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**CIVIC
ASSISTANCE
COMMITTEE**

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COMMITTEE

2017

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DEAR FRIENDS!

thank you for being by our side in 2017. With your support, Civic Assistance Committee (CAC) is able to help those in need. The May 23rd, 2017, Constitutional Court ruling in the Mskhiladze case, whose interests were represented by lawyers Olga Tseytlina and Sergei Golubok, was a great success. The Constitutional Court held that existing legislation does not regulate the lawfulness of the deprivation of liberty of stateless persons detained in the Centres for the Temporary Confinement of Foreign Nationals (TSVSIG), who have been sentenced to expulsion from the Russian Federation. Before the legislature addressed the issue, the Court had determined the verification mechanism of the legality and enforceability of the expulsion decisions.

◀ *The head of
Civic Assistance
Committee,
Svetlana
Gannushkina.*

Previously, stateless persons, who could not simply be expelled, would be kept in detention for up to two years. The chances of them returning to the Temporary Confinement Centre soon after leaving it were high. The result of the ruling was the release of dozens of stateless persons. Many of them received the support of lawyers provided by Civic Assistance Committee.

It should be noted that in Moscow judges have refused to use the mechanisms proposed by the Constitutional Court, and our efforts to overcome their refusal to act were unsuccessful. Our applicants are still being held in the TSVSIG Sakharovo, several of whom have been there before. Right now we are waiting for legislative changes which will finally solve this issue.

It was in 2017 that the effects of amendments to the 2015 law ‘On displaced

persons’ reached our beneficiaries. According to the changes, internally displaced persons who received negligible compensation for lost housing and property during military operations in the Chechen Republic (RUB 120,000 per family), or any other insignificant assistance from the government, will lose their status and consequently will be removed from the housing registry. These changes have devastated thousands of families.

By making these amendments, the legislature violated several articles of the Russian Constitution at once. According to Part 1 of Article 54, any law instituting or aggravating the liability of a person has no retroactive force.

According to Part 2 of Article 55, laws that abolish or diminish human rights and civil liberties should not be passed in the Russian Federation. Under Part 1 of Article 40 everyone has the right to housing, and no one may be arbitrarily deprived of their home.

In fact, by adopting the amendments, the legislator retroactively deprived displaced persons of expected and promised housing.

We are determined to petition the Constitutional Court, and we hope that it will support our appeal against the unconstitutionality of the passed amendments. ■



Svetlana Gannushkina,

*The head of Civic Assistance Committee,
the council of the network Migration and Law
and of the Human Rights Center Memorial*

RESULTS OF THE YEAR



▲ Volunteers and applicants of the Civic Assistance Committee at the concert for solidarity with refugees organized by the Committee together with Amnesty International and Sofar Sounds.

Consultations held

3547

Medical consultations

1958

Free Russian language training received by

30

adult refugees

Donated clothes received by

1800
people

Support allowance granted

416

Donations in the amount of RUB

4 336 318

Studied at the Children's Centre

30
children

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RUB **48** million

All annual expenses

RUB **45** million

Charity projects

RUB **3** million

Administrative costs



Expenditure specification, RUB.

Remaining balance at the beginning of 2017	10 863 831,31
Contributions	
Funds	38 399 861,55
Private donations	8 472 069,94
Total	46 871 931,49
Expenses	
Charity projects	45 089 951,30
Administrative costs	3 682 469,75
Total	48 772 421,05
Remaining balance at the end of 2017	8 963 341,75

◀ You can subscribe for the regular donations on the official web-site of the organization refugee.ru.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

■ *With the assistance of the Committee and the lawyers of the Human Rights Center 'Memorial', 64 refugees were granted asylum in Russia*

■ *After the help of Civic Assistance staff, 29 children were enrolled in school*

■ *47 expulsion decisions were overturned*

■ *The interim measure of the European Court of Human Rights (Rule 39) was adopted in respect to 6 persons*

■ *In the case of the non-payment of wages to labor migrants, it was possible to obtain recover lost wages of 900,000 RUB*

■ *With the help of the Committee, 16 stateless persons were granted legal status*

► *Svetlana Gannushkina receiving the Medal of Service from the Czech Ambassador to Russia, Vladimir Remek.*



▼ *The follower of Falun Dafa the citizen of China Li Dan in court with a lawyer from Civic Assistance Committee. Li Dan was to be deported from the Russian Federation and faced the threat of torture in his home country.*





WHO ARE WE?

▲ *New Year Eve celebration at the Committee. On the photo – a part of the Civic Assistance team.*



Civic Assistance Committee is a regional public charitable organization for refugees and migrants. For 27 years, we have been supporting people who fled to Russia due to extraordinary circumstances, as well as those who were forced to change their place of residence for economic, polit-

ical or other reasons. The Committee assists foreign citizens and citizens of the Russian Federation, refugees, labour migrants, internally displaced persons and stateless persons. The organization also provides help to victims of modern slavery and those who have suffered from hate crimes and other forms of discrimination.



What are we doing?

- Offering advice on how to obtain refugee status or temporary asylum in Russia, helping migrants to begin and complete their applications for asylum;
- Providing legal assistance: lawyers offer face-to-face consultations at our reception office where they represent the interests of refugees in courts, conduct examinations of government acts and laws and help create compendia on legal issues concerning migration;
- Providing humanitarian support: we collect and deliver food, clothes and other necessary items to refugees;
- Offering medical care: psychologists also work with the refugees and other groups of migrants at the Committee;

▲ Among the staff members in the Committee there are translators and interpreters for Dari, Arabic, French, and English.

- Providing children of Syrian refugees with Russian, mathematics and English classes;
- Offering Russian language courses to adult migrants;
- Working to abolish unauthorized decrees and other normative documents that violate the rights of migrants enshrined in International Law, the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal laws;
- Providing free legal aid to those subject to violent attacks and victims of modern slavery;
- Upholding the interests of labor migrants for decent work and proper payment of wages;
- Providing assistance for educational access to migrant children and refugees;
- Protecting the rights of North Caucasians in prison;
- Spreading information about refugees with the help of the media: who they are, where they come from and why they have no other choice but to stay here. We monitor violations of the rights of foreign citizens in courts, and talk about the difficulties faced by migrants.

Why do we do this?

Over the past twenty years, the attitude of federal and regional authorities towards the problems faced by migrants has changed from a partial recognition of the need to provide state assistance to an outright refusal to solve challenges in this field. The laws ‘On refugees’ and ‘On displaced persons’, which oblige the state to provide support to people who left their homes to escape from wars, conflicts, natural disasters and persecution, do not work. As a result of the migration directorate’s 9th reorganization in 2016, the mandate of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation

As a result of the migration directorate’s 9th reorganization in 2016, the mandate of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which has apparently impeded asylum applications. Since its creation, Civic Assistance Committee has committed itself to moderation of relationships with public institutions and officials, protection of migrant rights to legalization, housing, work, healthcare and education. ■

▼ *The Civic Assistance staff conducts an average of 4000 consultations a year.*



Statistics

■ According to the Federal State Statistics Service, every year fewer people in Russia are granted refugee status. In addition, in recent years the number of people with temporary asylum status has decreased dramatically. At the end of 2017, according to official figures, 592 people had refugee



status in Russia, six less than in 2016. The majority are citizens of Afghanistan (305 people), Ukraine (166 people) and Georgia (31 people).

Based on information presented in the report 'Social and Economic Situation in Russia', it can be concluded that the number of holders of temporary asylum status has

	REFUGEE STATUS			TEMPORARY ASSYLUM		
	No Of applicants applied for refugee status	No Of applicants granted refugee status	No Of applicants registered (as of the end of 2017)	No Of applicants applied for temporary assylum (TA)	No Of applicants granted temporary assylum (1 year)	No Of applicants registered (as of the end of 2017)
In all	619	33	592	13 467	10 400	125 442
Azerbaijan	4	0	7	6	0	8
Afghanistan	147	10	305	420	194	356
Bangladesh	4	0	4	5	1	1
Georgia	1	0	31	37	34	167
Egypt	2	0	2	2	0	0
Iraq	1	0	6	12	15	18
Iran	0	0	4	3	2	2
Kirghizia	9	1	3	14	2	22
North Korea	11	0	2	32	25	75
DR Congo	5	0	0	22	10	11
Korea	0	0	0	2	0	1
Latvia	2	1	2	3	0	1
Lebanon	0	0	6	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	3	2	1	2
Moldova	7	6	15	12	1	6
Syria	191	0	2	688	352	1 128
USA	0	0	2	2	2	1
Tadjikistan	14	0	7	27	5	16
Uzbekistan	25	1	19	54	12	60
Ukraine	130	14	166	11 914	9 578	123 434
Others	66	0	6	786	166	133

As of January 1, 2018, 2008 holders of temporary asylum from all countries, except Ukraine, were registered in Russia, which is a record low even compared to January 1, 2017, when there were 2348 of them.



also decreased during the course of the year (January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018) from **228,000** to **125,000**. This is mainly due to the reduced number of Ukrainian citizens with temporary status (most likely, some of them received permanent or temporary residence permits or even Russian citizenship under the state program for the resettlement of compatriots) from **226,000** to **123,000**.

Meanwhile, refugees from Ukraine continue to make up 98% of all holders of temporary asylum and 28% of refugee status holders. As for refugees from other countries, we have noted a serious fall. Both Syrians and Afghans with temporary asylum status declined by 15 percent (from **1317** to **1128** and from **417** to **356**, respectively) Here it cannot be said that the decline

occurred due to the receipt of some other document legalizing their stay in Russia.

As of January 1, 2018, **2008** holders of temporary asylum from all countries, except Ukraine, were registered in Russia, which is a record low even compared to January 1, 2017, when there were **2348** of them. Moreover, a sharp decrease in the number of temporary asylum holders occurred in the **last quarter of 2017**. In October 2017, there were **417** Afghans with temporary asylum but by January 2018, only **356** remained! ■

▲ *At the moment none of the citizens of DR Congo in Russia have official refugee status, and only five of them have temporary protection.*

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN 28 YEARS OF WORK?

1990

Civic Assistance Committee is created and begins providing assistance to the first refugees of the “perestroika» era and the collapse of the USSR namely victims of Armenian pogroms in Azerbaijan.

1991–1994

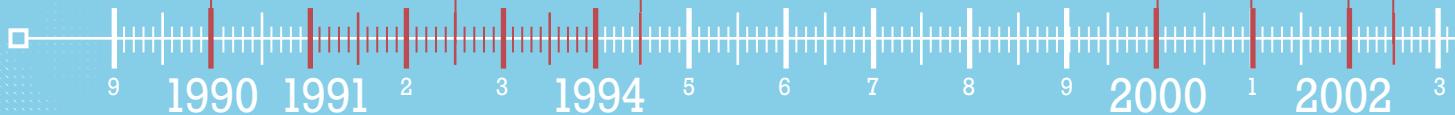
The organization expands to provide assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons from the former Soviet republics.

1994

Support of internally displaced persons in connection with the two wars in Chechnya.

2000

The Committee successfully appeals special registration rules in the Moscow City Court. As a result, Moscow and the Moscow region recognized the general registration rules for the whole of Russia (the amendments were officially made in February 2002).



2001

The Committee achieved the adoption of amendments to the April 30, 1997 Decree No. 510 through the Supreme Court. The victims of Chechen conflict were no longer required registration for the Federal Migration Service to receive compensation.

2002

The government issued a decree that terminated the receipt of documents for compensation payments to victims of armed conflicts. The Committee successfully appealed this decision, and the decree was cancelled. As a result of these two victories in the court, thousands of people received compensation.

2002

The Committee convinced the Supreme Court that permanent residency as of February 6, 1992 constituted a legal basis for the recognition of Russian citizenship. The mechanism works up to the present day.

2011

Launched the Program of Assistance to Prisoners from the North Caucasus.

2016

Opening of Integration Centers for Children of Syrian Refugees in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky.

2016

Thanks to the decision of the Constitutional Court which granted judicial control over the terms of detention in the Centers for the Temporary Confinement of Foreign Nationals (TSVSIK), active work has begun with the stateless persons residing in these Centers.





OUR PROJECTS

Refugees

■ The transfer of the functions of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia has resulted in departmental confusion. The reception of refugees in the Office for Migration is now conducted by police officers who had little knowledge of the process of asylum. The police officers, accustomed to acting harshly towards anyone violating residency rules, have applied existing legislation without taking into account the interests of refugees and migrants.

In 2017, Civic Assistance Committee staff recorded numerous violations in asylum application procedures in Moscow and the Moscow region. The refugees' access to the Offices for Migration was limited, and foreign nationals were often detained while applying for asylum. Offices for Migration employees in Moscow and the Moscow region would routinely call the police and have the refugees escorted to police stations.

At best, a foreign citizen is fined for violating residency rules in the Russian

▲ *Umida's parents fled Afghanistan when she was only 1 year old. During 17 years in Russia, the family received the temporary protection several times, however, they have never received permanent legal status.*



- Our answer: Most of our applicants are from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Congo and Uzbekistan
- The staff member of Civic Assistance Committee are often asked: “From which countries are those seeking assistance at the Civic Assistance Committee?”



In 2017, as in previous years, the largest category of refugees who applied to Civic Assistance Committee were refugees from Syria.

Federation; at worst, a court can sentence asylum seekers to expulsion from the country. Employees of the Committee, lawyers of the HRC ‘Memorial’ and volunteers accompanied refugees to the Office for Migration in Moscow and the Moscow region 119 times. As a result, 64 refugees were able to exercise their right to seek asylum in 2017.

In 2017, as in previous years, the largest category of refugees who applied to Civic Assistance Committee were refugees from Syria. Over the course of the year, 440 Syrians sought our help mostly after Russian authorities refused to extend or grant temporary refuge in Russia. In 2017, the Committee’s staff managed to obtain temporary asylum for six Syrian citizens and the extension of asylum status for four. In most cases, the renewal was denied with the claim that ‘the grounds for which it (temporary asylum) was granted, no longer exists’.



◀ In most cases, labor migrants apply to Civic Assistance Committee regarding the problems connected to the violation of their labor rights.

Labor migrants

■ In 2017, 217 labor migrants whose rights were violated came to Civic Assistance Committee. All of them were provided with legal and social support (counseling, drafting of complaints, medical examination, and material assistance) by the organization's employees. Very often foreign citizens, when appealing to the Committee, complained about the employers' refusals to enter into employment contracts, and requested our help in recovering wages and seized documents.

The total sum of labor migrant salary arrears who came to the Committee's reception office was about 7.5 million RUB. Thanks to lawsuits filed by lawyers of Civic Assistance and negotiations with employers, it was possible to return RUB 900,000.



Stateless persons

■ In 2017, Civic Assistance Committee and the lawyers of the HRC Memorial dealt with 136 active cases of stateless persons (‘LBGs’), including 10 LBGs held in the Centers for the Temporary Confinement of Foreign Nationals (TSVSIK) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Moscow. 60 of these cases were filed in 2017, while the remaining cases are from previous years.

Most of the LBGs, with whom the Committee and the lawyers of the Memorial HRC worked, were from countries formerly comprising the Soviet Union, and did not receive citizenship in the successor states formed by the disintegration of the USSR. One LBG is a citizen of Iraq. In addition, assistance has been provided to people who were born in Russia and have never left it, but, for one reason or another, do not have Russian citizenship.

In 2017, our assistance of LBGs in obtaining legal status achieved the following:

1. Russian citizenship was granted to 12 people;
2. Temporary residence permit was given to 2 people;
3. Temporary asylum was granted to 2 people.

In addition, positive progress was achieved in 12 more cases:

1. Applications for granting Russian citizenship to 5 people were accepted;
2. Identity of 7 people was established.



■ Natalya Verik is a stateless person. After the collapse of the Soviet Union she moved from Uzbekistan to Moscow, renounced her Uzbek citizenship but still could not receive the Russian.

► *The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation is currently drafting a bill that presupposes the issuance of a special document to stateless persons, which could greatly improve the lives of LGBs.*



Some LGBs cannot be legalized for a long time, often because of a lack of funds. Therefore, providing them with financial assistance is necessary not only for humanitarian reasons, but also for solving problems related to obtaining documents.

The main problem LGBs face on the way to legalization is a lack of understanding regarding the importance of eliminating statelessness among migration officials of at all levels with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia. Many ministry employees are not qualified to assist LGBs and/or refuse to work on the legalization of LGBs, which requires significantly higher labor costs than the performance of other processes.

Consequently, migration officials often prevent the submission of LBG applications for identification, verification of citizen-

ship, and the granting of Russian citizenship coupled with endless document requirements, and delays in the decision making process. In many cases, these requests take months even years to be completed.

Most LGBs are homeless, lonely and often sick people who do not have regular incomes but legalization requires certain expenses, including travel, consular fees, taxes, translation, and certification of documents. Therefore, providing them with financial assistance is necessary not only for humanitarian reasons, but also for solving problems related to obtaining documents.

In 2017, Civic Assistance Committee provided tangible financial aid to LGBs 38 times, totaling 218,600 RUB.

Assistance to victims of hate crimes

■ As part of this project, the Committee's staff monitors cases of violent attacks. To that end, a separate website called 'hatecrime.ru' was created, which hosts the 'Attack Map.' It allows for the tracing of where and when a crime was committed. Furthermore, the analysis of the reported attacks is published on the website and includes: vulnerable groups, the most dangerous places, the most common types of weapons, etc. The main categories of victims in six years have been identified as follows: natives of Central Asia (178 attacks), natives of the Caucasus (68), LGBT (59), black people (57) and home-



Hate crimes are often hushed up in the courts. Lawyers of the Committee try to break this practice.



less (56). The project staff also analyzed the consequences of the attacks. The Committee has a hotline **(+7 (968) 918-98-65)** for victims of hate crimes. Over the course of the year, 62 phone calls were received. Most of the requests came from citizens of Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Sixteen hate crime complaints were directly investigated by Civic Assistance Committee. Moreover, the organization's employees continued to work on the cases opened in 2015 and 2016.



Assistance to victims of modern forms of slavery

■ Forms of slavery common today are forced labor, forced begging, marriage without the consent of one of the parties, sexual slavery, etc. For victims of forced labor, the Civic Assistance Committee provides legal advice, assists in the preparation of lawsuits, and defends victims in court. Humanitarian assistance is also an important part of this project. In 2017, the Committee financially supported 26 victims of forced labor.

▲ *Usually people find themselves enslaved after agreeing to work for a “good job” abroad.*

■ In 2017, the Committee assisted Nesibely Ibragimova, a woman who was held in slavery by the owners of a grocery store in Golyanovo. At the end of 2016, she managed to escape, and later sought help from the CAC. A CAC lawyer helped Nesibely file a police report, but for almost a year the Interior Ministry was unwilling to investigate the case. The lawyer sent a complaint to the Prosecutor’s Office, and only then was the case assigned to the police department in Golyanovo. In this case the initiation of criminal proceedings was refused by the Investigation Committee, the lawyer appealed to the district court, and the order to dismiss the criminal complaint was



◀ Applicants are waiting for their turn to receive legal and social assistance.



repealed. Further attempts to initiate criminal proceedings were unsuccessful, and the CAC once more appealed to the court, to the same court.

The store in Golyanovo is notorious for utilizing forced labor. In 2012, civil activists of the 'Alternative' movement released 12 people from the store's backroom. Civic Assistance Committee has subsequently worked on a number of these cases. Unfortunately, we failed to achieve justice within the Russian court system, and the Golyanovo slavery cases were sent to the European Court of Human Rights.

Integration courses for adult refugees and migrants

■ One of the main obstacles to the integration of foreign citizens into Russian society is the Russian language. Civic Assistance Committee has focused on this particular aspect within the framework of its integration project. Training takes place on the basis of the RFL system (Russian as a Foreign Language). During classes, in addition to developing grammatical and language skills, students are acquainted with the basics of Russian legislation and receive information about their rights. Teachers also dedicate a part of their lessons to stories about Russian culture and traditions.



In 2017, 30 people attended integration courses: 13 women and 17 men from Afghanistan, Liberia, Nigeria, Congo, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Libya, Sudan, Palestine and Iran.

Professional teachers work with the big groups (less than 8 persons) and our volunteers teach in smaller groups.

Classes were held in groups two or three times a week. Each lesson lasted an hour and a half. We provide our students with travel cards and textbooks, so that they are able to focus on education and do not have to worry about finding money for travel.

◀ *The class with an advanced level group*

Integration courses for children

■ In 2016, two integration centers for children of Syrian refugees were opened in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky. Textile factories founded by Syrians in the early 2000s are still operating in these cities. Since the beginning of the war many Syrian weavers working in the suburbs of Moscow have brought their families from Syria. As a result, there are Syrian children of school age currently living in these cities. The idea of opening integration courses in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky stemmed from the desire to prepare the children for school, to help them learn Russian and acquaint them with the cultural traditions of the country. When the Directors and Head of the Education Department of Noginsk



▼ *The courses in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky is the only place where children of Syrian refugees can receive education. Refugees are often denied the education in schools.*

District refused to accept Syrian children in schools, classes organized by Civic Assistance were the only alternative to full-time, official education. In 2017, the children did not only study Russian, but also mathematics, English and native Arabic.

During the year, with the active participation of the staff of Civic Assistance Committee, several cultural events were organized for the children from Syria including: a party marking World Refugee Day in the Ekaterininsky Park, an excursion to the State Museum of Oriental Art, and a trip to 'Kidzaniya', a children's park for play-based learning. This December, schoolchildren went to a New Year's performance at the Moscow Regional Drama and Comedy Theater.





◀ Civic Assistance Committee started receiving applicants who had faced challenge not only while enrolling children in schools but also in kindergartens.

▼ About 25 Syrian families with children live in Noginsk of Moscow region. Still, only 2 kids were enrolled in school in 2017.

Access to education

■ In 2017, 42 families approached the Committee after 61 children were denied their rights to an education. Five children faced threats of dismissal from school due to their lack of registration while others encountered difficulties with school enrollment. At the end of the year, 29 children were quickly admitted to schools with the help of the Committee staff. The parents of 9 more children were able to solve their registration problems, and threats of expulsion against several children were stopped after the employees of the Committee appealed to the schools' principals. As a result, 44 children no longer face the threat of expulsion or inability to enroll. Two children returned to their country of origin, while the communication with



► Svetlana Gannushkina and Konstantin Trotskiy during the press conference occasioned by the publication of Konstantin's report "Universal right not for everybody: Access to school education for the children of refugees and labor migrants in Russia".



the mother of another child was lost. Work on putting an end to violations of the right to education with regards to the remaining 14 children remains ongoing in 2018.

Since October 2017, the Committee has also begun to fight to allow children of migrants access to pre-school education. After three months of work, it became possible to enroll two children in kindergarten and admission requests were sent with respect to six others.

■ The August 27, 2015 decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, which established that a child cannot be denied access to educational facilities with vacancies on the grounds that the child and/or its parents lack registration, continues to be ignored by many school principals in Moscow and the Moscow region, as well as officials from the regional Offices for Education. Not including the children of the Syrian refugees in Noginsk, the enrollment of 14 children

remained unresolved at the end of 2017. In the interests of five children, our lawyers filed lawsuits against schools that violated the right to education. In Noginsk, school principals still refuse to enroll the children in school, referencing a lack of registration and/or available places. In 2017, refugees from Syria in Noginsk filed applications for the admission of 12 children to school. After the principals refused to enroll the children,

After three months of work, it became possible to enroll two children in kindergarten, admission requests were sent with respect to six others.

the relevant applications were sent to the head of the Noginsk District Education Department. As a result, only two children, whose parents have temporary asylum but lack registration at the place of residence, were offered places in remote schools. The parents are unable to take the children to school every day, so they are still not receiving a proper education.

Protection of the rights of North Caucasians, in particular people with disabilities, serving sentences in penitentiary institutions of the Russian Federation.

■ As part of this program, we have offices in Moscow, Chechnya and Ingushetia as well as a hotline that receives round-the-clock calls from relatives or prisoners who are exposed to ill-treatment and abuse.

The project's employees correspond with the authorities and the administration of correctional facilities, send complaints to courts, and appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in especially significant cases.

With regard to the prisoners whose cases were referred to the European Court of Human Rights, unlawful activities on the part of prison officers were terminated and medical care initiated. At the same time, appeals for the release of certain prisoners on health grounds were filed at court.

In most cases, when considering the complaints by North Caucasians of torture or degrading treatment, monitoring and oversight agencies adhere to the established standards: they request information in prison; evaluate documents and prepare a response, which most of the time denies that any violation has occurred. It is obvious that the mechanism of state control over the observance of prisoners' rights is ineffective.



However, in 2017 cooperation between project staff and the government agencies – the Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federal Office for Execution of Punishment, Office of the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation, the Presidential Human Rights Council – was successful in some cases.

▲ Chechen human rights defender Oyub Titiyev, the curator of the Committee's "Protection of the rights of North Caucasians in prisons" project in the region.

2017 ГОД:	Telephone consultations, calls	506
	Consultations in the offices	150
	Appeals to the authorities	47
	Appeals to the members of the Public Oversight Commission	43
	Cases in court	9
	Visits by a lawyer	27
	Complaints sent to the ECHR	3

Medical and humanitarian assistance

■ In 2017, the Committee provided migrants and stateless persons with material aid in the form of cash benefits received from private donations and awards granted to the Committee and its Chairman, Svetlana Gannushkina.



Everyone had the opportunity to receive both old and new clothes and shoes brought by the Muscovites and stored in the warehouse of the organization

In addition, migrants and stateless persons could receive both old and new donated clothing and footwear which was stored in our organization's warehouse. In 2017 more than

two thousand people benefitted from such assistance. On average, the warehouse is visited by 13-14 people daily when it is open.

The Committee organized help for a paralyzed refugee woman

from Congo. She was placed in a care center for patients with paralysis and provided with medicines, hygienic items and food.

On the New Year's Eve, 500 gifts were given to the children of the Committee's beneficiaries. In 2017, aid was provided to Syrian families with children in the form of clothes and food in Noginsk.

In 2017, **1958** medical consultations were conducted. Of these, 1184 patients received primary care. 774 patients attended additional consultations. In 1335 cases, medicines were provided.





▲ The head of Civic Assistance Committee, Svetlana Gannushkina, with Uzbek refugee Bakhodir Karimov and his wife Svetlana.

The stories of those who received help

■ One example of a successful LBG case is the acquisition of Russian citizenship by the Kuznetsov family from Tajikistan. Nina Nikolaevna Kuznetsova is a Russian language and literature teacher. Her daughter, Alexandra, was a child when they left Tajikistan in 1992 at the height of the civil war (they were evacuated by a Russian military transport helicopter). Because they lacked relatives and housing in Russia, the Kuznetsov family suffered from destitution for a long time and were unable to register or obtain any legal status. It was only in June 2016, with ongoing support from Civic Assistance Committee, that Alexandra Kuznetsova managed to apply for citizenship, and in January 2017 she received a Russian passport.

■ Uzbek citizen Bakhodir Karimov and his wife Tatyana left Russia and were relocated to a third country. Bakhodir had fought for relocation with the support of the UNHCR and human rights defenders for a long time. In his native Uzbekistan, Bakhodir had been charged with a crime that he did not commit. The Russian government was ready to extradite the 'criminal' despite the obvious threat of torture at home. Although more and more people know about torture in Uzbekistan and about Russia's cooperation with the Republic, the situation still has not changed. Therefore, every story of salvation is a great victory for all who fight for human rights.

■ In 2017, Civic Assistance Committee was approached by the wife of a convict, looking for help in finding her husband. She pointed out that she had not heard from him for a long time and no longer received letters or phone calls. The prison administration had concealed information about his whereabouts.

A lawyer cooperating with the Committee found out that the convict had been transferred to another prison. When he was found, he told us that he had been pressured, and that he had been subjected to physical force. According to the convict, this was due to the fact that he was a Chechen, and 'does not eat food which the convicts are fed, and also performs religious rituals.' The lawyer of Civic Assistance sent relevant appeals to the Russian Federal Office for Execution of Punishment and the Prosecutor's Office. After some time the prisoner established contact with his lawyer.

■ In 2017, the European Court ordered the Justice Ministry to pay stateless Lasha Chanturidze EUR 15,000 in compensation for living in terrible conditions in the Center for Temporary Confinement of Foreign Nationals (TSVSiG). Lasha Chantouridze was born in 1986 in the Georgian SSR. When he was ten years old his parents divorced, and he and his mother moved to the Russian city of Kaluga. In Russia, Lasha graduated from



school and entered university, which was still possible to do with a Soviet passport at the time. When he went to receive the Russian citizenship, he was rejected. The reason was an unexpunged conviction in adolescence. As a result, Lasha became a stateless person. In 2012, he was stopped by police officers and sent to court where he was charged with violating the sojourn status in Russia (paragraph 1 of Article 18.8 of the Code on Administrative Offences). He was then fined and deported from the Russian Federation. While waiting for the expulsion to Georgia, Lashawas held in the Center for Temporary Confinement of Foreign Nationals (TSVSiG), in accordance with the court order.

At their disposal was one small window, two 40 watt lamps, mattresses, a hole in the floor instead of a toilet and two liters of cold water a day for washing.

In the TSVSiG, Lasha lived in a room of less than 9 square meters with five citizens of Uzbekistan he could not communicate with. Lasha did not know Uzbek, and Uzbeks did not speak Russian well. At their disposal was one small window, two 40 watt lamps, mattresses, a hole in the floor that functioned as a toilet and two liters of cold water a day for washing. No calendar, clock, or books, let alone TV, were available..

Illation Vasiliev, a lawyer of the network 'Migration and Law' at HRC Memorial, sent a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights that ruled in favor of the stateless person.

Working with the media

■ In 2017, the activities of Civic Assistance Committee were actively covered in the media, on the organization’s website and on its official pages on social media.

On average, Civic Assistance was mentioned in the media about 150 times a month. Most often it appeared in the Russian media, but in 10% of the cases, in the Ukrainian media.

Most of the time, information on the activities of the Committee was reported on by Radio Liberty, Mediazona, RBC, Fergana.ru, Caucasian Knot, Vesti Yuga, Novaya Gazeta.

Moreover, last year the Committee helped journalists of BBC Russia, newspaper ‘Kommersant’, online portal ‘Miloserdiye’, radio station ‘Ekho Moskvyy’, magazine ‘Batenka, da vi transformer’, newspaper ‘Nezavisimaya Gazeta’, Open Democracy and newspaper ‘Nastoyashee Vremya’ to disseminated information on the topic of migration.

Employees of Civic Assistance give interviews on the topic of migration, comment on news and legislative changes, and help



Event	Number of mentions
Stateless persons are legalized	46
Donbass without borders	33
The fate of Ukrainian refugees in Russia	30
Russian officials are still trying to extradite former militia members to Ukraine	25
He beat him and bit off his ear: a local resident attacked a janitor in Moscow	24



◀ *Committee staff actively assists journalists with covering the migration topic in the media: they look for protagonists to be featured in articles and videos, share the information about court hearings and about the work of the Committee.*

the media in preparing stories about refugees and migrants.

On the Committee’s social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, VK) new posts appear daily, including links to news articles published on the official website of Civic Assistance, links to materials on migration, as well as texts and videos related to the Committee’s special projects (slavery, hate crimes, integration, volunteer initiatives, labor migration).

Reports, lectures, round tables

■ In addition to news articles, analytical materials were also posted on the Committee's website, including reports on the topic of migration, analysis of statistical data and reports on the work of the organization over the course of the year.

In **2017**, four reports by Konstantin Troitsky were published on the website: 'Universal law is not for everyone. Access to school education for refugee and migrant children in Russia', 'Moscow machine of mass expulsion from Russia has slowed down, but continued its work in 2016', 'Thirty nine refugees in 2016. Russian anti-records and why Malta is stronger than Russia' and 'Payment for Salvation: on fines placed on refugees seeking asylum'. Upon the publication of each report, press releases for journalists were prepared. During the year, the Committee organized press conferences for journalists, as well as roundtable discussions on migration that were open to the public. On May 29, a presentation of the report of Civic Assistance Committee on 'Access to education for refugee and migrant children' was held in the "Telegraf" conference area, which provided the organization with a platform in the center of Moscow free of charge.



▲ Chairperson Svetlana Gannushkina regularly gives lectures on migration. In the photo above – a meeting with the youth in Sakharov Center, below - with the members of the Memorial HRC.



On **20 June**, a round table on migration and a concert with the participation of refugees from Iran and Afghanistan was held on World Refugee Day in the Sakharov Center.

On **July 15** the Committee held an open-air children's party in Ekaterininsky Park in Moscow together with the Moscow Helsinki Group. Children of those who were assisted by the Committee were invited to participate. An entertainment program was organized and a table with sweets was set up for them.

On **December 9**, a seminar dedicated to Human Rights Day was arranged for journalists. During the meeting, the Committee's staff and the lawyers working with Civic Assistance highlighted the basic concepts and terms that journalists have to deal with when preparing materials on migration.

On **December 22**, a charity dinner was held in support of Civic Assistance Committee in the office of the organization.

At the end of the year a large meeting of the Committee's volunteers was also held, during which interns and activists of the organization were able to get to know each other, share experiences and plan joint projects.



Special events

■ In 2017, Civic Assistance Committee organized several events for refugees, children of migrants and employees of the organization.

The music group Arkady Kots performed at the World Refugee Day celebration, and then the Committee's employees and guests danced to Iranian music (a special video from the event can be viewed on the Civic Assistance website).

In July, a special party for children was organized in Ekaterininsky Park: with ani-

▲ In 2017, Ekaterininsky Park in Moscow provided the Civic Assistance Committee with a platform for a children's party on the occasion of the World Refugee Day.



mators, workshops, soap bubbles and sweet treats. It was attended by children who attend integration courses prepared by the Civic Assistance in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky, as well as children from the families assisted by the Committee in Moscow.



◀ Mari with her friends from Congo and Syria.

▶ New Year's Eve in Noginsk.



◀ A concert for the solidarity with refugees by Civic Assistance, Amnesty International and Sofar Sounds.



◀ A party for the kids in the park close to the Committee office.

In October 2017, Civic Assistance and Amnesty International held a charity concert in support of refugees in Moscow. The event was part of the global Amnesty campaign around the world called 'Build bridges, not walls'.

Employees

Head of the Committee – **Svetlana Gannushkina** Head of the Counseling Office – **Leyla Rogozina**
Deputy Chairman of the Committee – **Elena Burtina** Administrator – **Natalia Alexandrova**
Migration Consultant – **Evgeny Yastrebov** Migration Consultant – **Natalia Prokofieva**
Migration Consultant – **Evgenia Lezova** Migration Consultant, Coordinator of Institutional Programs – **Natalia Gontsova**
Migration Consultant, Coordinator of the Program of Assistance to Victims of Hate Crimes – **Varvara Tretyak**
Analyst, Coordinator of the Program on Access to Education – **Konstantin Troitsky**
Coordinator of the Program of Assistance to Prisoners from Chechnya and Ingushetia – **Olga Chmurova**
Press Secretary – **Daria Manina** Jurist – **Mawand Abdulgani** Jurist – **Tatiana Efremova**
Attorney – **Mikhail Kushpel**

The lawyers of the HRC ‘Memorial’ also consult to the migrants in Civic Assistance Committee:

Lawyer – **Illarion Vasiliev** Lawyer – **Philip Shishov** Lawyer – **Roza Magomedova**
Lawyer – **Ekaterina Raeva** Lawyer – **Gulnara Bobodzhanova**

Interpreter – **Fahim Feroz** Interpreter – **Fuad Muhamed-Konovalov** Interpreter – **Haj Ismail Basel**
Interpreter – **Julia Ardashnikova** Accountant – **Zair Aliyev** Accountant – **Aleta Aslakhanova**
Doctor – **Angelica Dobrieva** System Administrator – **Stepantsev Roman** Secretary – **Nina Yakhyaeva**
Coordinator of the Integration Program – **Karina Kotova**
So-coordinator of the Integration Program – **Aminat Soltahanova**
Head of the Warehouse – **Nasrin Djalolova** Courier – **Larissa Iaseashvili** Driver – **Sobir Rustamov**

Volunteers

Mohammad Nahim Mohammad Naser Agnes Blay Elizaveta Shkredova
Ekaterina Kodzha Ekaterina Rocheva Blinkov Nikolay Sofia Ismailova
Alina Schönfeldt Daria Gorbacheva Elena Maltseva Daria Saltykova
Lydia Pakhomova Daria Shavarina Dmitry Kozlovsky Makar Fedorov
Raza Shafak Irina Avdyushenkova Zoya Adamova Alexander Elizarov
Ruslan Knyazkov Asel Marajabbay Maria Krasava Emma McAuliffe
Sebastian Cornelius Liana Musaeva Alexandra Sternik Alina Strugova
Svetlana Arkhipova Bernard Mumba Bernard Mumba Ivan Kharitoshkin
Elena Gilmanova Alexandra Semenova Andrey Malchukov
Lachugina Anastasia Alexander Mayer Alexander Nice Natalia Oshechik



◀ About 20 volunteers help the Committee on a regular basis. In the photo – pre-New Year meeting with a team of activists.

Partners:

UNHCR
Memorial HRC
Sakharov Center
House of Diligence «Noah»
Forum of Resettlement Organizations
Home for Mothers
Moscow School of Human Rights
Ekaterininsky Park of Moscow



Donors:

UNHCR
Amnesty International
Secours Catholique
Norwegian Helsinki Committee



How you can help

If you care about the situation of refugees and migrants in our country, you can always take measures to improve their quality of life.

Many people who have fled their homes because of war or persecution and who do not receive any help from the state in Russia do not have the means to subsist lacking even the most basic items. Our applicants need clothes, shoes, food, toys, and hygiene products.

Civic Assistance Committee always needs volunteer help from Arabic, French and Spanish **interpreters**. We invite students whose academic works are devoted to the topic of migration to intern in our organization.

Migrants are always very grateful for free **Russian lessons** or **accompanying** them to official institutions.

We are in particular need of volunteer support from designers, illustrators, SMM managers, event organizers, and journalists. You can become a volunteer of Civic Assistance Committee by filling out a form on the website.



The Committee supports financially families in especially difficult life situations. You can subscribe to regular donations on the Committee's website in the Help section. Or transfer money to the account of the organization:

Remarks: *Civic Assistance Committee for refugees and forced migrants*

Bank name: *SBERBANK, Head offices all branches and offices in Russia*

Bank Address: *117997, Moscow, Russia, Vavilov street .19*

SWIFT: *SABRRUMM*

Account Number/IBAN: *40703840538320200413*

Name Account: *Dollar Account / Euro Account*

CIVIC
ASSISTANCE
COMMITTEE

**Civic Assistance Committee — a non-profit regional charitable organization aimed
at helping refugees and forced migrants**

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On April 20, 2015, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation put Civic Assistance Committee
on the register of foreign agents.