gender mainstreaming. In December, OHCHR collaborated with the State Chancellery to conduct a training on the application of an HRBA to policy development for 25 civil servants serving as members of the working group on the evaluation of the NHRAP and preparation of the new human rights framework.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Laws, policies and practices more effectively prevent and prosecute discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other minorities.



OHCHR continued its advocacy efforts to support the increased compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights standards.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government and the Parliament to ensure cross-sectorial coordination and consultations on disability inclusion. Persons with disabilities participated in the consultations through the National Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and seven sectorial groups. In consultation with OPDs, a scoping study was prepared on good practices and options for the operation of consultative cross-sectorial bodies. The main findings of the study were used as a basis for reviewing the regulation of the activities of the National Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Further advocacy will be conducted for increased and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs in the cross-sectorial body.

OHCHR supported the training of 24 trainers from six residential institutions on the application of an HRBA to disability. As a result, more than 160 staff from six residential institutions received training and increased their knowledge on this issue. With OHCHR's assistance, the Standards on legal aid for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities were developed by the National Legal Aid Council and adopted, in December. The standards will be used by lawyers in providing legal aid to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in penal, civil and contravention processes. OHCHR will provide additional assistance to the National Legal Aid Council in 2023 to build the capacity of lawyers and support the development of instruments to monitor their activity.

In advancing the goal to draft the first Human Rights Framework in the Transnistrian region, 40 thematic sub-working group meetings were held, with the participation of CSOs and members of the de facto authorities. A total of 56 participants reviewed and submitted 48 proposals on the implementation of 137 recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and outlined in Hammarberg reports regarding the Transnistrian region. The first draft of the Framework, consisting of six thematic tables, is being finalized.

A first draft of the assessment report on the compliance of the regional regulatory framework with CRPD is expected to be finalized by mid-2023. Following 60 consultations on legal and psychological support and assisted employment, a total of 52 persons with disabilities and their relatives received community-based services in the Slobozia district of the Transnistria region.

As a result of coaching sessions, 32 Roma community mediators from both banks of the Nistru River strengthened their knowledge about international and national human rights standards related to minorities and the identification of legal solutions for the documentation of Roma. A total of 570 Roma benefited from this support in five localities of the Transnistrian region that are densely populated by Roma. The institution and impact of these mediators remains highly appreciated. The mediators were also recognized as an effective instrument for empowering the Roma community by Roma activists from both banks of the Nistru River and duty bearers from educational, social protection institutions, employment centres and de facto local authorities.

ND7 – Public discourse and media reports are more inclusive and non-discriminatory.



OHCHR supported significant improvements in the narrative on selected human rights issues.

UN Human Rights increased the knowledge and capacity of journalists and media professionals to promote diversity and equality in the media. Eight human rights-related articles were prepared and integrated by lecturers into the teaching materials of eight disciplines in order to promote the mainstreaming of human rights and an HRBA to journalism at the Journalism and Communication Sciences Faculty of Moldova State University. OHCHR developed a terminology guide on communication with and about groups experiencing discrimination for staff of public and private institutions,

including media professionals, public relations and communication specialists, in line with the United Nations Global Communications Strategy. Furthermore, the Office organized a media brunch, in October, which was attended by 30 national media professionals, journalists and bloggers. During the event, participants increased their awareness about the human rights situation of Roma refugees and the multiple vulnerabilities they face. In October, OHCHR organized a human rights capacity-building session for 30 students and lecturers from the Faculty of Journalism of Tiraspol State University in the Transnistrian region. Attendees learned more about the history and consequences of the Holocaust and the prevention of hate speech, xenophobia and racism.

OHCHR collaborated with the Department of Sociology and Social Work of Moldova State University to organize two information sessions to raise the awareness of youth about human rights, groups with a heightened vulnerability to human rights violations, redress mechanisms and the State's human rights obligations. The sessions were attended by more than 60 students from four faculties.

Development

D8 – Data on education, employment and justice are more consistently available and disaggregated by disability status and type.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the capacities of relevant State structures to ensure the availability of data, including disaggregated data.

With OHCHR's facilitation and guidance, a national methodology for developing and contextualizing indicators from the perspective of human rights was developed, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed in March 2021 by the National Statistics Office, the People's Advocate Office and the Equality Council. The MoU affirmed their commitment to cooperate on strengthening data collection, disaggregation, dissemination and analysis in the context of ensuring human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The national methodology was developed to anchor the data collection process in the area of official statistics on a strong human rights foundation and to help ensure that official statistical indicators can be used for human rights analysis and implementation. The methodology is also intended to be used as a reference point for the coordinated implementation of and follow-up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The methodology was validated at a workshop with the participation of over 25 representatives of public authorities and institutions that are parties to the MoU. The set of indicators developed in the workshop will be finalized and piloted to collect data that is relevant to the right to health.



Participation

P6 – Vulnerable rights holders, notably persons with disabilities, participate more fully and frequently in the drafting of public policy and legislation, including by taking public office.



The Office supported the meaningful participation of rights holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

With the support of UN Human Rights, 22 human rights activists and representatives of vulnerable groups from the Transnistrian region completed an 18-month human rights capacity-building programme. As a result of the programme, four advocacy papers and one video were developed and submitted by human rights activists to duty bearers to address human rights issues and concerns related to persons with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, the rights of Roma people and people living with HIV. In addition, during April and May, human rights activists from the Transnistrian region organized and conducted 19 human rights awareness-raising training sessions for 280 representatives of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, persons from the Roma community, people living with HIV and women who experienced GBV. Participants increased their knowledge and practical skills related to the application of an HRBA and relevant regulatory frameworks, international standards and human rights obligations.

OHCHR supported the network of parents of children and youth with disabilities in organizing awareness-raising activities to promote the acceptance of persons with disabilities among pupils

and teachers of three educational institutions. More than 1,000 books entitled *Equality ABC* were printed for use by Prietenamea, an NGO that promotes awareness-raising activities for children in schools. In 2023, the book will be used for awareness-raising activities in 35 educational institutions throughout the country.



Accountability

A1 –Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

16

OHCHR continued to contribute to protection against human rights violations.

OHCHR worked in collaboration with the National Social Assistance Agency to mainstream an HRBA into the training of social workers. Six training curricula on social work were reviewed and recommendations were provided. A three-day training of trainers on human rights was delivered to 22 university lecturers. Moreover, a separate training course on human rights and the application of an HRBA to social work was developed. The course became available as an optional course in January 2023 and will be compulsory for first year students as of September 2023.

As part of joint efforts with the National Social Assistance Agency, a training programme for the continuous learning of social workers was developed, based on the results of a training needs assessment that was undertaken in cooperation with 560 social workers. A three-day training of trainers was conducted and the course

will be integrated into the Agency's online training platform.

OHCHR conducted an assessment of the human rights situation of Roma, including Roma refugees, and the underlying causes that limit their access to human rights in Moldova and in particular, in the Transnistrian region. The report will be finalized, including through consultations on findings and recommendations, in 2023.

UN Human Rights in Moldova: Providing vital support to Ukrainian refugees

Since the war in Ukraine began on 24 February, UN Human Rights in Moldova has played an integral part in monitoring the country's borders and mobilizing support for refugees entering the country.

It is estimated that close to 700,000 refugees have chosen to stay in Moldova. This is a significant number for a poor and small country with a resident population of 2.59 million people, Bea Ferenci, UN Human Rights Adviser in Moldova, explained. "We've had the largest influx of refugees in terms of per capita figures of all the countries receiving refugees," she said.

AT THE CENTRE OF THE CRISIS

When Ferenci's team began providing support at the border, there was a 30-kilometre line of cars and hundreds of people, primarily women, children and older people who were waiting to cross. The team observed the situation, spoke to people and identified necessary support and protection services, such as access to information, shelter, health services, food, clothing, education, translation and legal assistance.

They also monitored the Refugee Accommodation Centres to understand their capacities to accommodate particularly vulnerable people, including Roma, persons with disabilities and families with small children. Issues of concern were identified, for instance, discrimination against Roma, potential sexual exploitation and trafficking of people, limited documentation and a lack of accessibility to essential services for persons with physical disabilities.

IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK

Roma face many obstacles, such as racial discrimination, bias-based exclusion and stigmatization. In response, UN Human Rights developed a project to provide humanitarian support to Roma refugees, including in the Transnistria region, with financial support from the Swiss Development Cooperation. "They require access to education and other basic services, like medication and food, as well as legal counselling related to documentation for children and adults," said Elena Cuijuclu, Senior Minority Fellow at UN Human Rights-Moldova.

Children with disabilities and their families require additional assistance and support in adapting to unknown environments. Tatiana Cernomorit, National Human Rights Officer at UN Human Rights-Moldova, found that children with disabilities, such as children with autism spectrum disorder, do better in smaller shelters. They also require support and assistance for inclusion in schools, including through infrastructural and informational accessibility, and training is needed for teachers working with these children.

The Government has now established the infrastructure to support incoming refugees and is working with 16 UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs to create protection action plans, including through a protection working group and taskforces on Roma and refugees with disabilities.



Ukrainian child, escaped from the war, after crossing the border with Moldova, waiting to be transported to a reception centre. © Andrea Mancini/NurPhoto via Reuters Connect

UN Human Rights has consequently shifted its focus to the long-term needs of those who have decided to stay in the country, said Ferenci. It will work to address issues that arise, such as misinformation, hate speech and social cohesion, while facilitating assistance for people with other concerns, including mental health.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
144.71 million	17,098,000 km ²	0.822 (rank: 52/191 in 2021)	Status A (2021)
Type of engagement	Human rights staff (Other type of field presence)		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Moscow		
UN partnership framework	-		
Staff as of 31 December 2022	4		

XB income	US\$0
XB requirements 2022	US\$843,000
XB expenditure	US\$386,208

	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
	74%	14%	12%
	\$286,564	\$55,213	\$44,431

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

P6 – Human rights higher education programmes are expanded and institutionalized in the Russian Federation and selected CIS countries.



OHCHR contributed to improving the narrative on human rights by raising awareness about and integrating human rights into university curricula across the Russian Federation.

OHCHR continued to support the Consortium in an effort to expand the Human Rights Education Programme

in the Russian Federation. A total of 52 students (27 women, 25 men) graduated from the Human Rights Master’s Programme and 60 students were enrolled in 2022. With OHCHR’s coordinating support, the Consortium of Russian Universities submitted a proposal for the latest phase of the Programme, which will develop new textbooks, case law and comprehensive online courses. OHCHR will provide guidance and methodological support to the Consortium by facilitating access to resources, data, documents and good practices. The Consortium will further develop internship schemes in State ministries and

the Federal Ombudsperson’s Office, providing students with opportunities for future human rights jobs. The Consortium’s expansion to the Far Eastern and Northern regions of Russia is foreseen during the 2022-2023 academic year, following the Consortium’s decision to include two universities based in Krasnoyarsk and Vladivostok.

Furthermore, OHCHR cooperated with the Consortium to organize the eighth Human Rights Summer School on “Sustainable Development Goals, human rights and the challenges of globalization.” The week-long event brought together more than 100 students from a variety of Russian universities who had the opportunity to listen to 32 lecturers, including eminent national and international professors, practitioners, HRDs and UN experts. The first United Nations human rights treaty body mock session was organized, which saw five Consortium teams competing and the participation of current and former treaty body experts.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – NHRIs and CSOs significantly strengthen their anti-discrimination work, with a particular focus on domestic violence, gender equality, disability and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in compliance with international human rights standards.

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OHCHR contributed to increasing awareness about the compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards in relation to the rights of women, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities.

On 29 November, OHCHR and the Federal Ombudsperson's Office collaborated to deliver a workshop to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs at the Centre for Human Rights Education of the Moscow State Law University. Newly appointed regional human rights commissioners from more than 15 regions and staff of the Federal Ombudsperson's Office (approximately 25 persons, half of whom were women), enhanced their knowledge about the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies, including with regard to the reporting cycle, complaints procedures and jurisprudence related to the Russian Federation. In light of Russia's withdrawal from the Council of Europe, participants appreciated the timeliness of the training as the human rights treaty bodies may become increasingly solicited for guidance.

Facilitated by OHCHR, a three-week Russian-speaking Indigenous Fellowship Programme was conducted from 24 October to 11 November, in cooperation with the Peoples' Friendship University, after a two-year break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to attending academic lectures by university professors, the group of seven fellows (five women, two men) met government officials from the Federal Agency for Nationalities, the State Duma, the Federal Ombudsperson's Office, members of the Council of the Federation, current and former members from the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous activists and practitioners and UN agencies working in Russia. Participation in the Programme helped the fellows build their expertise on the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and increasing coordination for promoting rights in their respective communities.

SERBIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
7.22 million	88,000 km ²	0.802 (rank: 63/191 in 2021)	A Status (2021)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		1996	
Field office(s)		Belgrade	
UN partnership framework		UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025)	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		3	

XB requirements 2022

US\$571,000

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

P6 – Organizations of persons with disabilities, organizations of national minorities and other human rights CSOs are more visible, consistently included in relevant policies and decision-making and engage more frequently with the international human rights mechanisms and with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



OHCHR enhanced the level of meaningful participation of rights holders, especially women, in selected public processes.

Following OHCHR's 2021 delivery of a training on Leaving No One Behind to the 20 leading CSOs of the Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, the CSOs

became actively engaged in the development of a Tool for the introduction of the 'Leave No One Behind' principle into legislative and strategic acts of the Republic of Serbia. This was undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, the RCO and academia. In 2022, the Tool was presented and widely distributed. Furthermore, on Human Rights Day (10 December), the Minister for Human and Minority Rights, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament underlined the need to implement the Tool in all future law and policy development processes.

The Office also advocated for increased civil society participation in policy development. This helped to facilitate the participation of CSO representatives in working groups focused on the development of legislative and policy documents.

In 2022, the HRA initiated discussions regarding monitoring and reporting on attacks against journalists, with a particular focus on female journalists. The discussions were held with journalists, media representatives, media associations and CSOs working in the area of media freedom, with the aim of assessing capacity-building needs and raising the awareness of media workers on the role of the international human rights mechanisms. In addition, within the context of the Global Drive for Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, implemented jointly with UNESCO, the HRA organized a two-day regional meeting with journalists, media workers, media freedom activists and civil society representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia to exchange experiences related to protecting media freedom in the region. In the course of the meeting, the participants mapped areas that require further capacity-building support.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – The Government adopts or reforms five policies, laws or practices that prevent or sanction discrimination to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards. In doing so, it pays particular attention to the rights of women, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, Roma, migrants and refugees.

5 10 16 

OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of policies and legislation with international human rights standards by providing expert legal advice to key partners.

Legislative processes were largely stalled in 2022 due to the presidential, parliamentary and local elections that were held in April and the subsequent late formation of the Government. Advisory support on several pieces of legislation was requested from the HRA, either directly or through the UNCT. Technical advice from the HRA and the UNCT was instrumental in the preparation, discussion and adoption of the Anti-discrimination Strategy and its corresponding Action Plan, both of which are largely compliant with international human rights standards.

To support the implementation of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD), the Office continued to deliver several workshops on human rights indicators, international human rights standards, reporting and follow-up and the expansion of the NMRF's mandate. Moreover, the HRA provided technical support to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue on the first steps of developing a Human Rights Strategy, with the meaningful participation of civil society. The development of the Strategy will continue in 2023.

The HRA supported the Platform of CSOs in submitting a joint report to the UPR and youth rights defenders in the preparation and submission of the first youth-specific UPR report on Serbia.

Mechanisms

M1 – The NMRF verifies that recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are implemented. The NMRF uses human rights indicators.

5 16 

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced functioning of the NMRF and/or the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The NMRF, chaired by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, continued to regularly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and follow up on their recommendations. As a result of OHCHR's technical support to the NMRF, the Government drafted and submitted its periodic report to CRC and prepared its UPR report, which was submitted in February 2023. The Government also submitted a follow-up report in relation to three urgent recommendations that were outlined in the latest concluding observations of CAT. Finally, the NMRF developed a monitoring plan to follow up on the implementation of recommendations, which was approved and accepted by the Government.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser (based in Georgia); Human rights staff (based in UNCT Azerbaijan)
Countries of engagement	Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Baku (Azerbaijan) and Tbilisi (Georgia)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (Armenia); United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (Azerbaijan); United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (Georgia)
Staff as of 31 December 2022	11
XB requirements 2022	US\$1,065,000

Key OMP pillars in 2022



PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems. The National Human Rights Action Plan in Georgia complies with international human rights standards and is periodically updated to reflect recommendations issued by the international and regional human rights mechanisms. The High School of Justice, the police academy and the Legal Affairs Committee in Parliament, as well as the Bar Association and its Training Centre in Georgia, deepen their knowledge of international human rights standards.

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OHCHR supported the capacity development of national institutions and programmes to enhance their knowledge about applying an HRBA and to contribute to achieving SDG 16.

In Georgia, OHCHR organized a series of trainings for 252 investigators and managers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including on the right to life, the prohibition of torture, the rights of persons with disabilities and the prohibition of discrimination.

From 17 to 18 February, OHCHR cooperated with UNDP to conduct the first Training of Trainers (ToT) session on the rights of persons with disabilities. The training focused on CRPD, equality and non-discrimination, access to justice

and communication approaches for the police. Prior to the training, OHCHR translated the publication *For inclusive quality police services for persons with disabilities: Ten areas of action*, which was prepared under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility. A total of 21 police officers attended the training. Similar ToT sessions were organized for investigators and instructors of the police academy. From 28 October to 1 November, OHCHR delivered two training sessions on the rights of persons with disabilities and communication standards for 37 senior officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. From 19 to 20 November, OHCHR worked closely with UNDP to deliver a training for members of the Consultative Council of the Interministerial Coordination Committee of the Government of Georgia on the rights of persons with disabilities and highlighted relevant jurisprudence of the CRPD Committee and case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

OHCHR cooperated with the Legal Aid Service (LAS) to strengthen its capacities in relation to cases of ill-treatment. Support was provided in the development of a training module on ill-treatment for LAS lawyers and consultants, with a focus on practical and theoretical aspects, international standards, Georgian legislation, challenges faced by victims and identifying actions that can be undertaken by LAS for victim protection. The training module formed the basis of a two-day ToT session for LAS consultants who are working on cases of victims of alleged ill-treatment. From 23 to 24 March, OHCHR supported the LAS at a meeting that was held for 25 staff members to discuss strengthening their capacities to provide effective legal aid to alleged victims of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment.

As part of its long-standing partnership with the Georgian Bar Association, OHCHR conducted a series of trainings for lawyers on freedom of religion, anti-discrimination, the right to peaceful assembly and the rights of persons with disabilities to raise awareness about anti-discrimination and human rights issues. The trainings were delivered to 96 lawyers from western Georgia, in the Samtskhe Javakheti region (a region with a significant Armenian minority population), and in Tbilisi.

Additionally, OHCHR provided support on the reform of the Administrative Offenses Code by holding discussions with the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Issues and sharing recommendations that aligned with international standards. OHCHR also supported the development of the National Human Rights Strategy and provided recommendations based on international human rights standards. These efforts will continue in 2023.

A5 – United Nations efforts related to the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the centre.

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OHCHR strengthened the UN's assistance to the justice sector to promote and respect international norms and standards and the institutionalization of processes for discussing justice sector reform by the Government and international human rights bodies.

In **Azerbaijan**, on 1 July, OHCHR organized a meeting between the RC and national HRDs and CSOs to discuss challenges to civic space and the role of the UN in expanding civic space. Concerns were

raised with national authorities regarding restrictions on freedom of association, such as registration of CSOs and financial resources, as well as challenges in seeking authorization to hold events. The RC underlined the importance of continuing these meetings and indicated its willingness to facilitate a dialogue between CSOs and national authorities.

OHCHR continued leading the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group. On 3 February, the Theme Group signed an MoU with the Ombudsperson to establish a joint working group with the aim of advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by promoting the universal values of human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and strengthening human rights education at all levels. In April, the Theme Group agreed upon a tentative action plan for 2022, focusing on monitoring and following up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, institutional capacity-building and activities to support the implementation of the UNSDCF. In June, OHCHR cooperated with the Bar Association and the National Union of Artists to organize a four-day art exhibition to commemorate National Human Rights Day, bringing together over 100 representatives from various government institutions, including Members of Parliament, the media, CSOs and lawyers. More than 80 artworks prepared by schoolchildren were exhibited. In July, OHCHR, UNHCR, the Bar Association and regional offices of the Ombudsperson co-organized a free legal aid campaign for vulnerable groups in Baku, benefiting over 500 persons, including IDPs, economically disadvantaged persons, persons with disabilities and victims of GBV.

In **Georgia**, OHCHR continued leading the Human Rights Theme Group and

contributing to the implementation of the UNSDCF's work on Outcome 1 on good governance and Outcome 2 on equitable and inclusive access to services. OHCHR led the process of elaborating the UNCT alternative report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and contributed to the development of the UNCT alternative report to CEDAW.

Non-discrimination

ND7 – Public support increases for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of engagement and awareness of various groups in relation to tolerance, diversity and inclusivity.

In **Azerbaijan**, OHCHR supported the UNCT Gender Theme Group's efforts to advance gender mainstreaming across joint programmes and activities. On 7 March, as part of International Women's Day celebrations, OHCHR collaborated with the RCO and the Baku Book Centre (a local public library organization), to organize a roundtable entitled "Addressing gender bias and discrimination through policy and practice." The roundtable brought together more than 50 participants, including representatives from government bodies, international organizations, diplomatic missions, NGOs, academia and media. The roundtable provided an opportunity to raise awareness about gender bias and stereotypes and enabled CSOs to raise their concerns and present recommendations on measures to eliminate gender-based violence.

In October, OHCHR provided support to the Assessment of the UNFPA Gender Equality Scorecard, a validation exercise organized by the UNCT on an annual basis to review and discuss the UNCT-System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP) actions undertaken by each United Nations agency in the previous year. OHCHR helped the UNCT to assess progress achieved with regard to one of three chosen indicators (Indicator 5.1: Gender coordination mechanism is empowered to influence the UNCT for Gender Equality and Empowerment) and analysed the Action Plan for 2023. OHCHR also provided recommendations on how to improve the indicator score for 2023.

On 7 April, in Georgia, OHCHR participated in an event organized by the Council of Europe Office in Georgia on freedom of expression and access to information. During the event, OHCHR presented on article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), relevant jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee and case law of the European Court for Human Rights, as well as recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Participants from media outlets expressed their intention to use the information received to expand coverage on the situation of vulnerable groups.

From 19 to 20 July, OHCHR conducted a training for 20 representatives of CSOs, including 14 women working on the rights of LGBTI persons, on the international human rights mechanisms and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). The training aimed to build the capacity of participants to draft alternative reports and submit individual communications,

use the international human rights mechanisms for effective advocacy and strategic litigation and strengthen their knowledge about the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Throughout the year, OHCHR delivered lectures to three school-based youth clubs for 50 young people in the cities of Telavi (eastern Georgia), Batumi and Kutaisi (western Georgia) on human rights, with an emphasis on tolerance, diversity and combating discrimination. Another set of lectures was delivered to 120 university students in three universities in the same regions during Human Rights Week in December.

UKRAINE

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
39.70 million	604,000 km ²	0.773 (rank: 77/191 in 2021)	Status A (2019)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Monitoring /Mission (HRMMU)		
Year established	2014		
Field office(s)	Kyiv; field offices in Dnipro, Donetsk, Luhansk, Odesa, Poltava and Uzhhorod; satellite offices in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) and Krakow (Poland)		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Transitional Framework 2018-2022		
Staff as of 31 December 2022	80		
XB income	US\$17,148,577		
XB requirements 2022	US\$6,825,000		
XB expenditure	US\$8,247,314		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC⁴	
70%	19%	11%	
\$5,797,499	\$1,582,297	\$867,518	

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

 **Peace and Security**

PS3 – The UN’s early warning systems and strategies in Ukraine integrate and update human rights information and analyses.

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OHCHR supported the application of an HRBA to programmes implemented by UN entities.

The Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continued to support and inform the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT and UN agencies on the human rights situation in Ukraine following the armed attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine, on 24 February, which included alleged war crimes and grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The HRMMU participated in the UNCT workshop entitled “Scenario building for the Transitional Framework 2022-2023

on UNCT-Ukraine cooperation,” and provided inputs on the application of an HRBA.

The HRMMU shared with the RC an analytical note on the application of Russian legislation in the newly occupied territories of Ukraine. In its note, the HRMMU analysed the potential impact of the application of Russian legislation on NGOs, as well as the primary international human rights law and international humanitarian law concerns. This analysis increased the UNCT’s understanding of the human rights situation in the newly occupied areas and provided guidance to the UN in its activities and interactions with organizations in the occupied territories.

In addition, the HRMMU sent a joint UNCT submission to the Ministry of Justice with proposed amendments to the National Human Rights Strategy. The Office of the President amended the Strategy to better reflect the context following the armed attack of 24 February and requested civil society and international organizations to submit proposals. Through the UNCT Human Rights Working Group, the HRMMU ensured a coherent and high-quality submission to the Ministry of Justice, thereby contributing to the alignment of the Strategy with international standards.

The HRMMU also coordinated the submission of a joint UNCT contribution to the Secretary-General’s report on conflict-related sexual violence. The contribution was submitted to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, on 20 December. As part of the UNCT Action Plan on addressing hate speech, the HRMMU coordinated the data collection and analysis of hate speech incidents, thereby contributing to early warning and

strengthening a joint UN approach to combating hate speech. To inform the UN's early warning and prevention work in the context of the armed conflict, the HRMMU prepared a briefing note on hate speech and incitement to discrimination, violence and hostility against the Ukrainian population by State-owned media outlets in the Russian Federation.

PS3 – State authorities adopt and implement laws and programmes to prevent sexual violence from occurring in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity and investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual violence.



OHCHR helped to strengthen oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards by monitoring CRSV.

Since 24 February, the HRMMU has been the only international entity systematically verifying and documenting allegations of CRSV, thereby helping to inform national and international advocacy and technical assistance on the issue.

As a result of long-term joint advocacy by the HRMMU, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other UN agencies in Ukraine signed the Framework for Cooperation on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, in May. The HRMMU is providing implementation support. Following the HRMMU's advocacy in cooperation with other UN agencies, the Parliament ratified the Istanbul Convention, which entered into force on 1 November.

In advocating for protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the HRMMU engaged with the Ministry of Defence and the Ombudsperson on the issue of harassment against gay soldiers by their peers in the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). The Ministry initiated internal investigations, provided the soldiers with psychological support and committed to promoting non-discriminatory principles in the UAF.

PS3 – State authorities and non-State actors promote and protect the human rights of populations living in territories affected by conflict.



OHCHR supported the compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights norms and standards.

The HRMMU raised awareness about and enhanced the capacities of State and non-State actors to address human rights issues. In April, the President of Ukraine established a Working Group on Human Rights within the National Council for the Recovery of Ukraine from the War, which was mandated to propose policies and legislation that would serve as a road map for post-conflict reconstruction. The HRMMU participated in meetings of the Working Group and made recommendations to ensure compliance with international human rights standards and the implementation of recommendations issued by human rights protection mechanisms. The HRMMU also provided recommendations to the draft Recovery Plan for Ukraine that was developed by the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Council for the Recovery of Ukraine from the War. In particular, the HRMMU

focused on the section on remedy and reparations for civilian victims of hostilities and called for free and accessible administrative procedures related to civil status registration for residents of territories occupied by the Russian Federation, including residents of Crimea.

In April, the HRMMU published a briefing note on the human rights situation of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Ukraine. The briefing note presents the results of the HRMMU's monitoring and reports on human rights violations and concerns affecting these persons in Ukraine, in particular institutionalization and the denial of legal capacity. The note includes concrete recommendations, thereby providing guidance for authorities and outlining measures needed to ensure that Ukrainian legislation and social policy is in line with the human rights standards enshrined in CRPD and other international human rights instruments applicable in Ukraine.

The HRMMU completed the human rights budgeting analysis of the draft State budget of Ukraine and followed the process of its adoption in the Parliament. The HRMMU's findings will be shared in a forthcoming briefing note on the impact of the Russian armed attack on the rights of older persons in Ukraine, which will be published in 2023.



Accountability

A1 – State institutions hold to account a higher proportion of those who are responsible for grave violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

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OHCHR supported the compliance of State institutions and programmes with international human rights and international humanitarian norms and standards.

The HRMMU's advocacy with the Office of the General Prosecutor and the State Penitentiary Service for unimpeded access to prisoners of war (POWs) resulted in the agreement of authorities to provide the Mission with full and confidential access to POWs from Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups, as well as former Ukrainian POWs released from captivity by Russian armed forces. The findings from the interviews strengthened the HRMMU's perceived capacities to objectively report on and advocate with Government stakeholders to promote accountability and ensure compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

In June, following the HRMMU's extensive advocacy, the Ministry of Defence recognized the responsibility of the UAF to comply with the treatment of POWs in line with international humanitarian law and that violations would lead to criminal responsibility. Further, the Office of the General Prosecutor launched investigations into several incidents, including in Dmytrivka, where Ukrainian servicepersons killed Russian POWs who were hors de combat and tortured Russian POWs in the Mala Rohan village in Kharkiv region. The Office of the General Prosecutor of Ukraine assured the HRMMU that they had instructed regional offices on international humanitarian law provisions and that the practice of prosecuting POWs from Russian armed forces for the mere fact of the participation in the combat operations had ceased.