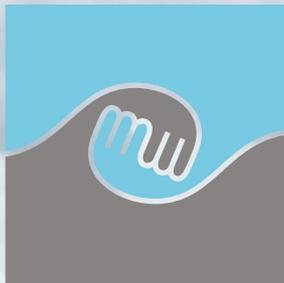
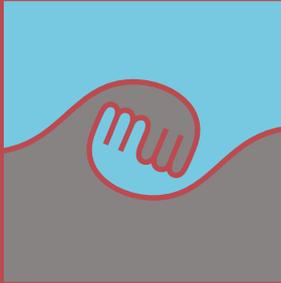


CIVIC
ASSISTANCE
COMMITTEE



CIVIC
ASSISTANCE
COMMITTEE



2018

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DEAR FRIENDS!

Summing up the year 2018, unfortunately, we cannot say it was marked by a great success in the field of migration. Not only in Russia, but in the world at large. Many experts note that migration policy and law entered into combat.

It is not surprising at all that the winner in this struggle is politics, because its creators are the very ones responsible for the implementation of international and national law in the field of migration and asylum. The Russian practice of replacing extradition with deportation, so often applied to our applicants from Central Asia, have now migrated to Europe.

 *Chairman of the
Committee Svetlana
Gannushkina*

In February 2018, Shamil Soltamuradov was deported from Germany to Russia. It happened after first Germany, and then France refused to extradite him to Russia. France sent Shamil to Germany in accordance with the Dublin Agreement. There his asylum case had already been closed. On this basis,



the refugee was transferred into the same hands, which he had been previously refused to be given.

As the plane barely touched down in Moscow with Shamil on board, the refugee was transferred to a detention centre. Within the next few days he confessed to the crimes he had denied while in Europe. The reasons for such a quick confession are not difficult to guess. The trial of Shamil Soltamuradov ends, there's no hope for a mild sentence.

The second example is Tumso Abdurakhmanov, whose extradition to Russia from Poland was successfully prevented with the help of an active public campaign.

In 2018, Roza Magomedova, a lawyer for the "Migration and Law" Network of Memorial HRC, worked with two similar cases in Russia. According to her principal, an extradition request was made to the citizens of Uzbekistan Khidirov and Rakhimov. The lawyer managed to refuse extradition to Uzbekistan. However, it did not prevent the court from holding up the decision on their expulsion. The ECHR applied Rule 39 of the Rules of Court and prohibited any movement of both from Russia, which did not save them from being placed in long-term imprisonment. The institution of asylum in Russia still practically does not function.

In 2018, the already insignificant number of officially recognized refugees decreased by 20 people, dropping to 572 people. And still only two Syrians have refugee status in

About 200 SP throughout the country were released from the temporary detention centres for foreign citizens.

▲ *Yasin (in the center) was brought to the USSR in a group of Afghan orphans to get a Soviet education. The USSR collapsed soon, and everyone forgot about these guys. Yasin is still fighting to obtain legal status in the Russian Federation.*

the Russian Federation. In 2018, the process of legalization of stateless persons (SP) continued. About 200 SP throughout the country were released from the temporary detention centres for foreign citizens.

Among other things, this was due to the 2017 decision of the Constitutional Court in the case of Noe Mskhiladze, which was conducted by our colleagues, lawyers Olga Tseitlina and Sergey Golubok. The Constitutional Court

► *Football match with the participation of our applicants in Red Square.*



obliged judges in cases of expulsion of foreign citizens and stateless persons to determine the term of detention as an interim measure. In addition, those in isolation were granted the right, after three months, to raise the question of the enforceability of the decision on expulsion, which, as a rule, is impossible for stateless persons.

However, in St. Petersburg, the courts ceased to comply with the provisions of this decree, and the situation became no better than in Moscow, where this ordinance almost does not work. Thus, the statement of Judge Petrova that “St. Petersburg judges have bended to the Constitutional Court”, unfortunately, has ceased to be relevant.

As a result of the decision of the European Court of Justice in the case of Syrians accused of violating their stay on Russian territory, Russian courts became more often limited to fines without expulsion.

This is further evidence of the importance of the work of lawyers of the ECHR.

Eleven of the twelve Syrian citizens whose cases were decided by the ECHR

were represented by lawyers of our partner organization, the human rights centre "Memorial".

It was a surprise for me that the FIFA World Cup, which we expected would be troublesome, imagining that “raids” on our applicants would begin just at that time, actually for many migrants it turned out to be a joyful and festive time; the police became polite and able to smile, and endless document examination ceased.

During the championship we managed to hold several meetings on migration in partnership with the international organization Fare Network (“Football Against Racism”), including a football match featuring refugees in Red Square.

Thank you, friends, for your support!

We hope that we will be able to count on your help in the future as well. ■

Svetlana Gannushkina,
Chairman of the Committee

THE PROBLEM in numbers

Globally there are

25,4
million refugees

Since the beginning
of the war,

6,6
million Syrians
have left their
homeland.

The lump-sum grant
for refugees and IDPs

in Russia is
100
RUBLES

There are only

2
Syrians with
a refugee status.

In 2018, the number
of holders of temporary
asylum in the Russian
Federation decreased

by
27%

In the Russian Federation only

592
people
had refugee status
as of January 1, 2018



HOW DO WE HELP?



1 We consult refugees and migrants on the procedure of providing and obtaining refugee status and temporary asylum, as well as on other legal issues. Most often, they are concerned about the mechanism for acquisition of refugee status or temporary asylum in Russia. We help to **enter the process of applying for refugee status or temporary asylum.**

2 We provide **legal assistance.** The lawyers of the "Migration and Law" Network of "Memorial" HRC cooperate with us. They represent the interests of migrants and refugees in courts, file complaints against refusals to provide asylum, conduct law and instruments of Government expertise, and take part in drafting compilations on migrational issues.

3 We provide **humanitarian assistance**: we collect and distribute food, clothing, etc. to those in need. A person in an extremely serious life situation can turn to us for one-time financial assistance.

4 We provide **educational assistance for children** of Syrian refugees. Syrians not enrolled in Russian schools or in need of assistance in studying may learn in the integration centres opened by the Committee in 2016 (we try our best to resolve Russian school policies of refusing to admit refugee children in Russian schools).

A person in an extremely serious life situation can turn to us for one-time financial assistance.

5 We provide **medical and psychological assistance**. The majority of refugees and migrants neither have access to free medical care, nor funds to pay for medical services. Thus, for many people our medical specialist is the only opportunity of getting qualified medical consultation. Some refugees have experienced stress in their homeland (or even torture), face enormous difficulties in Russian Federation and therefore are in dire need of psychological assistance.



◀ **Lawyer Philip Shishov talks with the applicant.**

▶ **At the exit from the court in Obninsk, where the hearing of the case of Tatiana Kotlyar (second from the left) took place. The human rights activist was tried for helping people – she registered refugees in her own apartment.**



6 We fight for the **abolition of regulations that contravene the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees**, the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws and violate the rights of refugees and migrants. “Civic Assistance” Committee's Chairman is a member of Presidential Council on the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights.

7 We are trying to **change negative attitude towards migrants**. The mass media, telling the stories of refugees and migrants, help us with this, explaining why refugees and migrants should not be afraid of, but should be helped. ■

The Committee by numbers

IN 2018:

■ Our specialists on migration issues have carried out

2248

consultations

Translation assistance in courts was provided

471 times

(French, Arabic, Dari, English)

■ Therapist of the Committee admitted

702

patients

Shoes and clothes were issued

1698 pairs

■ Cash benefits were provided

304 times

at a total of

2 952 416

rubles

■ Assistance provided in the preparation of more than

500

applications to various state agencies

■ **73**

accompaniments of the applicants to state institutions

were held

■ **26**

children

were admitted to schools with our help



FINANCIAL REPORT

*Expenditure
for the year*

46

million rubles

*Charitable
programmes*

41

million rubles

*Administrative
costs*

5

million rubles

SPECIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES, RUB.

Opening balance at the beginning of 2018	8 963 341,75
INCOME	
Funds	47 359 021,3
Private donations	3 467 230,18
<i>Total</i>	50 826 251,48
COST	
Charitable programmes	44 582 771,33
Administrative costs	5 199 000
<i>Total</i>	49 781 771,33
Opening balance end	12 962 237,77



▲ UNHCR and the Civil Assistance Committee officials give gifts to children on World Refugee Day.

OUR PROJECTS



REFUGEES

PROJECT STAFF:



Reception manager –
Laila Rogozina



Assistant to the Chairman –
Nina Yakhyayeva



Migrant advisor –
Evgenia Lezova



Migrant advisor –
Varvara Tretyak



Migrant advisor –
Natalia Prokofieva



Migrant advisor –
Evgeniy Yastrebov



Migrant advisor –
Ekaterina Rosolovskaya

In 2018 refugees struggled for access to asylum, their applications were often denied due to the absence of either a passport or registration documents (which is an unlawful requirement)

Refugee status was granted to only a handful, while temporary asylum, humanitarian status, granted for a term less than a year, was obtained or prolonged even more rarely.

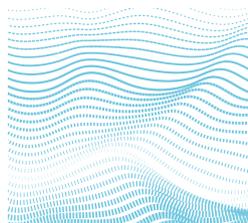
Refugees from various countries entered Russia prior to, and during the FIFA World Cup 2018, seizing the opportunity to obtain FAN ID and flee horrific events taking place in their homeland.

In Russia they faced gigantic difficulties while applying for asylum. Many appeals were never adopted. According to Russian Federal State Statistics Service, only 30 people in

Russia were recognized as refugees; this is even lower than in 2017, when 33 people were granted such status throughout 2018. This is a new worst record. The number of issued certificates of temporary asylum decreased from 10,4 thousand in 2017 to 6 thousand in 2018.



► 1106 children were killed during the fighting in Syria in 2018. This is the largest number of minor victims since the beginning of the conflict.



	REFUGEES			PEOPLE WHO OBTAINED TEMPORARY ASYLUM		
	Number of persons as of January the 1st, 2019	Number of persons as of the 1st of October, 2018	Number of persons as of January the 1st, 2018	Number of persons as of January the 1st, 2019	Number of persons as of the 1st of October, 2018	Number of persons as at January the 1st, 2018
TOTAL	572	592	592	76 825	93 507	125 442
Azerbaijan	7	7	7	5	5	8
Afghanistan	305	307	305	484	441	356
Georgia	31	30	31	124	149	167
Kazakhstan	2	2	1	8	6	4
Kyrgyzstan	3	3	3	17	15	22
Syria	2	2	2	826	898	1128
Tajikistan	6	6	7	19	21	16
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	7	5	5
Uzbekistan	19	19	19	51	45	60
Ukraine	140	158	166	75 006	91 641	123 434
other countries	57	58	51	278	281	242

Distribution of refugees and those who were granted asylum by countries of previous residence (according to the data by Interior Ministry of Russia, from the beginning of registration)

People of different nationalities are consulted on migration issues at the “Civic Assistance” Committee. Our applicants are mostly citizens of Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine.



"I would rather die at home, than in Russia. I am not recognised as a human being here." – one Syrian said.

In 2018 migration issue advisors of the Committee received Syrian citizens in Moscow, Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsk. This year, many Syrians began to turn to Civic Assistance to help them return home. The main causes are despair and fatigue of life with an uncertain status, without a work permit, as well as constant threats from the police and the inability to get their children admitted into schools and kindergartens. "I would rather die at home, than in Russia. I am not recognised as a human being here." – one Syrian said.

Only 17 out of 87 Syrian citizens, who had contacted the Committee in 2018, managed to receive and keep the temporary asylum, while 56 were denied in asylum or

its prolongation and 14 left Russia. It takes many months and even years to overcome this resistance.

Still 15 people in 2018 received legal status with our help. We also achieved progress in the cases of another 27 people: 11 of them made applications for citizenship, nine were identified, two were recognized as native Russian speakers. Two of them were removed from official records, and another two left the Temporary Holding Centres for Foreign Nationals. ■



► Employees of the “Civic Assistance” committee with integration courses students.

OUR PROJECTS

STATELESS PERSONS



PROJECT STAFF:



Coordinator –
Elena Burtina



The lawyer of the project,
lawyer of “Migration and Law”
network “Memorial”
human right center
Roza Magomedova

Throughout 2018 the Committee’s officials and the Moscow department of “Migration and Law” network handled 158 cases concerning stateless persons. The main achievement is that **15 people acquired legal status in Russia and another 27 people are a step closer to achieving this goal.**

The majority of stateless persons, with whom the Committee and the lawyers of “Memorial” human right center in Moscow work, are immigrants from the countries of the former USSR, who didn’t obtain citizenship of the states formed after the USSR

◀ *Armen Zargaryan, who lived in Russia since 1990 with the help of the Committee was able to apply for citizenship only in August 2018 and passed away in November.*

collapsed. Nevertheless, there are people who are actually citizens of Russia, but they don't have Russian passports for some reason

Work with stateless people is mainly consulting, assisting them in obtaining legal status, collecting documents, searching for witnesses for identification, drawing up applications, sending letters to the Ministry of Inner Affairs and other authorities, escorting to the Ministry of Inner Affairs for applying.

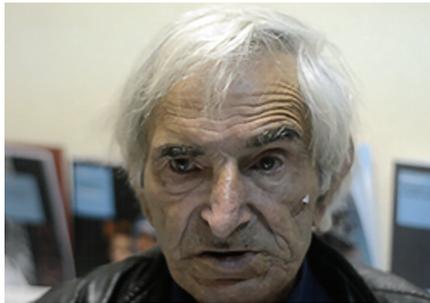
Many of those who turn to us for support under this program are older people, who have health problems. Therefore, we also provide them with welfare assistance for food, medicine as well as for expenses for documents (travel expenses, consular and

However, there are still 15 people, who were legally recognized with the help of the Committee. We can also see huge progress in 27 cases.

notary services etc). There were 20 people who have received assistance.

It is essential for us, that stateless persons obtain documents as soon as possible, as it means that they can obtain free medical care. Unfortunately, there were 5 people

▼ *Omari Bakhsoiliani is a stateless person. A lonely person, in the past – foster-child of an orphanage in Georgia.*



who passed away before receiving medical assistance.

Unfortunately, same as before, the main problems faced by stateless persons are bureaucratic resistance to identification, checking citizenship of the Russian Federation, and submission of documents



▲ *Aida Sarkisova is a refugee from Baku. With the support of the Committee's officials, after 18 years of life without documents, she's received a Russian passport.*

of documents. It takes many months to overcome this resistance.

However, there are still 15 people, who were legally recognized with the help of the Committee. We can also see huge progress in 27 cases: 11 of them submitted applications for citizenship, 9 were identified, 2 were recognized as native Russian speakers; the convictions were expunged for two of them and 2 more left temporary accommodation center for foreign citizens. ■



OUR PROJECTS

MIGRANT WORKERS

PROJECT STAFF:



Coordinator –
Varvara Tretyak



Lawyer of the project –
Gulnara Bobodzhanova

In 2018, 302 labour migrants applied to the «Civic Assistance» Committee for assistance. For all of them we provided with legal or social assistance (counselling, filing complaints to the court, material and medical support), assistance with drawing documents to supervisory and law enforcement agencies.

Most popular questions are: how to get a patent, how to apply to the Court, how

to enrol a child to a school, whether it is necessary to have a registration at place of residence. Applicants often wondered what to do in case of violation of labour rights: loss of contract, non-payment of wages, non-payment of overtime hours, confiscation of documents, restrictions on freedom, forced labour.

In 2018 the total amount of arrears in payments to labour migrants applied to the Committee's was about 30 million rubles. During negotiations with employers, filing appeals to the supervisory authorities and due to lawsuits to the court, including the cases of the applicants who applied to the Committee before January 2018, the Committee employees were able to return unpaid wages in the amount of more than 1 million rubles to labour migrants.

▼ *Lena is the eldest child in the family of labor migrants from Vietnam. She has been living in Russia for three years. She learns Russian language in the Civic Assistance Committee.*

The coordinator and lawyer of the labour migrants assistance project also helped the applicants to appeal the expulsion orders, provided legal assistance in lifting the ban on entry. Unfortunately, such decisions of the courts are often unreasonable destroying families: the wife and children stay in Russia, and the father gets banned for several years.

In 2018, the Committee continued to assist the victims of forced labour: the victims were provided with legal advice, assistance was provided in the filling of complaints and drawing up the bills of complaints.

Total amount of arrears in payments to labour migrants applied to the Committee's was about 30 million rubles.



If necessary, their interests were represented in court by lawyers in partnership with the Committee. 46 people were given money for living expenses, food, assistance was provided in drawing up documents and tickets home were bought in few cases.

In the case of the victim of slavery from Kazakhstan, appealed to the Committee in 2016, a criminal proceeding in Russia haven't been instituted so far, so a complaint was made to the European Court of Human Rights. ■

OUR PROJECTS

ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF HATE ATTACKS

PROJECT STAFF:



Coordinator –
Varvara Tretyak

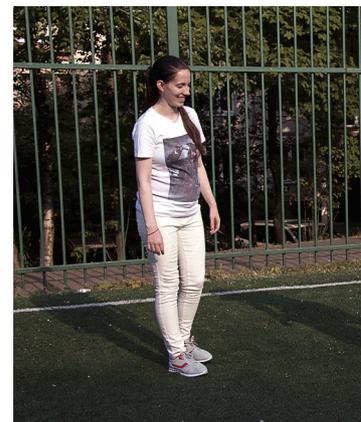
In 2018, according to the data of «Sova» information and analytical centre, 57 people were affected by racist and other ideologically motivated attacks in Russia (excluding those affected in the North Caucasus republics and in Crimea). 4 of them lost their lives. Others were injured.

The Civic Assistance Committee monitors and analyses cases of hate crimes. The data is displayed on an interactive map, which is available at hatecrimes.ru. According to the data, the main categories of victims are

people of Central Asia (32.3%), republics of the Caucasus (10.9%), black people (9.8%), homeless (9.3%), LGBT (8.9%).

Employees of the Committee receive hotline calls from victims of attacks or witnesses and conduct telephone consultations or invite victims to the office of the Committee.

▼ *“I just want to live in peace. I don't have hatred in my heart,” says Alexander Lee. He was cruelly crippled by teenage racists on the street in 2014.*





Attack on Ivorian citizen Traore Cajal

In the summer of 2018, during the FIFA World Cup in Moscow, the applicant of the Committee, Traore Cajale, was beaten up. He was on his way to Russian language classes in “Civic Assistance” office. The refugee from Cote d'Ivoire was stopped by the police for “an identity check”.

When Traore reached for his bag to get the papers, they pushed him into a paddy wagon and the perpetrators started beating him on legs. In the car they searched him and stole all his money – 1,800 roubles.

The next day Traore went to the emergency room. Lawyer Daniil Haimovich, a partner of the Committee and Traore filed an application for the initiation of criminal proceedings. The court refused (the lawyer will appeal against this refusal).

Unfortunately, Traore was not the only migrant who was attacked by the police in 2018. In such cases it is even more difficult to initiate a criminal proceedings, especially based on racial hatred. The low official rate of hate attacks in Russia are largely due to the silence surrounding the problem. Even if the offender is held accountable, the hate motive is usually not taken into account or is replaced by another motive. ■

▲ *Racism is not the only problem that Traore faced in Russia. He has been applying for asylum, but his applications have been rejected for several years now.*



A total number of calls with reports of violence on the “Civic Assistance” hotline was 129 in 2018. In the office, the Committee staff consulted 54 victims of hate-attacks and provided medical, psychological, humanitarian or legal assistance.

OUR PROJECTS

INTEGRATION PROJECT FOR ADULTS



▲ *Volunteer of the Committee Makar teaches Russian language to Maryam from Afghanistan. Maryam already reads fluently!*

Refugees and migrants need to know Russian in order to integrate into Russian society, however there are only a few places in Moscow where it can be studied for free.

Professional teachers work with foreign citizens according to the methodology of Russian as a foreign language: lessons are conducted in Russian in groups with



Yemenites, Congolese, Zimbabweans, Syrians, Afghans and other nationalities study together.

The lessons use classic textbooks on Russian as a foreign language and the practices of “Civic Assistance” teachers, since there are no textbooks that would have been created specifically for refugees. In addition, important issues are raised in the classroom, such as discrimination, migration, gender issues. Students are told about their rights and how they can protect them, our employees look for ways to resolve

conflicts that migrants often face on the streets or at work.

Of course, for a city as big as Moscow, the number of students is rather small, but to each of our applicants who began to speak Russian thanks to our courses, this brings tremendous benefits.

Our applicants are not ordinary students who came to Russia to study Russian language

▼ *There are people from different countries: Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, DRC Congo, Zimbabwe In the Committee study Russian language in the same group in the Committee.*

▶ *Yasmin, her parents and brother were evacuated by an EMERCOM board from Yemen in 2015. Moreover, they were denied asylum in Russia for several years.*



In addition, important issues are raised in the classroom, such as discrimination, migration, gender issues.

and Russian culture. These are people who face great difficulties and solve daily complex problems regarding their stay in the Russian Federation; therefore, they often need to make heroic efforts to come to class and do their homework. We provide them with textbooks and public transport cards so that they don't face any difficulties attending the courses.■

OUR PROJECTS

INTEGRATION COURSES FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN



PROJECT STAFF:



Coordinator –
Evgeniy Yastrebov

The «Civic Assistance» committee with the support of UNHCR introduced integration courses for Syrian refugee children in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovskiy in 2016. Syrian refugees actively settled in these cities even before the war, as their compatriots opened textile factories there in the beginning of the 00s. It was originally planned, that children would improve their Russian at the courses in order to attend comprehensive schools.

However, in practice, many children have not been accepted into schools: mainly due to the problems we mentioned above: illegal requirements of registration, documents, confirming certain status (such as temporary and

permanent residence permit) and lack of fluency in the Russian language. As a result, the integration courses became the only alternative to full education for these children.

Nowadays, there are 2 teachers (one is a native Arabic speaker, the second one is Russian), who work with 22 children in Noginsk. As for Losino-Ostrovskiy, the teacher of Russian as a foreign language teaches 13 children. In addition to the classes, the Committee organizes educational and cultural trips to Moscow for Syrian children. Many children visited Red Square for the first time in 2018, they also visited the Pushkin State Museum for Fine Arts, Zaryadye Park and attended New Year's performances in the theaters of Moscow. ■

◀ *New Year in the integration center in Noginsk. Applause to singers of "Little Christmas Tree is cold in winter" song*

▶ *Our applicants came from Noginsk to Moscow for excursion.*



OUR PROJECTS

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT



PROJECT STAFF:



Coordinator –
Konstantin Troitskiy



Project lawyer –
Maria Krasova

The Constitution of the Russian Federation (Article 43) guarantees « general accessibility and free comprehensive and secondary vocational education in state and municipal educational institutions and at enterprises». In practice, many children, in violation of the Constitution and the Law «on education» are deprived from the opportunity to get education due to their parent’s lack of registration or legal status in the territory of the Russian Federation.

Unfortunately, the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation dated 15th of August 2015, which stated that the lack of registration of parents or/and children «cannot be a reason to refuse to admit a child to educational organization if there are vacant places in it», is completely ignored by the Moscow authorities, and is also overlooked by some

► *Ferdavs is studying Russian with a Committee volunteer to prepare for school and draws such amazing pictures in his free time.*



headmasters and officials from education departments in Moscow region.

The citizens of 15 countries, whose children (63 in total) for the first time faced the violation of the right to get education applied to «Civic Assistance» Committee in 2018. We also continued to work on several cases of non-admission of children to schools, which were submitted in 2017.

At the end of 2017 the «Civic Assistance» committee began to accept applicants, who have failed to enroll their children to kindergartens. 16 families from 8 different countries reported the violation of 24 children for accessible pre-school education in 2018.

The second reason of non-admission after illegal registration requirement, which is basically legalized by website mos.ru (it is technically impossible to fill up the form without giving registration details), is poor knowledge of the Russian language. At the same time, there is no free Russian language training for children in the Russian Federation, unlike many other European countries.

There were 17 cases of non-admission of children to schools and kindergartens as recorded by the «Civic Assistance» committee in 2017. Only 4 of them have been completed and only one claim was granted by the end of the year. The case concerned the violation of the right of the Syrian children to get an education in Noginsk.

Committee's officials managed to get 26 children to school extrajudicially in 2018, 1 child to kindergarten: a Ukrainian girl with a disability, who, despite her state of health and refugee status in

16 families from 8 different countries reported the violation of 24 children for accessible pre-school education in 2018.

Russia, was not admitted to pre-school, allegedly due to the lack of registration at the place of residence in Moscow.

The analyst of the committee and education Assistance Project coordinator Konstantin Troitskiy prepared documents on the violation of the right of the refugee children to get an education. They are available on «Civic Assistance» Committee web-site in «materials» section. ■

OUR PROJECTS

PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF IMPRISONED RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH CAUCASUS

PROJECT STAFF:



Project coordinator
in Moscow –
Olga Chmurova



Project coordinator
in Ingushetia –
Akhmet Barahoev

The committee received about 500 complaints from convicts and their relatives about violations of prisoners' rights and conditions of detention in correctional facilities 2018. The applicants complained about torture, lack of medical care, degrading treatment by corrections officers, unjustified tightening, inhuman conditions during detention, violation of freedom of religion, creating obstacles in communication with the outside world (censorship, dates, the media etc.)

Within the framework of "Protection of the rights of imprisoned residents of the North Caucasus" project, the Committee's officials received complaints about offences during personal consultancies, on the Internet and hotline.

There were three coordinators, who worked under the program until January 2018: in Moscow, Ingushetia and Chechnya. Oyub Tititev was the head



▲ In 2018, Oyub Tititev won the Václav Havel Prize for his contribution to the protection of human rights.

of the department in Grozny. After his detention and initiation of criminal proceedings against him, only two coordinators were left. We and the entire human rights community including the international one, believe that the case against Oyub Tititev is completely falsified. The Human Right Center Memorial recognized Oyub Tititev as a political prisoner.

In 2018 the coordinators of the project addressed the following issues:

- **Sent lawyers to meet the applicants**
- **Notified on numerous violations and sent members of public monitoring commissions to the correctional facility, where the compliant came from**
- **sent appeals to authorities**
- **participated in the court hearings**
- **sent complaints to the European Court of Human Rights**

The Committee's officials filed 5 new complaints to the European Court in 2018. We also received 5 decisions by the European Court of Human Rights on the

complaints the layers of the Committee sent earlier. the European Court of Human Rights found violations of Article 3 (“Prohibition of torture”) and 13 (“The right to an effective remedy”) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental

Freedoms in 4 of them and ordered compensation in the sum of 4 and 15 thousand euros. The court found only violation if Article 13 (“The right to an effective remedy”) of the Convention if the fifth case, the compensation wasn’t ordered. ■

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, LABOUR MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS



People, who find themselves in extremely difficult life situations turn to the «Civic Assistance» committee for help. They left their motherland, their houses and relatives, many of them left interesting jobs or stopped the educational process. In addition, they have to overcome such difficulties as recognition of their legal status in Russian – this process is a very long and exhausting one. Finally, from the very first day, it is necessary to solve such problems as socialization, language,



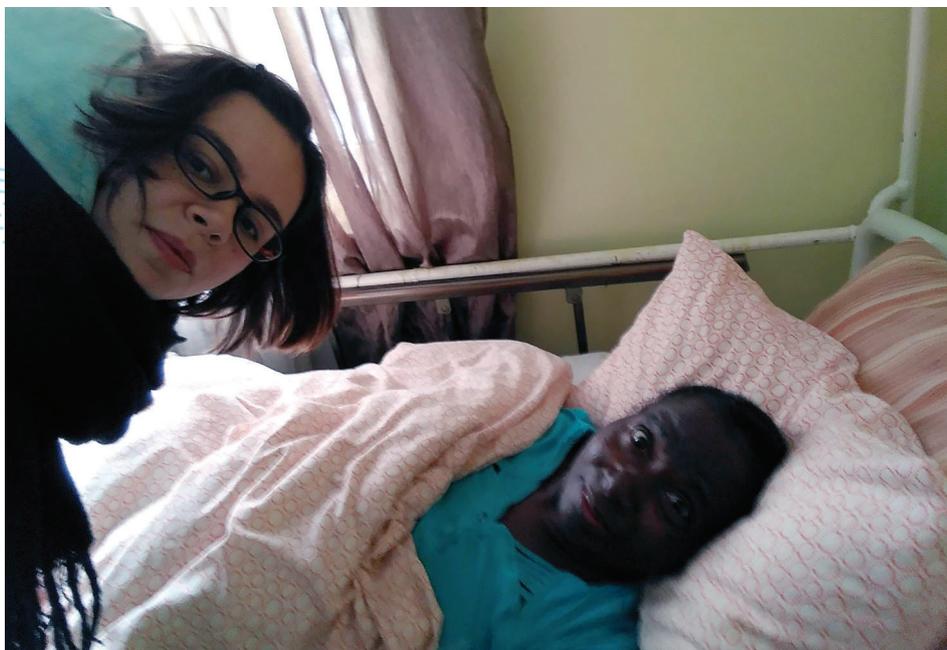
understanding of the foreign culture. Physiologically, it’s a very difficult test.

Psychological assistance in the committee is an opportunity to speak and to be heard. Our specialists speak three different languages (Russian, French and English). Those who need help can come three times a week. Consultations are also possible with assistance of translators (Arabic and Farsi). Psychologist of the «Civic Assistance» committee point out, that words cannot be given as food or medicine, but sometimes they are no less important. 83 people in total: 44 women, 32 men and 7 children had therapy in 2018.

5 people were sent to medical institutions, where they were provided with psychiatric assistance during the year. Psychologist of the «Civic Assistance» committee helped to enroll 2 children with special needs to special educational establishments. ■

OUR PROJECTS

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE



PROJECT STAFF:



Therapist –
Andgelica Dobrieva

◀ Committee's official visits Bey from Congo in the hospital. The refugee had a stroke, the right side of her body was paralyzed. With the support of the Committee, she was able to join the resettlement program and move to Europe, where she was given official status.

Refugees and migrants can visit a therapist of the «Civic Assistance» committee on visiting days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). There were 1524 medical consultations in 2018. Less than a half (702 people) had an initial consultation, in other cases foreign citizens had a secondary one.

Most of the patients are from Afghanistan (169), Ukraine (98), The Republic of the

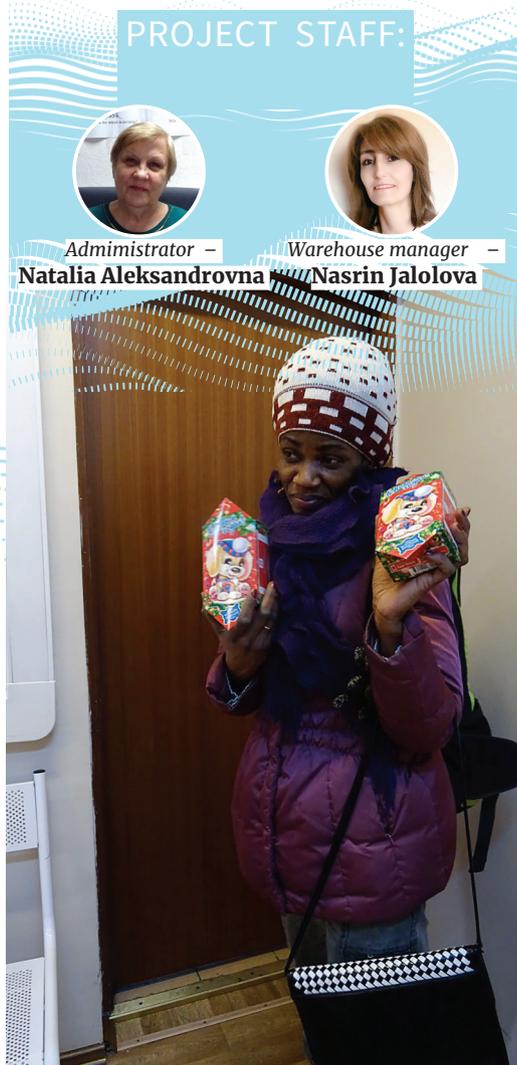
Congo (53), Syria (33). There were also patients from Yemen, Nigeria, Sudan and other countries. The main complaints of the patients were musculoskeletal problems, cardiovascular diseases, acute respiratory infections.

Eights patients, who visited the Committee's doctor were hospitalized by ambulance, 67 were sent to specialized medical facilities. ■

OUR PROJECTS

HUMANITARIAN HELP

PROJECT STAFF:

Administrator –
Natalia AleksandrovnaWarehouse manager –
Nasrin Jalolova

Many of those, who turn to “Civic Assistance” for help are not able to provide themselves with clothes or food. Some of them don’t have enough money to buy a ticket to come for a consultation with our specialists. In this regard, humanitarian help is one of the main activities of the Committee.

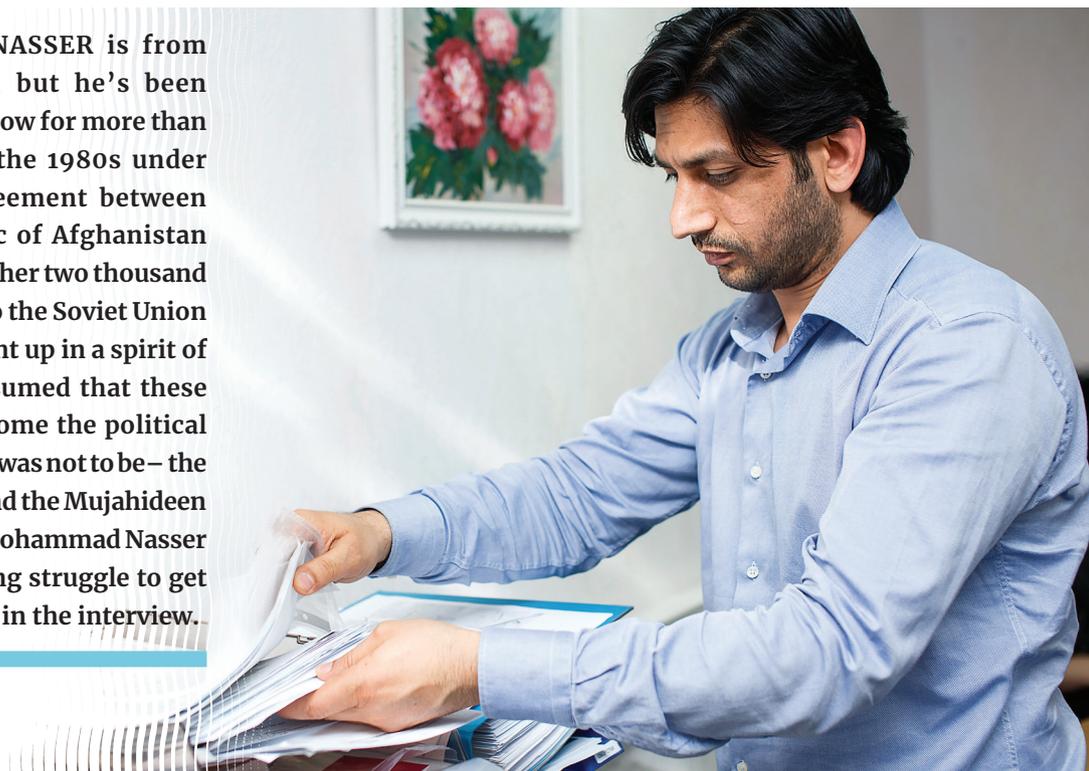
There is an open warehouse in “Civic Assistance, where refugees can take clothes. Those, who are able and are aware of the activity of our organization donate clothes in good condition, household appliances, toys. In some cases, at the expenses of private donations, we provide refugees, stateless people, internally displaced people and labour migrants with money for food, medicine, state fees and transportation. In 2018 applicants received clothes, shoes, food, hygienic items and etc. 1698 times. ■

◀ *The applicant of the Committee at reception with gifts for children on New Year’s Eve.*



STORIES OF PEOPLE
ASSISTED BY THE
“CIVIC ASSISTANCE”
COMMITTEE«I thought I would become
a doctor»

MOHAMMAD NASSER is from Afghanistan, but he's been living in Moscow for more than 30 years. In the 1980s under intergovernmental agreement between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR, he and another two thousand Afghan teenagers came to the Soviet Union to be educated and brought up in a spirit of communism. It was assumed that these children would later become the political elite of Afghanistan, but it was not to be – the Soviet Union collapsed, and the Mujahideen came to power in Kabul. Mohammad Nasser told us about long-standing struggle to get refugee status in Russian in the interview.



What is Russia for you?

This is my motherland. I grew up here, got education, became a man, got a family – basically, I built a life here.

Do you remember how you came to the Soviet Union?

It was 1984. There were 200 people in the group. We all flew on the same plane Kabul – Tashkent. We were divided into groups in

four boarding schools, I got into physio-mathematical one. The first year we studied only Russian, the next year we entered the first grade, I was already 11 years old then. But we had a

crash programme, so in 4 years I graduated from 8th grade of secondary school. When we were in the last grade, teachers asked us, what kind of education we wanted to get. I chose medical, and they sent me to the medical school in Donetsk.

Why did you choose medicine?

I thought I would become a doctor. In 1989, my several classmates and I traveled to Donetsk, and in early 1993 I already got a paramedic diploma. Then I lived in Donetsk for another six months; for the first two or three months, I worked as a district paramedic, but nobody paid salaries to the doctors. It was a very challenging time back then. Then my friend and I moved to

Moscow, where my cousin lived, but very soon he moved to Australia. First, I lived in Kuzminki in a dormitory for candidates of the Moscow State Academy of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology named after K.I. Scriabin – it was possible to rent a room there. I worked in Petrovsko-Razumovsky and Sokolniki. I sold everything that I could – mainly shoes, clothes, jewelry, and household appliance.

When we were in the last grade, teachers asked us, what kind of education we want to get. I chose medical, and they sent me to the medical school in Donetsk.

Have you ever thought about returning to Afghanistan?

No, not at all. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, I could not return home, as our country also collapsed. Mujahideen, with whom Soviet troops fought, came to power in Afghanistan, and civil war began. Those Afghans who got a Soviet education, could not return to their motherland. It was dangerous.

What was the situation with documents after the collapse of the USSR?

We used to have no problems with documents. I applied to the migration service for refugee status in 2003 for the first time, and in 2004 I won the first court



against the asylum procedure, thanks to the UNHCR lawyers. In the same year, the Federal Migration Service of Russia in Moscow gave me a document about consideration of my application in 2007, then they scheduled an interview, but in the end, they refused me. In 2008 I applied for asylum again – the documents were not accepted. The court again redressed the grievance. As for the Migration Service, they again refused me. Once again, I filed a complaint, for this time to the higher authority that redressed the grievance. After that, I applied for the fourth time – and only in 2010 I finally received refugee status.

As a result, they revoked my refugee status stating that, according to one of the officers of the Migration Service, I am not who I claimed to be.

However, the authorities revoked your refugee status in 2013. Why did it happen?

I started to work as an interpreter in the “Civil Assistance” Committee in 2011, I often escorted the applicants to the Migration Service and to their court hearings. Daniyar Akhmetov, one of the officers in the Migration service, who didn’t like the Committee or Svetlana Alekseevna Gannushkina, often asked me, for how much I “bought” my refugee status and how much I was ready to pay for

it. I explained, that I got it legally and I was not going to pay for it. Then he said, that if he wanted, I would have big problems and they would revoke my refugee status. To be honest, I didn’t believe him. As a result, they revoked my refugee status.

What was the reason?

When reviewing documents in the migration service, applicants are necessarily fingerprinted and their fingerprints are sent to Ministry of the Internal Affairs and the FSB for checkup. So, they received the information that the system found my fingerprints under

another name. This other person is also me, but not quite me. I had a criminal record in 2000 under another name. But this information wasn’t new for the Federal Migration

Service – such information comes on request even at the stage of making a decision on granting me refugee status, which happened both in 2007, and in 2008, as well as in 2009. Therefore, this was probably the reason, why they refused me several times, but then the lawyers and I managed to challenge these refusals. As a result, they revoked my refugee status stating that, according to one of the officers of the Migration Service, I am not who I claimed to be. Although

the authenticity of my passport was not questioned. In addition, three years earlier, all my documents were recognized as authentic. We sent complaints to the Federal Migration Service and to the court, but without success.

What about your Afghan friends? Do you often meet them?

Everyone has different situation, one has already got Russian citizenship, many of them moved to the USA, Canada or Europe. There are fewer and fewer friends from



my childhood every year, only four people, with whom I studied in Tashkent, didn't leave Moscow. We don't meet often, once or twice a year, but we often call each other. But if someone comes to Moscow from abroad, we, of course, gather together.

You also have family in Russia, haven't you? You have two children; the youngest son is still quite little. What is he interested in?

He is very sociable; he has a lot of friends in kindergarten. He says he wants to become a bogatyr. To be honest, I have no idea why. He also likes to watch the cartoon “Tobot”, it's about cars that transform into robots.



Do you tell your son about Afghanistan?

He is still little; he is only four years old. I tried to learn language with him, but he asks not to speak English with him. All foreign languages sound like English for him.

What do you think about the future?

I won't give up in getting an official status in Russia. I once again applied to the migration service in May 2018, I was refused consideration on the merits. Now the Basmany Court is considering my complaint. If it's not satisfied, I will apply for temporary asylum. My whole life is in Russia. ■

STORIES OF PEOPLE
ASSISTED BY THE
“CIVIL ASSISTANCE”
COMMITTEE

«It turned out, that there is actually **no such thing as exams for Russians»**»



LARISA DOLOTOVA is a stateless person. When the Soviet Union collapsed, her mother and she stayed in Uzbekistan, but they still were aliens there. Now Larisa, her mother and son are trying to get Russian citizenship under a simplified program as Russian native speakers.

How did it happen that you became a stateless person?

Me, my mom and son lived in Uzbekistan. We had a common courtyard and four houses in Tashkent. It was 2007, when a man from Tajikistan came with his family and bought three of them. We were left alone. He wanted us to sell our house for

nothing, wanted to get rid of us, saying, that it was his land, although he wasn't not even Uzbek. I did not take his threats seriously, but I put the ad for our house. They saw that people began to come to look at the house, so they came to us with knives and said: "If you don't take what we give and don't get out of here, you will walk down the street and once you will be dead". I was very scared, and we at once took what they gave, and went to Saratov region, where our friends lived.

We couldn't afford to buy a house there. I had to send my mother and son back to Uzbekistan and I went to Moscow. I found a place to live there and got a job as a nurse, and after five months my family came back to me. So, since 2008 we have lived in Moscow: we have lived in Russia with our Uzbek passports for almost 10 years. We did not do anything as I was afraid: you see, all our documents were already expired, and my boy needed to finish school. I didn't apply anywhere, and there was nowhere to turn to — everyone warned us, that the authorities would deport us and no one would help us.

How old was your son when you moved to Moscow?

He was nine years old. He went to school in Luybertsy in Moscow region from the third to the ninth grade. In 2008 he was

enrolled into the third class, he was a usual boy, as everyone else. The question about the documents didn't come up. His teacher got worried only in the ninth grade, when documents were required for the exams, and then it turned out that my son was not a citizen of Russia. They could not do anything, he studied there for so many years, and he passed the exam, using birth certificate and received a certificate.

"If you don't take what we give and don't get out of here, you will walk down the street and once you will be dead"

In the same year, 2016, I accidentally found out about the organization "Civic Assistance". I was lucky - I got an appointment with Elena Yuryevna Burtina. She listened, put herself in our shoes and appealed to the Directorate for Migration of the Chief Directorate of Internal Affairs of Russia in Moscow Region with a request to consider our case. After some time, they called me and invited me, my mother and son to fill up an application for temporary asylum. I felt like I was being interrogated: the officers of the migration service recorded everything, filled up the documents themselves. They did not let us read what they wrote down. Eventually, they refused us. Elena Yuryevna helped a to



challenge the decision, and after the second interview, my mother and I were granted temporary asylum in 2017. The son's statement was not accepted back then, he was already 18 years old by then, he had to apply separately. However, they eventually gave him temporary asylum.

Were you given temporary asylum as citizens of Uzbekistan?

When we applied to the migration service, we had Uzbek passports, but we surrendered our citizenship. We had old passports, when Uzbek people began to change passports for new ones. I thought that something had to be done and went to the embassy, they offered me a choice: either we remain citizens and get new passports, or apply to surrender, as we have not been registered with the consular register for

They said, that I must prove that we were no longer citizens of other countries - of all countries. Is it even possible?

more than five years. We decided to choose the second variant, as we had nowhere to go back to, therefore in 2016 we became stateless. When we received a notice that we are no longer citizens of Uzbekistan, I sent it to the Chief Directorate of Internal Affairs of Russia in Moscow Region, but they refused to accept it. They said, that I must prove that we were no longer citizens

of other countries - of all countries. Is it even possible? We again had to turn to Elena Yuryevna for help - and she gave us a go-ahead, so, we were granted temporary asylum as stateless persons.

My son is still considered a national of Uzbekistan, although he's never received a passport. He had to identify himself when considering the application for asylum. They sent a request to Uzbekistan to determine if he was its citizen or he was a citizen of no country at all, but there was no answer. Therefore, he was automatically registered as an Uzbek citizen according to his birth certificate. He is still considered a citizen of Uzbekistan, and my mother and I are stateless.



▶ With the support of Elena Burtina, Larisa and her family were able to launch the process of obtaining official status in Russia.

Are you still trying to get Russian citizenship?

Yes, my mother and I applied on 18th of December and now we're waiting for an answer. The first step was to apply for residence permit as Russian native speakers. To make it happen, we had to look for relatives who were born in Russia. It turned out, that my grandfather was born here, and now thanks to his kinship we were accepted into this program - all three of us. My mother, me, and my son were granted this status. Based on these documents, we could apply for residence permit, but only my mother and I, as my son got into trouble and partially lost his sight. He had three complex operations on one eye, but we had no money for the second eye, but "Civic Assistance" again helped us. Now my son is fine, we are trying to apply for residence permit, but my son is denied one. The authorities say, that they will not give him any document,

It turned out, that there is actually no such thing as exams for Russians. They pre-select those who speak poorly, and they really pass the exam, but I do not know, what this exam consists of.

because he is a citizen of Uzbekistan, and a foreign citizen must provide an identity document. - passport. And what if he does not have a passport? This issue has not yet been resolved.

And what is the exam for Russian native speaker?

It turned out, that there is actually no such thing as exams for Russians. They pre-select those who speak poorly, and they really pass the exam, but I do not know, what this exam consists of. And those, who speak fluently were gathered in the large hall, a man read out the names of all those, who were present. The officer stood up and said: "Let us not spoil each other's mood. We have already made the decision that you all passed, so just wait for the results in our department." And that's all. Everyone applauded and went home.

And how did they determine who speaks poorly and who speaks well?

When you apply for participation in this program, the officers schedule a secret interview. They talk to everyone and determine who is suitable for failing

the exam, and who doubtfully understands Russian. Some of them got refusal. I witnessed a man of 50 from Moldova, who got refusal. He asks: "Why

do you refuse me?" They say to him: "Read books." And he spoke Russian, although it was spoken Russian. Apparently, they just needed any reason to refuse. ■

STORIES OF PEOPLE
ASSISTED BY THE
“CIVIL ASSISTANCE”
COMMITTEE«I didn't even know what kind
of country **Russia was**»

Congolese
DIDIER tells
of how he fled
the Democratic
Republic of the Congo,
why he applied for
asylum in Russia, and
what he thinks about
the future.

***Tell me when did you come to Russia and why?***

I have been in Russia for four years by now. I fled to Moscow in April 2015 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to the political situation in the country. In January 2015, the President of the DRC, Denis Sassou Nguesso, held a referendum on amending the Constitution in order to remain in office for the third term. Then, in protest, many young people took to the streets.

Did you also participate in the protests?

Sure. There were not only students who opposed the system, there were also hooligans who used the precarious situation in Kinshasa for their own purposes. They robbed shops, set fire to cars, threw stones at the police. In response, the army shot at the oppositionists. This happened in the area where I lived with my family, such a situation lasted for a week.

What did you do then?

I was a student of the department of psychology at the University of Kinshasa. I studied as a sophomore. Students took exams when the protests began. Police officers, security personnel began searches in the houses. Many young men were arrested without any reason.

They were looking for those who took to the streets?

Yes, especially students. I could not go to university to pass the exams, because even there the plain-clothes police officers were looking for oppositionist. Students were taken even during classes. My parents began to worry about me and sent me to my aunt to another district of Kinshasa. I spent all day at home, I could not go out because of the police. Authorities blocked Internet access for a month. My mother cried when she heard stories about missing young people. The police enterer houses, took students, and their relatives lost contact with them. Many of them still do not know anything about their those, who were taken away. My parents decided that I should go to another country, because it was dangerous for me in Congo.

Why did you decide to flee to Russia?

I did not know that I was going to Russia. My documents were handled by relatives. One day, my uncle came back home with my passport and Russian visa. I didn't even know what kind of country Russia was. I was taken to the airport at night, and on April 1st I flew to Moscow. My aunt's friends met me at the airport in Moscow, and I lived with them for the first three months, but then I moved to another place. My aunt advised me to find an organization in Moscow that helps people like me, refugees. I did not

know anything about it back then, I did not even know the language. My friends told about the Civic Assistance Committee, and I've been studying Russian here for 2 years.



What do you think about Russia? What plans do you have for the future?

I like Russia, but still Congo is my motherland. I want to go back there, graduate from university and acquire a profession. I was first given a certificate of consideration of an application for temporary asylum in Russia, then they extended it several times for 1-3 months. It's very difficult to be a refugee in Russia. I am very tired. Even the Russians themselves live here as refugees. Sometimes, when someone from Russia tells me about his life, I wonder if he's Russian or African, like me? No, he is Russian, but he lives as a refugee. I'm scared of such stories. ■



OUR EVENTS

There are traditionally several celebrations for the applicants during the year. June 20 – is an International Refugee Day. We celebrate this day every year in Moscow’s Catherine Park and arrange holiday for children of foreign citizens, who turned to us for help.

December 18 is Migrant’s Day and we celebrate this day at the site of Sakharov Center, and, as a rule, organize an educational lecture. This year, together with the Moscow Helsinki Group, we organized the quiz game “What? Where? When?” about human rights to celebrate Human Rights Day.

In winter, children who attend the Civil Assistance integration courses in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky traditionally participate in the New Year shows in Moscow and the region.

In winter, children who attend the Civic Assistance integration courses in Noginsk and Losino-Petrovsky traditionally participate in the New Year shows in Moscow and the region.

In summer 2018, the Civic Assistance Committee organized a meeting with Syrian refugees at the FARE Net site (Football against racism), opened in Moscow during the World Cup, there also was a lecture about the problem of racist attacks on migrants in the Russian Federation, arranged for

discussion of the film “Box”, devoted to the problem of non-acceptance of migrants by society.

On July 3, Fare Net and Civil Assistance held a football match with refugees in Red Square in Moscow. ■



▲ “Living Library” with the Committee’s applicants at the Fare NET organization site during the World Cup.

◀ “What? Where? When?” on topic of human rights in the Sakharov Center. The organizers are the Committee and Moscow Helsinki Group.



◀ “Migration and Law” officials at seminar for lawyers of the network.

▲ The volunteers of the Civic Assistance Committee discuss the topic of racism after watching the film Box.



Annual festival for refugee children in the Ekaterininsky park in Moscow.

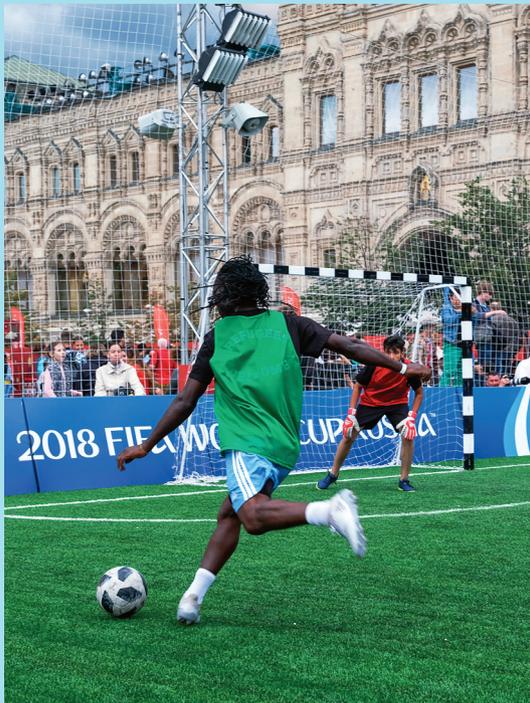


◀ In 2018 there were especially many guests, and we had a great rest.

▼ Children were entertained by animators and volunteers of the Committee.



◀ Children were involved in outdoor contests and creative workshops.



The football match in Red Square was organized jointly with Fare NET, this organization advocates football against racism. Many of our applicants for the first time felt calm and secure in the center of Moscow on that day.

Then some of them admitted that the FIFA World Cup was a great time when they were looked upon as distinguished guests, and not "interloper".





WORK WITH THE MEDIA

In 2018, the Civic Assistance committee was mentioned in the media more than 2,000 times. During the year, each month, on the initiative and with the direct support of the Committee, leading Russian print media, TV channels and radio stations published about 2-3 materials on the topic of migration and the institution of asylum in Russia. Every day, employees of the organization gave comments to journalists on topics related to migration policy and human rights.

The organization's website and social networks (FB, Instagram, Vkontakte, Odnoklassniki) regularly publish news about the organization's work, history of refugees, stateless people and labour migrants, photos of the Committee's daily life, announcements of upcoming courts and events.

Meduza,
February 21, 2018.

Protests against torture took place near the FSB building in Moscow

«The head of the Civic Assistance Committee, Svetlana Gannushkina, and the executive director of the Human Rights movement, Lev Ponomarev, organized a protest near the main building of the FSB in Moscow ... Human rights activists demanded that the FSB stop torturing anti-fascists from Penza and St. Petersburg accused of planning terrorist attacks and armed rebellion. Also, Gannushkina and Ponomarev stated that the investigators, who are now in charge of the case, should be suspended, and the case should be submitted from the local to the federal level.»

Radio Svoboda,
January 10, 2018

Any opponent will be punished

«Svetlana Gannushkina, the head of the Civic Assistance Committee, was one of the first who told about the detention of Oyub Titieva. “I’m sure, that this is a falsification,” says the human rights activist. “I have known this man for many years, this person is surprisingly positive, and there has never been any marijuana near him in his life.” And if we take into account that this is the standard way to get rid of any opponents of any kind, and, unfortunately, not only in Chechnya, but mostly there, then I have no doubts, that it is the reality— says Svetlana Gannushkina.»

Takie Dela, March 15, 2018

In 2017, Russia provided temporary asylum to IDPs twice as rarely

«In 2017, Russia granted twice as little “temporary asylum” statuses to forced migrants – their total number dropped from 228,000 to 125,000 as of January 1, 2018, the Civic Assistance Committee reports citing Rosstat.

In particular, 15% less “temporary asylum” status was granted to forced migrants from Syria and Afghanistan. Only 1128 Syrian citizens instead of 1317 for 2016 and 356 citizens of Afghanistan against 417 for 2016 were granted asylum in Russia.»

Kommersant,
January 27, 2018

Who can be interested in the fate of several girls held by the family?

“Svetlana Gannushkina told Maria Litvinova, Kommersant correspondent, about girls who are kidnapped by their relatives from Europe to make “real Chechen women” out of them and how Russian authorities respond to this.



► Journalists at the “Living Library” with Syrian refugees during the World Cup.

▶ Svetlana Gannushkina gives an interview to Radio Liberty

- When in April 2017 a young Chechen woman called you and asked for help, what did she say?

“She told by phone that they had tricked into leaving Germany and come to Chechnya. Her relatives had taken all her money and documents and forced to marry a person much older than her ...”

IA Ferghana.ru, March 12, 2018

Drill. Why children of migrants are not allowed in Russian schools

«The right of foreign citizens for education is regularly violated. The problem of non-acceptance of children to schools is becoming more acute, and the number of appeals to the Civic Assistance Committee on this issue is constantly increasing. Children are, mostly, not enrolled to schools due to the fact that the family does not have registration or documents confirming their right to stay in the Russian Federation. What exactly this document should be, the school, for some reason, decides itself.»



Kp.ru, January 31, 2018

Three Russian women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

«The rules allow awarding all applicants at the same time”

Elena Milashina, Novaya Gazeta journalist, Svetlana Gannushkina, the head of the Civic Assistance organization that helps refugees, and Olga Sadovskaya, lawyer of the Committee against Torture, were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. This was announced by Petter Eide, a parliamentarian from the Socialist Left Party of Norway, who nominated them.»

Miloserdie, March 29, 2018

Donbass refugees sent to Ukraine, despite the threat of prison and torture

«The Civic Assistance Committee, reported on the increased frequency of appeals from Donbass refugees placed in temporary detention centers for foreign citizens. They’ve faced forced deportation to Ukraine, where they can be prosecuted and tortured. The reason for such treatment is accusations of violation of the resident regulations in Russia, and reference to the Minsk agreements is used as an excuse.»

Radio Svoboda, June 29, 2018

"out-of-format" football player. Police beat a citizen of Côte d'Ivoire

«In connection to the World Cup, this looks especially tragic and ridiculous,” said Varvara Tretyak, Project Coordinator of the Civic Assistance Committee. – We see hundreds of tourists walking on Nikolskaya Street. Everyone posts photos hugging them, the policemen have friendly smile. At the same time a few days before the championship Traore was attacked. The police also continue to check migrants’ documents and initiate the expulsion procedure. There is some kind of hypocrisy in this: there are tourists who are more attractive to us. We won’t smile at them, but we will smile at Brazilians, for example. »

Moskovsky Komsomolets, November 20, 2018

Afghan children: the right for penalty

«There are a lot of such people, as you can tell, in Russia. We have been fighting for their rights for many years. There was Afghanistan, the

friendship with which they earned with their own blood, but as soon as the authorities lost their interest, these children, who were brought here against their will, were left completely alone, explains Svetlana Alekseevna Gannushkina, the head of the Civic Assistance Committee, member of the council and Head of the Migration and Law Network».

BBC Russian Service, November 2, 2018

There is nowhere to hide in Europe. Chechens return to their motherland, accusing of terrorism

«First, almost all requests for the extradition of Chechen natives received a negative response from

Europe,” says Svetlana Gannushkina, head of the Civic Assistance organization. Her organization helps migrants and refugees. The situation began to change a couple of years ago. Gannushkina links this with the migration crisis in Europe and the improvement of relations between Russia and the EU. “Some people are expelled from Chechnya because of their relatives’ contacts with ISIS, others are wanted to be returned from Europe. There is an imitation of the fight against terrorism in Chechnya, which demand both internal and external forces. This is such a unifying moment, because everyone understands that terrorism is dangerous, terrible for everyone, and it is necessary to show how fight it,” the human rights activist says.» ■

► Lecture of Svetlana Gannushkina about the institute of asylum in Russia in the Sakharov Center.



COMMITTEE'S ANALYTICAL MATERIALS

The Civic Assistance Committee regularly publishes analytical materials on the situation of refugees, labor migrants, stateless people, imprisoned people from the North Caucasus.

In 2018, a large report entitled “Protecting the rights of residents of the North Caucasus who are serving sentences in the penitentiary institutions of Russia” (2015–2018) was prepared. It analyzed the problems faced by the Committee applicants. Unfortunately, more than 40% of complaints from people serving a sentence in the last three years are related to physical violence. And one of the most common problems in the penitentiary system remains the impunity of officers for torture of prisoners.



Since the migration police handed over the authority to publish statistical data to the Federal Statistical Service, limited access to information on the status of the asylum institution in Russia has been made publicly available. In this regard, the analysis of the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation by non-

governmental organizations is particularly relevant. In 2018, Konstantin Troitsky, analyst of the Civic Assistance Committee, prepared a report entitled "Degradation of the asylum institution in Russia and new anti-records of migration services: statistics for 2017 and its brief analytics". As well as small monitoring reports "Who are not accepted in kindergartens and why?", "The right for education and the results of the" Civil Assistance "Committee for 2018: 17 lawsuits and the growth of new appeals."

The journalist Alexandra Taranova, who collaborates with the Committee, published an analytical material "Media Report: What do the media write about refugees in Russia?"

In 2018, the joint report of Elena Burtina, a member of the Board of the Civic Assistance Committee and the Migration and Law Network lawyer of the Memorial Human Rights Center Olga Tseytina, "Stateless People at the Temporary Detention Centers for Foreign Citizens' statistics, law and enforcement", dedicated to the problem of violation of the constitutional right for liberty and personal integrity of stateless persons. ■

OUR VOLUNTEERS

In 2018, the Committee was simultaneously

assisted by more than 20 volunteers. They accompanied the Civic Assistance applicants to the migration offices, courts, hospitals and

other government agencies. They helped with the translation of documents, taught Russian to children and adults, prepared materials for Russian and English web-sites and social networks of the Committee. With the support of volunteers, the Committee manages to help many more applicants, and we are pleased that the number of our supporters is growing.



You can become a "Civic Assistance" volunteer by filling out a form on our web-site.

■ www.refugee.ru

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

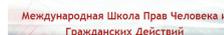


SPONSORS:

- UNHCR
- Amnesty international
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PARTNERS:

- Memorial Human Rights Center
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- Committee Against Torture
- Foundation "Need Help"
- ToDoGood social technology platform
- Fare net
- Safe house
- Help Service "Mercy"
- Fergana House
- Moscow School of Human Rights
- Catherine Park of Moscow
- FoodSharing Platform
- Charity Shop "Charity Shop"



HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Refugees who turn to us for help were forced to leave their homes because of war or persecution. Unfortunately, they do not receive any help from the state in Russia, they often have no means of subsistence and even the most elementary everyday things. They need clothes, shoes, food, toys, hygiene products.

Both labor migrants and forced migrants need support. People who find themselves in a very difficult life situation come to the Civil Assistance Committee. Many of them are on the verge of despair, and sometimes even a small support is enough for people to find strength and cope with difficulties.

You can support the “Civic Assistance” applicants by subscribing to regular donations on the Committee’s website in the “Help” section.

Or transfer money directly to the organization.

Beneficiary: Regional Civil Charity Organization for Assistance to Refugees and Migrants “Civic Assistance”

Personal Tax Reference Number: 7708037113

Reason for Registration Code: 770201001

Recipient’s Account Number: 40703810338320100413

Receiving bank: Sberbank Moscow

RCBIC: 044525225

Corresponding account number: 3010181040000000225

Payment Purpose: Charity Donations



Regional public charitable organization for assistance
to refugees and migrants
Committee "Civic Assistance"

Moscow, Olimpiyskiy Prospekt 22, 129110
www.refugee.ru

Report 2018

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We thank for the help in
publishing the report to
Svetlana Gannushkina,
Elena Burtin,
Konstantin Troitsky
and the whole team of the
"Civic Assistance"

On April 20, 2015, the Ministry
of Justice registered
the Civic Assistance Committee
as an "organization acting
as foreign agents."