

Civic Assistance Committee



أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُ مُؤْمِنٌ
أَسْمَدُكُمْ بِلُقْبِ الْفَارِسِ
فَوْزِيْ قَدْ لَلَّا يَرْجُمُكُمْ
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2014 Annual Report

комитет
ГРАЖДАНСКОЕ
СОДЕЙСТВИЕ

Dear friends,

For us, all of 2014 took place under the sign of the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Ukrainian refugees began to arrive in early spring 2014, and their arrivals peaked in the summer months. At first, Ukrainians were empathetically welcomed by Russian society as well as the state. People willingly donated money, clothing and food, and helped them with housing. Official agencies provided a great deal of help to Ukrainians—particularly the FMS (Federal Migration Service) and MChS (Ministry of Emergency Situations). Special camps were opened for refugees, where many observers inspected and approved of conditions. With Special Government Resolution no. 690 (of 22 July 2014), the decision process for granting asylum to Ukrainian citizens was simplified, and the review period was shortened to three days. In spring 2014, temporary asylum was granted to practically all incoming Ukrainians. Children were enrolled in schools, and adults found employment.



However, by the end of the summer, Russian enthusiasm began to wane. Refusals of status started to appear on the grounds that applicants had come from regions where military operations are not occurring, or that they had left before war came. Most significantly, applications were altogether no longer being accepted in Moscow, Moscow oblast, Petersburg, Leningrad oblast, Rostov oblast, Crimea, and Sevastopol. The pretext for this refusal was Government Resolution no. 691, also of 22 July 2014, according to which the aforementioned regions Russia were not obliged to take in Ukrainian refugees. Thus,

refugees in Moscow were told that "quotas do not allow asylum to be granted."

Of course, there are no "quotas" for accepting applications for asylum, and there can be no such thing. It violates the Russian law "On Refugees," under which foreign citizens are required to apply for asylum at their point of arrival, and within a short timeframe. Only after this would the law allow that those who cannot stay with relatives or settle independently be allocated to certain regions.

Our ongoing engagement with the FMS over this matter has not clarified the situation: the agency has given mutually contradictory responses. We have only successfully cleared it up in specific instances. Enthusiasm on the part of Russian society also waned: people on both sides had high expectations, and many people seemed disappointed with Ukrainian refugees for showing common human needs and shortcomings. Once the propagandistic role of the refugees was already filled, relations to them became very uneven.

The flow of refugees from Ukraine had its effect on Syrian refugees as well. The FMS began to massively refuse applications from Syrians to receive or extend temporary asylum—despite the fact that the UNCHR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) published new guidelines in 2014, recommending against the deportation of Syrians—not only back to Syria, but also to any neighbouring countries, which already house millions of Syrian refugees. Now, for every Syrian refugee, the Civic Assistance Committee (CAC) is forced to fight all the way up to filing a grievance to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).



Number of holders of refugee status in Russia

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
452	713	795	801	800	763	632	808

Number of holders of temporary asylum in Russia

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1,174	1,613	1,951	3,726	3,036	2,415	2,826	217,672

By the end of 2014, 227 Ukrainian citizens had been granted asylum—mostly members of the Berkut special police battalion, prosecutors, and other members of official power structures; 214,152 Ukrainians received temporary asylum.

Altogether, at the end of 2014, the FMS counted 808 acknowledged refugees and 217,000 holders of temporary asylum in Russia.

Russia's rapprochement with North Korea (DPRK) was a disturbing development in 2014. One of its consequences was the preparation of a mutual extradition treaty. This happened against the background of near-unanimous worldwide opposition to the deportation of any citizen to North Korea, expressed by UN General Assembly resolutions and other documents. We are sheltering several North Koreans from deportation: this work has now become more difficult, because neither courts nor migration authorities have clear information on the legality of deporting them to DPRK, where they will be met by torture and real danger to their lives.



Number of people deported and administratively removed from Russia

2012	2013	2014
35,115	82,413	139,034

That agreement is far from the only controversial document of 2014. Through the year, the legal position of refugees, asylum-seekers, and other migrants has become more and more difficult. New repressive provisions were added to migration law. Changes to the law "On the legal status of foreign citizens" came into effect, which shortened the legal residency period for migrants from holders of "visa-free" passports to 90 days per six-month period. Now, citizens of "visa-free" countries have lost the option of renewing their legal temporary residency by exiting Russia and re-entering from a third country. In addition, a mechanism is now in place to impose automatic three-year entry bans on those illegally residing in Russia for more than 120 days. The number of administrative removals and deportations from Russia has sharply increased. The number of entry bans and designations of foreign citizens as "undesirable" has reached an unprecedented level, now affecting 1.3 million people.

The concept of "fictitious (place of residence) registration" was added to the law "On citizens' rights to freedom of movement," the Criminal Code, and the Code on Administrative Offences, describing obtaining place of residence registration without intent to reside. Landlords can now be held criminally liable for this type of registration. This substantially complicates the situation of many refugees, who for one reason or another are unable to obtain registration at their place of residence. Other amendments were made last year, which have come into effect in 2015: for example, the requirement to take examinations on Russian language, history, and law, as part of an application for citizenship, temporary residence authorisation, or permanent residency. This examination is now required even of labour migrants seeking a new work licence (patent). Some rules, however, were loosened: for some categories of applicants, it became easier to accede to Russian citizenship. These changes were designed for Ukrainians and other Russian-speakers living abroad.



Law no. 357 (of 22 November 2014) dealt a serious blow to the quota system of distributing work permits to "visa-free" foreigners, which deprived most migrants of the possibility of working legally. In 2015, foreign citizens now obtain the right to work for both individuals and corporations through the work license (patent). However, the liberal aspect of this change was significantly compromised by the increased cost of the work license, and the introduction of a series of new requirements for obtaining one.

A large unexpected problem arose when, by government order, migrant detention centres were transferred from the mandate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) to the purview of the FMS. They are now called by the unwieldy name of SUVSIG (special establishment for the temporary detention of foreign citizens). One might think that moving these institutions outside the purview of security forces would have made for more humane living conditions—in fact, the opposite happened. We were previously able to collaborate with these centres, to the point that MVD employees sometimes asked us to help foreign citizens in need of translation, legal consultation, or simply medication. The new staff has behaved differently; conditions have become significantly harsher; it has become much harder for lawyers to gain access to



prisoners, leaving them cut off from accessing asylum procedures. Official representatives of Public Monitoring Commissions (ONK) were not allowed into the SUVSIG establishments, due to the fact that the FMS is not listed among the federal agencies subject to the law "On civilian control." SUVSIG inmates are held in complete isolation. Amendments to allow ONK members entry were only signed into law in 2015.

The CAC's work was also affected by the government's increasingly forceful attempts to suppress what remains of civil society in Russia. An instance of this was the addition of Memorial Human Rights Centre (HRC) to the list of "foreign agents." Later, in April 2015, the Civic Assistance Committee was also listed. Our work continues unabated, as the need for it is only growing stronger. Our relations with the FMS for Moscow and Moscow oblast have the character of a working partnership. We actively work with journalists, who often turn to us as experts on matters of migration. We rebuilt our website, which increased its popularity—and we were able to begin collecting online donations for some of our clients who were deeply in need. Well-educated young people are coming to us ever more frequently to collaborate, with their own ideas and projects.

In December, CAC chair Svetlana Gannushkina was awarded by the Heinz Schwarzkopf Young Europe Foundation for our work in defence of refugees' rights.

A very significant victory came for us as 2015 started. In spring 2013, prosecutors investigated the CAC; the purpose of this investigation was not shared with us. We sent tax authority staff all the documents they requested, but after the prosecutors demanded documents for a third time, we refused to cooperate any further with their investigation. As a result, a fine was levied personally against Svetlana Gannushkina. Later on, along with other organisations, we contested the law "On prosecutors" in court, for the vagueness of the section regulating prosecutorial investigations. On 22 January 2015, the Constitutional Court heard our case. And on 17 February, the Court ruled in our favour, ordering legislators to amend the law regulating prosecutorial audits. The results of the 2013 investigations are also to be reviewed.



Public consultation work

Our work providing open public consultations to refugees and migrants is the main and foundational part of the CAC's activity. This work, as before, is conducted in partnership with the UNHCR and Memorial HRC. In 2014, Doctors Without Borders joined this longstanding partnership, supporting medical and pharmaceutical aid to refugees.

Problems of access to asylum application procedure that were typical in Moscow and Moscow oblast have expanded to a larger scale in 2014. Denial of access occurred on the basis of actual understaffing and lack of translators, as well as through illegal demands to provide place of residence registration, rental agreements, and other documents. In many specific cases, we were able to help refugees overcome these obstacles, by filing grievances with the FMS, or by escorting them in person, although this has not led to an overall improvement in access to procedure.

The initial massive arrival of Ukrainian refugees caused a general collapse of the Russian migration system. The Moscow FMS division tried to resolve the problem by opening a separate office to receive Ukrainian citizens, but it soon stopped accepting applications under the "zero-quota" policy. In individual cases, when refugees came to live with relatives, or had the possibility of settling independently, we were able to overcome the restrictions on accepting applications, through direct appeals to the federal FMS. We also tried to convince FMS authorities that restricting Ukrainian refugees from access to asylum application procedures constituted a violation of the law "On Refugees." Only in early 2015 did the FMS begin to agree with our position, sending "zero-quota" regions instructions to stop groundlessly refusing to accept Ukrainian citizens' applications for asylum.



Altogether in 2014 we consulted 2,784 clients from 50 countries of the world. As before, the largest contingent were citizens of Afghanistan (33.7%), although their share of the total decreased in light of the arrival of many Syrians (24%) and Ukrainians (19.7%).

In summer 2014, Syrians began to receive refusals on a large scale of their applications for (one-year) temporary asylum or for extensions of it. Helping applicants appeal these refusals became one of the main components of our work. Most of our appeals were addressed to the federal FMS, though in fall 2014, generic rejections of these appeals flooded in. The authorities only specifically responded to a small number of requests. With the help of lawyers from Memorial HRC, we appealed the FMS decisions in Moscow's Basmanny district court. We immediately sent some of the Moscow migration services' refusals to the Zamoskvoretsky court. So far, however, we have not won a single one of the cases over refusals to accept Syrians' appeals. We have provided analogous help to refugees from other countries, for whom receiving asylum in Russia is even more difficult. Only in very few cases has the combined work of CAC and Memorial staff led to positive outcomes. For example, temporary asylum was granted to Sh., a single young woman from Afghanistan; Kh., a divorced mother of two from Afghanistan; N. M., and a Congolese man who three times successfully appealed the FMS's refusal to grant him refugee status, with our help—although the migration authorities ultimately only granted temporary asylum. We were able to help other refugees get



extensions on their temporary asylum status, like Kh. A., from Uzbekistan. Not a single one of our clients was able to attain refugee status. In exceptional cases, we were able to secure agreements to resettle people in third countries.



To facilitate our clients' interactions with the police, the CAC provided those in need with letters to accompany their personal documents, in which we briefly conveyed information on the refugee's status, and asked officers to address their questions to us. Communicating with police officers when our clients are detained has long been a part of the CAC staff's work, and in many cases, these interactions have had positive outcomes. When court deportation orders are imposed against refugees, the CAC enlists the help of Memorial HRC lawyers or, for cases in isolated regions, of local lawyers. The success rate of appeals against deportation is substantially higher than that of appeals against refusal to grant asylum. Refugees with temporary asylum or other legal status and not expecting to receive asylum receive our help obtaining temporary residence authorisations (RVP) or permanent residency. Among other activities, we make inquiries and file grievances over illegal actions of Moscow and Moscow oblast FMS employees upon applications for RVP—such as allowing queues to build up for months, making groundless demands, or requiring applicants to hire intermediaries. In particular cases, CAC staff members accompany clients to the migration services to submit documents. We have helped a few refugees receive Russian citizenship.



Some of our clients are without documents, and their cases take months to be reviewed by the FMS, and require constant supervision. During 2014, we monitored a series of such cases, one of which ended favourably.

Even for refugees with documents, especially those from countries that require a visa, receiving citizenship—even with refugee status or permanent residency—is still an almost intractable problem. In 2014 with our help, only one such refugee was able to obtain citizenship: M. B., a Syrian, whose case was resolved only with recourse to the direct help of federal FMS directors.



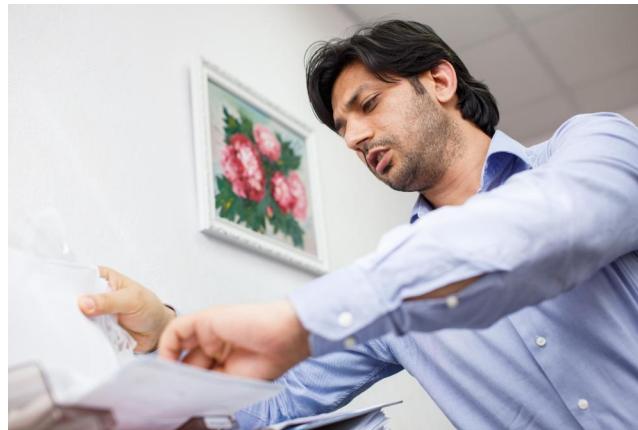
Ministry of Education and Science orders no. 107 (of 15 February 2012) and no. 32 (of 22 January 2014) made access to education for foreign children dependent on place of residence registration and legal migration status. For practical purposes, these orders divided children into three categories. The first, who have registration of permanent place of residence near the school are enrolled preferentially. Second come those who have migration status and temporary place of residence registration, who have reasonable chances of enrolling; third come those without registration, who are “passed over,” as implied in the Ministry’s orders. The CAC has tried to address the problem of lack of access to education by means of grievances to the educational authorities—but such attempts have not always been successful: in their responses, bureaucrats refer back to the same Ministry orders that we are trying to challenge legally.

Male

	Ages: <5 6-11 12-17 18-59 >60 all male					
Refugees	85	89	61	948	25	1,208
Stateless persons	0	3	1	24	2	30
Forced migrants	0	1	2	10	1	14
Labour/voluntary migrants	26	18	28	356	2	430
Total:	111	111	92	1,338	30	1,682

Female

	<5 6-11 12-17 18-59 >60 all female					
	male and female					
Refugees	88	82	68	463	28	729
Stateless persons	0	3	1	28	3	35
Forced migrants	1	2	0	16	9	28
Labour/voluntary migrants	24	22	24	230	10	310
Total:	113	109	93	737	50	1,102
						2,784



Sh. was born into a large family in Kabul. As the Taliban came to power, the family moved to the provinces. Her grandfather taught her literacy, school subjects, and English. Sh. turned out to be a gifted pupil, and the family decided to give her a good education. In grades 10 to 12, she studied in school. After graduating, she worked at the very same school as a teacher, while at the same time studying nursing. In 2008, she returned to Kabul, to continue her education. But while she was there, she lived in a dormitory, which her parents disapproved of.

From the age of 12, Sh. had been arranged to marry a relative from her father's family, of twice her age. Her fiancé, N. N., lived in Russia, but in late 2009, the marriage was nonetheless formalised, and Sh.'s parents decided to send her to her fiancé—without her consent.

Sh. decided to oppose the decision, and connected with a women's charitable organisation in Kabul, which provided asylum. She even tried to launch a court case against her father, which is a very serious step for a girl in Afghanistan. But the family tricked Sh. into being taken to Petersburg to her husband. She lived there a year, throughout which her husband beat and raped her: she was effectively being held captive.

Nonetheless, she managed to escape. She sought help at the Afghan embassy in Moscow, and embassy staff brought her to the Civic Assistance Committee. Later on, however, we had to fight the embassy as well: the consul did not want to return Sh.'s passport, on the grounds that "an Afghan woman has no use for a passport."

With the help of the UNHCR, Sh. was resettled to a third country, since even in Russia she was vulnerable to persecution from her family and husband.

The worst social problem faced by refugees remains that of housing. The Russian government does not take any responsibility for providing permanent housing—even to acknowledged refugees. In 2014, housing possibilities were restricted to two Centres belonging to the FMS: a third opened up at the end of the year. They are all located in remote locations, where there are no possibilities for integration. In Moscow and Moscow oblast the government does not offer any kind of temporary housing to newly-arrived refugees, nor does the CAC have the resources to provide housing. Only in exceptional cases are we able to house those in need, in one of a few private shelters. In exceptional cases, we house people in the CAC's offices. We have provided one-time material aid to a few refugees to pay to rent housing.

The right to access social services in Russia is only enjoyed by acknowledged refugees, although even they are often prevented from realising this right if they lack place of residence registration. However, few complaints of lack of access to social services come from acknowledged refugees—since, of course, there are very few such refugees. In 2014, we were able to have a few forms of social help (a Moscow social benefits card, free access to a rest home) granted to M. N., a refugee from Afghanistan: these are the exceptions that prove the rule.

Other groups of refugees, who constitute the overwhelming majority, are denied access to social services. The CAC can only slightly compensate for this, by providing occasional humanitarian aid directly to those in need. For this purpose in 2014, we spent the prize fund of the 2013 Stieg Larsson prize, in memory of the Swedish author and anti-fascist activist, which was awarded to Svetlana Gannushkina, as well as a substantial donation from Anatoly Primak, a Soviet émigré in the USA. Donations were also collected online, through our new website.

Access to free medical care is also restricted. In 2014, we continued to provide medical aid to ill refugees. A medical consultant and volunteer physicians work in this capacity. In cases of acute need, we provided funding to pay for care and medication. Besides this, starting in September, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) began to provide medical and pharmaceutical support to clients who come to the CAC for consultation. And we continue to collect and distribute donations of clothing and footwear, linens, toys, and household products to refugees.



Altogether in 2014, our open-door consultation program reached 2,784 visitors from 50 countries, to a total of 2,558 consultations.



Rights-defending support was provided in 654 cases. During the year, material support was provided 309 times, from a total fund of 4,829,513 rubles.

Second-hand clothing was provided to 1,031 families: 15,586 articles of clothing, 2,237 pairs of footwear, and 683 sets of linens were distributed. New clothing, to a total of 1,949 articles, was given to 157 families.

Food aid was given to 78 families.

738 medical consultations took place; medication was given free of charge 541 times, and 25 patients were sent for specialist examinations.

Free and deeply-discounted tickets were given to refugees through the CAC from 27 theatres and other cultural institutions.

Refugee children received 300 presents, and 120 tickets to New Year's festivities.

Right to asylum

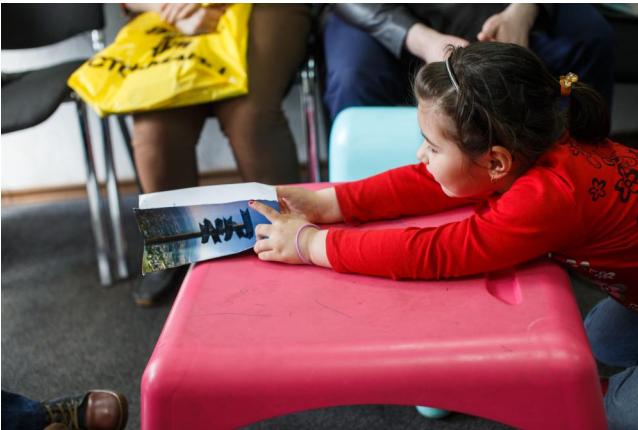
This project has two goals: on one hand, to support and reinforce our work providing legal support to refugees, and on the other, preparing a report, "Russia as an asylum country," which is dedicated to having Russia fulfil the obligations assumed on signing the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol on refugee status, as well as the federal law "On refugees." As part of the project, we signed fourteen agreements with lawyers to represent the interests of refugees in court cases. Of four completed cases, three were successful: refugees from Syria, sentenced to deportation from Russia and held in pre-deportation detention were able to apply for asylum—allowing them to walk free of detention, and avoid deportation.



To collect material for the report, we organised court monitoring of refugee cases, and monitoring of refugee divisions of Moscow and Moscow oblast migration offices. Our monitoring of the Federal Migration Services has faced official opposition, however: agency directors issued a written statement calling the visits of Committee staff to refugee divisions and to temporary refugee accommodation centres "inappropriate." In October 2014, a hotline was set up to receive information about violations of refugees' rights. It is monitored daily from 9:00 to 21:00. By the end of the year, it had received 42 calls.

Elena Burtina, CAC vice-chair and director of the Right to Asylum project

Legal and social support to refugees from Ukraine



2014 was marked by a huge influx of refugees from Ukraine. In November, with the support of the Open Society Foundations, the Civic Assistance Committee began active monitoring of the status of Ukrainians. As noted above, Ukrainian refugees were at first warmly welcomed by society, and supported by the government. However, as early as July 22, government resolution no. 691 appeared, under which certain Russian regions—including Crimea, Moscow and Moscow oblast, Saint Petersburg, and Rostov oblast (which borders eastern Ukraine)—stopped accepting applications for temporary asylum. Other complications started to arise: refugees were removed from temporary settlements, children were

refused admission to schools, and people were refused medical care.

The “state programme to assist voluntary resettlement of compatriots living abroad to the Russian Federation”—which offers participants above all a simplified path to Russian citizenship—did not properly kick in, either. Many programme participants lack place of residence registration, an essential part of the process of receiving citizenship. As a consequence, people who arrived in Russia through the programme and those who decided to join upon arrival in Russia find themselves in a bind: the housing and employment that the programme should legally provide exist only on paper, and they are no closer to attaining citizenship, either.

Through lawyers from Memorial HRC’s Migration and Law Network, our project was established in Bryansk, Voronezh, Borisoglebsk, Taganrog, Perm, Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Orenburg, and Smolensk. Migration and Law Network staff provided consultations to Ukrainian refugees, and provided legal and court support as necessary. In the project, we also provided material aid to Ukrainian citizens in particularly acute situations of need, such as families with many children, people with disabilities, and elderly citizens. Aid was provided not only at the centres listed above, but also in other regions where Migration and Law Network consultation centres are in place. Altogether, 68 refugee families in the regions where our project operated were granted material aid, to a total of 686,000 rubles. This aid included funds raised through an online campaign on the Civic Assistance Committee website. In a series of cases, refugees requested funds to return home, insofar as they found living conditions in Russia to be inhospitable.

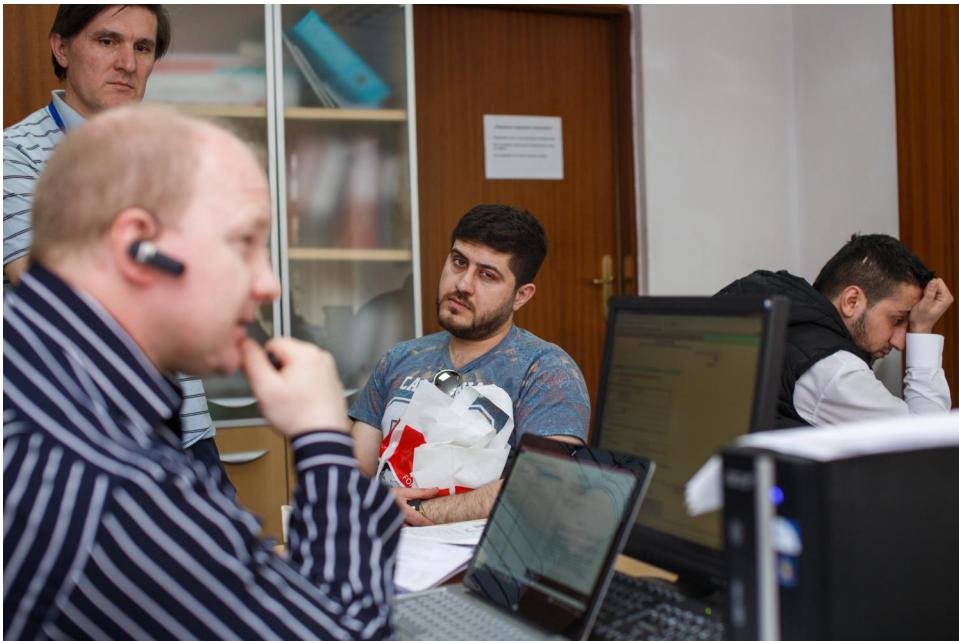
In many cities, the lawyers' work was very successful. For example, in Taganrog, with our support, the daughter of I. Baranova, a Ukrainian citizen, was granted free medical care in a municipal children's hospital. Faina P. was able to get certification of a disability, Liliya D. was given humanitarian aid, and Irina K.'s child was given New Year's presents from neighbours. Irina Ya.'s two children and Pavel B.'s child, all refugees from Ukraine, were able to register at school, and they also received New Year's gifts from a local politician. Two other refugees, with our support, were granted free medical treatment in a municipal hospital, and overcame problems with their health.



But there were also many tragic, complicated cases. We followed a case of blatantly inhumane treatment of Ukrainian refugees in Voronezh oblast. Russia not only refused to acknowledge Igor Ascheulov, certified with a second-group disability, as a refugee, but even refused to treat him as a human being. He is a Ukrainian citizen, born in the USSR, who was moved to Transcarpathia as a child. On 15 October 2014, Russia not only deported him, but deported him to Luhansk oblast, the site of active "Antiterrorist operations," where in spite of his disability and at risk to his life, he was forced to wander and sleep in abandoned buildings. Only with the help of Migration and Law Network lawyer Vyacheslav Bytyutskiy—who personally travelled to Ukraine to seek and find his client—was Ascheulov able to attain temporary asylum, and allowed to return to Russia on 4 November.



Support to labour migrants



Russia is already used to the phenomenon of labour migration from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and from some countries whose citizens need visas to enter Russia, such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Sudan. These workers come to the Committee over issues of wage theft, forced labour, slavery-like conditions, interdiction of departure, illegal deportation, and problems with the

police and administrative bodies. We offer consultations, support in resolving employment disputes and bureaucratic issues, and retain lawyers to pursue criminal cases.

The Civic Assistance Committee remains the only organisation that helps labour migrants with legal support in criminal cases where they are the victims of false accusations, torture, or forced labour.

In 2014, the Committee was at work on 12 such cases. In addition to legal support to migrant victims of forced labour, the Committee has provided financial support for tickets back home, for food and housing, and to receive essential documents. The funding to provide this help comes from the UN fund for victims of contemporary forms of slavery.

The Committee took on 24 cases of employment disputes in 2014. The total sum of unpaid wages in new cases was of 24,530,948 rubles. Project staff were able to secure repayment of 1.8 million rubles of this total. 1.6 million rubles of this sum was owed by an employer to O. K., a Ukrainian citizen, and other members of his work crew, and was paid out to them when the Committee made a submission to prosecutors. We continue to work on the remaining cases, and some migrants have already had wages paid out in part or in full, with help from the Committee.



We have now been at work for two years on the widely-reported cases of slavery at the "Produkty" store in the Golyanovo district of Moscow. Law-enforcement agencies have been sabotaging the investigation: first announcing decisions not to launch criminal cases, then cancelling them. The Committee has consequently decided to prepare a grievance to the European Court of Human Rights.

Support to victims of hate crimes

This is a joint project with the SOVA Centre for Information and Analysis; it has also been supported by the German "Remembrance, Responsibility, and Future" Foundation. As in previous years, we have collected information about hate crimes, provided consultations and defence to victims, taken calls on our hotline, organised informational events, and organised educational campaigns against xenophobia.

We worked all year on the development of an interactive online map to track hate crimes: hatecrimes.ru. Detailed information on attacks, collected for several years, has formed the basis of the map project. It has been realised by the Civic Assistance Committee with the support of Minority Rights Group International. We went on to present the map at a conference in June 2015, and it was covered widely in the press. Several phone calls have been taken through the hotline, which was launched at the beginning of the year. Altogether, 29 people sought help from the Committee after surviving hate crimes. We provided material aid to nine victims, to pay for care and medication.

A screenshot of the 'Map of Attacks' website (hatecrimes.ru). The page features a map of the Moscow region with numerous green and red icons representing reported hate crime incidents. The icons are scattered across the map, with a higher density in central Moscow and surrounding urban areas. At the top, there is a header with the text 'Карта нападений на почве ненависти в России' (Map of attacks based on hatred in Russia) and navigation links for 'О проекте' (About the project), 'Карта' (Map), 'Истории' (Stories), and 'Сообщить о нападении' (Report an attack). Below the map, there is a call-to-action button with the text 'На тебя напали из-за веры, национальности, цвета кожи?' (They attacked you because of your religion, nationality, skin color?) and a phone number '+7 (903) 577-55-87'. The overall design is clean and modern, with a focus on the data visualization of the map.

Карта нападений на почве ненависти в России



For the first time, we led successful online fundraising to expand support for victims. We were able to raise about 100,000 rubles to pay for a complicated operation for Rémi Bazi, from Côte d'Ivoire, after attackers broke his jaw with a blow from a metal rod. After attackers threw acid in the face of 18-month-old Diyor Abdullaev, we were able to raise over 500,000 rubles for his treatment—thanks to this money, the child has a chance of completely regaining normal eyesight.

Y. M., from Cameroon, was attacked by neo-nazis at Novoslobodskaya metro station in Moscow. He immediately called our hotline, and we coordinated further action in his case: discussions with the police, calling an ambulance. In the morning, a Committee member went to the police station where Y. M. had been brought. We realised that the victim was being held in the same cell as his attackers; we were able to have them physically separated. At the time of the attack, Y. M. was in Russia on a year-long visa, which was one month from expiring. He was acutely in need of money to return home. In accordance with his wishes, we did not pursue a criminal prosecution of the attackers. They paid in full the sum the victim requested, of 50,000 rubles, with which he bought a ticket home. Besides legal support, we gave Y. M. humanitarian aid for treatment and food, since he lost his job and had no means of subsistence for the last month before his departure.

A. L. is an Uzbek citizen of Korean descent, who has worked as a cook in Moscow for many years. On a night in June 2014, at a tram stop near Sokol metro station, a group of fascists attacked him, shouting "Kill!" They severely beat him and injured his spine. A member of our anti-hate-crime project visited A. in hospital after a friend and compatriot called our hotline on his behalf. We helped pay for his treatment, and a lawyer provided by the Committee was able to have a criminal case initiated. From photographs, A. L. was then able to identify some of the attackers, who turned out to be members of a known right-wing extremist group. Because of the scope of the case, prosecution was transferred to a higher level of jurisdiction, the Investigative Committee. Meanwhile, we provided A. L. with material aid for housing and food during the investigation, and airfare to Uzbekistan. Now using a wheelchair, A. L. is back home, learning to walk again, and intent on coming to Russia to participate in court proceedings.



All victims of attacks being criminally prosecuted are provided with legal support through the project. In 2014, the Committee was at work on ten such cases. In five instances, criminal cases were initiated, and three others are under preliminary investigation. One victim elected not to pursue criminal charges, and one other hate crime victim came to reconciliation with his attackers and received compensation, which he used to leave Russia and return to his home country.





Our largest-scale informative project in 2014 was a social campaign against xenophobia, led by the Civic Assistance Committee in partnership with Leo Burnett advertising agency. The campaign consisted of several elements: an anti-fascist television ad was produced and broadcast on Dozhd TV; the development of an online test called "Are you a zombie?," which was shared through various platforms; and a campaign to use the hashtag #фашизмдектед ("fascism detected") to identify online content that incites hatred against specific ethnic or religious groups. By the end of the campaign, the video clip had been viewed more than 70,000 times.

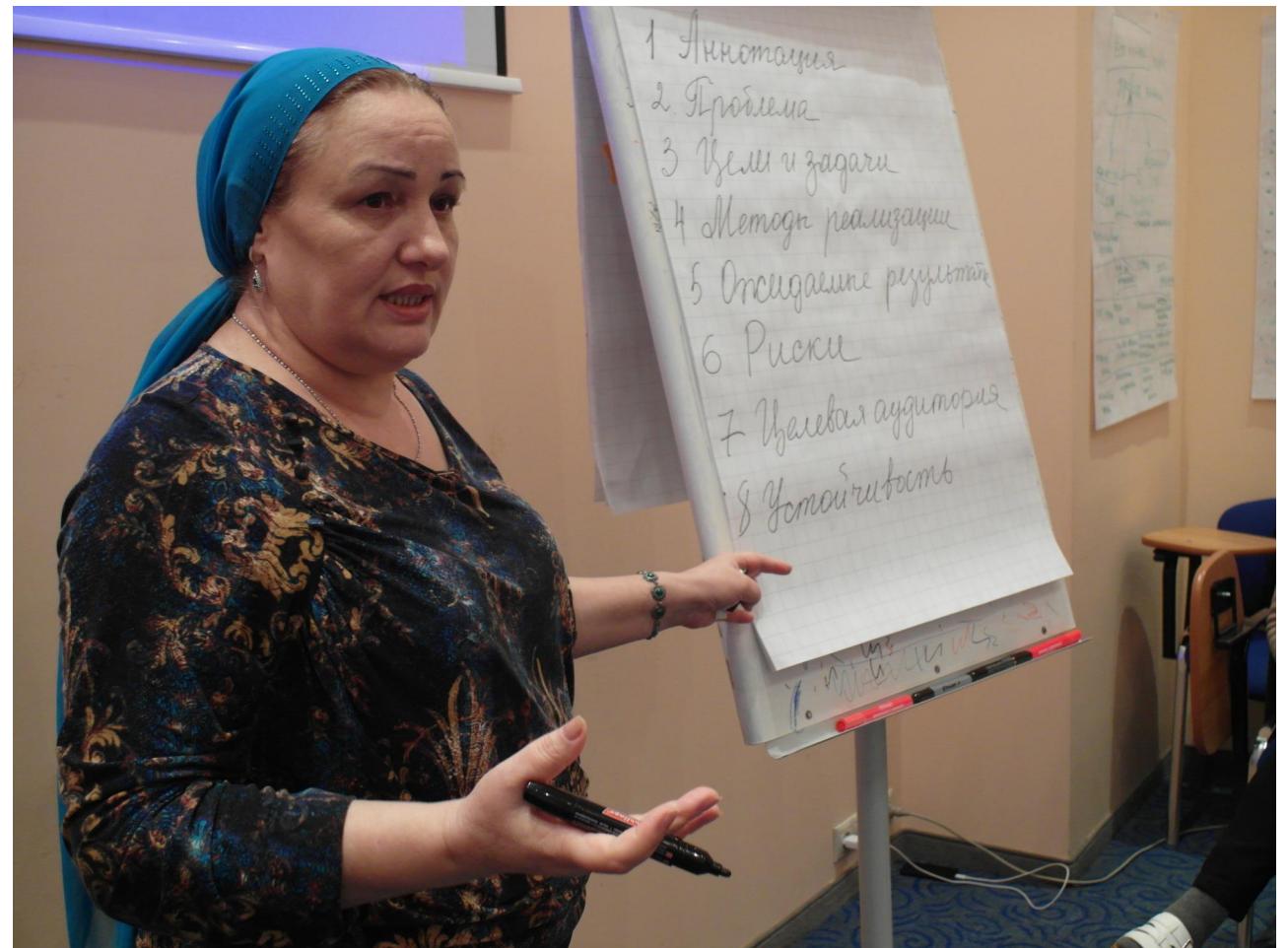
N. A. E. was persecuted in Sudan as an opposition party member. He fled the country and made it to Russia, where he applied for refugee status. Four unknown men attacked him in September 2014, in Noginsk, near Moscow. He did not understand Russian well then, yet understood the attackers' cries of "Africa! Africa!" Committee volunteers brought him to the emergency room, where his injuries were documented. A translator and a lawyer provided by the Committee helped him make a statement to police. Thanks to the lawyer's efforts, a criminal case was initiated, and the request that it be acknowledged as a hate crime was partially granted. A search is on for the perpetrators.

Human rights awareness in the North Caucasus

In 2014, with the support of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, we continued work on this major project, which is our contribution to progress in the North Caucasus in the aftermath of the Chechen wars, devoted to overcoming the wars' negative consequences. The goal of this project is to raise understanding of human rights and civil society principles among youth and schoolteachers in the region, as well as among employees of the Interior Ministry of Ingushetia. The project also works to lead engagement in future social and civic action.

As part of the project, we also give seminars on human rights and on defending the public interest for young people and teachers from Chechnya, Ingushetia, and North Ossetia. Seminar participants develop their own mini-projects on a social-civic theme, which they then realised in their communities. Over the course of 2014, we gave ten such seminars, to a total of about 200 participants.

We also organise internships at the Civic Assistance Committee for active students, during which we introduce them to the work of other Moscow-based NGOs. We provide financial support for their participation in events led by other human right organisations. Besides all this, the project also offers English classes for youth, as well as a quotation contest, in which program participants choose a quotation about freedom and human rights. These quotations were then printed on t-shirts and stickers.



Kh. I. (teacher, Chechen Republic)

"I am here for the first time: the themes announced seemed very interesting, and so I sent in a form. I teach history and social studies in school, and I can use what I learned here in my lessons. I was especially interested in the game methods they used to teach us, since the same methods can be used with the kids. And, of course, the project was helpful for those of us who studied here too. There are lots of problems in our village that could be resolved, if only we could get funding. For example, the kids have absolutely nowhere to play: it's a small village in the mountains, with no playgrounds, no sports grounds, no football field."



Defending the rights of Chechen Republic and Republic of Ingushetia residents in the carceral system

In August 2014 we completed work on a three-year project in support of the rights of prisoners from Chechnya and Ingushetia. For these people, imprisonment is especially dangerous, with real and heightened risk to their health and lives. This is in addition to the fact that many of them have been incarcerated on falsified charges.

Defending the rights of prisoners in Russia—let alone of Chechen and Ingushetian prisoners—is fraught with difficulty. We were nonetheless able to establish this project and achieve some productive results. Two hotlines were in operation for prisoners and their relatives, and project staff also conducted consultations in person in Chechnya and Ingushetia. People told us of biased treatment of prisoners from the North Caucasus from prison colony employees, frequent unmotivated imposition of disciplinary measures, impediments to religious practices, violations of dietary rules, denial of medical treatment, threats and insults, and even pressure from FSB agents. We heard many grievances of torture and beatings. To investigate claims and to defend prisoners, we enlisted the help of members of local Public Monitoring Commissions, and sent lawyers to the penal colonies. Through these visits, we were able to stop cruel treatment of



those who sought our help, at least for a time. However, despite our best efforts, we have not yet been able to hold any prison staff to account legally. Altogether in 2014, we provided legal support to 24 prisoners through the project. Six grievances have so far been filed to the European Court of Human Rights.

R. S. A. is a prisoner with a disability, who has had one leg amputated. Prison employees tortured him and broke his prosthesis: his stump became infected and swollen. Contrary to a doctor's instructions, he is frequently placed in solitary punitive detention, where he is forced to stand all day on one leg, and he is refused surgical treatment. A Committee lawyer visited him and has submitted a grievance over his treatment to the European Court of Human Rights.



Another goal of the project was to draw public attention to problems of ethnic discrimination in prisons and colonies. To this end, project staff participated in several events. We visited working groups of the permanent committees of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights: on the development of Public Monitoring Commissions, and on carceral system reform; participated in a roundtable on "Counteracting torture in the carceral system" in Ekaterinburg; attended a conference "Against violence and torture in the law enforcement and carceral systems." In service of the education goal of the project, a concluding report on the project was prepared; it was published in early 2015.

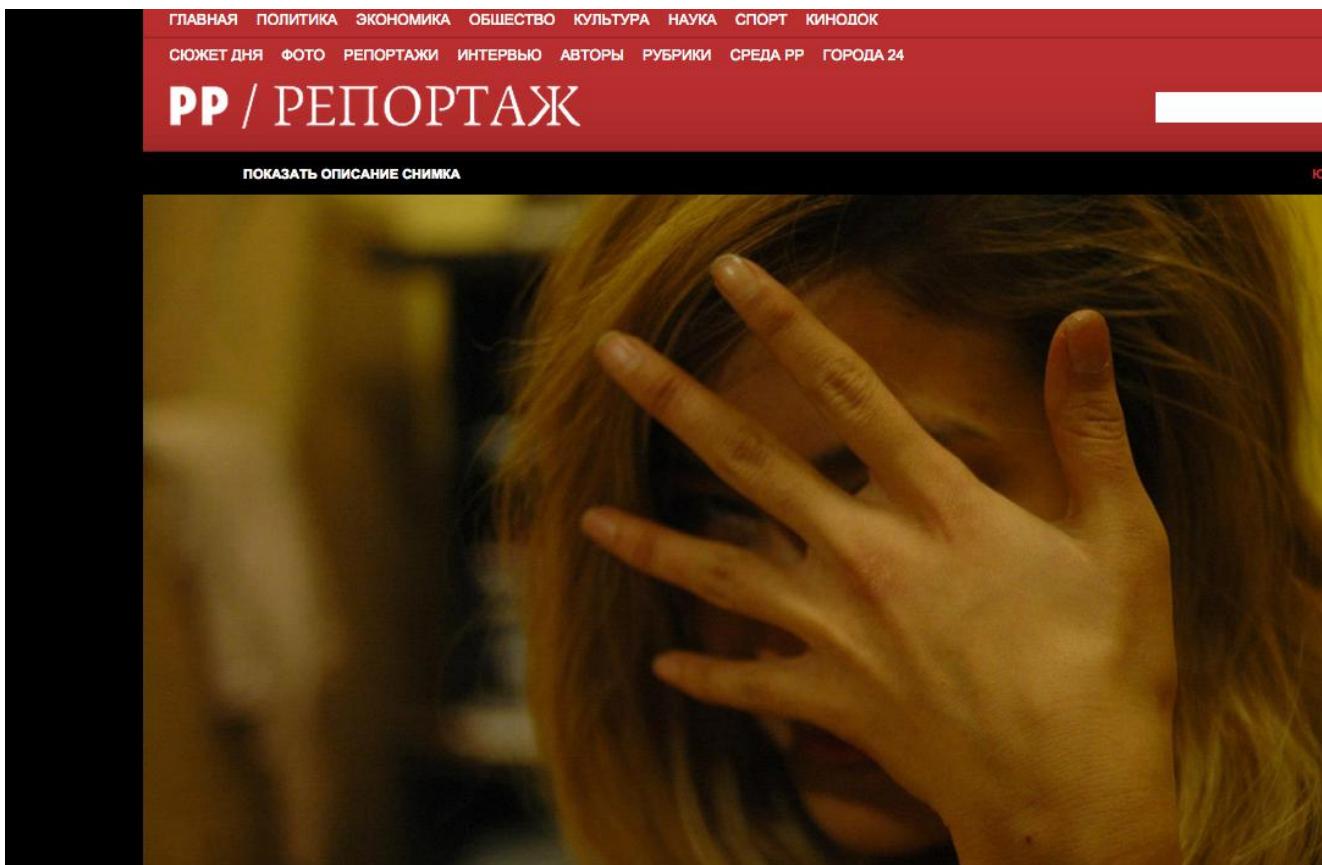
Fighting corruption in migration agencies

This project is run on presidential grants through the Civil Dignity Foundation. Our work included constant monitoring of legislative proposals relating to migration, and preparing appraisals of regulatory acts and projects. All told, we prepared 40 appraisals, with several notable examples published in the anthology "Reform of migration law in Russia: Dynamics and tendencies." Our appraisals were also submitted to governmental authorities, and as a result, in a series of cases, provisions that allowed opportunities for corruption were removed from draft bills; in one case, a bill was withdrawn from consideration by the State Duma.



Defence of women persecuted for “violating tradition”

We conceived this project to defend the rights of women in the republics of the North Caucasus — primarily Chechnya — where, in recent years, there has been an increase in so-called “honour killings.” Most of all, these women need to take shelter in safe spaces, where their persecutors cannot reach them.



As soon as we began work on this project, it became clear that Russian citizens in the Caucasus were not the only women in need of this protection: it was also indispensable to certain refugee women from a few Muslim countries. These women's persecutors are found not only in their home countries: in Russia, they are also under threat from compatriots in the diaspora.

This project provided support to five women in 2014: two Chechens (and the child of one of them), two Afghans (one with two children), and one Copt woman from Egypt. We have already been able to find long-term solutions to the safety of three of these women, while it is as yet unclear what we will be able to arrange for the other two.

The project is supported by the funds of the “Liberty. Equality. Fraternity.” prize awarded to the Civic Assistance Committee by the Human Rights Commission of the French Republic, as well as additional co-funding provided by Secours Catholique-Caritas France.

Informational work

In 2014, with funding from Amnesty International, the CAC had a new website built. We published 90 new articles on the site during the year, and toward the end of the year, about 300 people per day viewed the site. Our number of subscribers on social media increased: by the end of December, we had over 1800 subscribers on Facebook, 400 on Twitter, 300 on Vkontakte, and 60 on YouTube.

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Опубликовано: Елена Срапин · 1 ч. ·

Абсурдная история приключилась с нашим адвокатом Валерием Шухардиным - компания МТС заблокировала телефон юриста по требованию Тамбовского УФСИН. Сотрудницающий с «Гражданским

ПЕЧАТНИКОВ ОТМЕТИЛ, ЧТО ОРГКОМИТЕТ ДОЛЖЕН ПОЗАБОТИТЬСЯ, ПРЕЖДЕ ВСЕГО, О ЗДОРОВЬЕ ВЕТЕРАНОВ
НАДЕЖДА САВЧЕНКО ВСТРЕТИЛАСЬ С МАТЕРЬЮ

ДОМ LIVE
OPTIMISTIC CHANNEL

In 2014, we conducted the following press conferences:

20 May: "The Sochi Olympics—at any cost." At this press conference we presented a report the CAC co-authored with the Memorial Human Rights Centre about violations of the rights of labour migrants in Sochi in the lead-up to the 2014 Winter Olympics.



25 November: "Forced extradition of DPRK citizens must not be allowed. Stop the disgraceful accord between Russia and North Korea!"



11 December: Together with Memorial Human Rights Centre, we discussed "Collective punishment in the fight against armed insurgency in Chechnya." At this press conference, the report "Chechens in Russia" was once again made available to the Russian public after a long period out of print: it had regularly been printed until 2007.





Svetlana Gannushkina and other Committee staff gave several interviews and provided commentary: on television, to TV tsentr, Dozhd, Kanal 24, Online TV, and NewsTube.ru; on the radio, to Radio Svoboda, Nastoyaschee vremya, and Ekho Moskvy; to print journalists, from Kommersant, Moskovskiy komsomolets, Nezavisimaya gazeta, Novaya gazeta, Russkiy reportyor, and Politika i mir; and to online publications and news agencies: RIA Novosti, Interfax, TASS, Russkaya Planeta, RBK, pravda.ru—among other media outlets.

Information about the Committee's work was published on Svetlana Gannushkina's blog on grani.ru (which is blocked in Russia by government order), as well as the blog on snob.ru of Anastasiya Denisova, coordinator of our project in support of victims of hate crimes.

Эноб.



Поиск

Сообщество | События | Подписка | Журнал

Юлия Вишневецкая

Подписаться на участника
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«Все записи

Глазами мигранта

Здравствуйте, меня зовут фрау Вишневецкая, и я легальный мигрант. Полгода назад я, устав от московского стресса, переехала с тремя детьми в немецкий город Бонн, чтобы покинуть нормальной жизни иходить на нормальную работу с нормальной зарплатой. Я подумала, что будет неплохо, если дети проведут учебный год на берегу Рейна, познакомятся с

Смотрим.

МАЙ 2015

Пн	Вт	Ср	Чт	Пт	Сб	Вс
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Софийские проекты | Софийские участники | Присоединиться

Кино на «Снобе» в «Музоне»

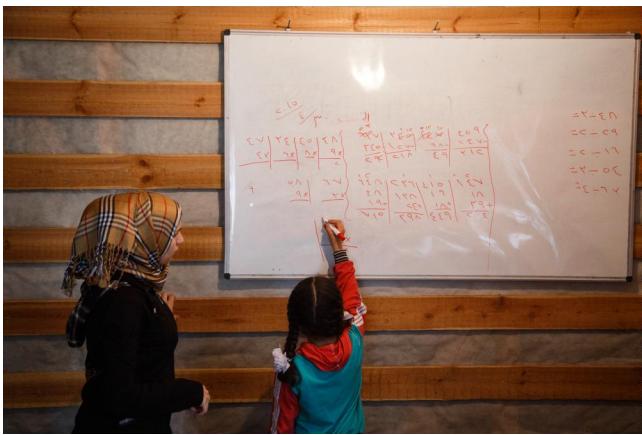
Adaptation and Education Centre for Refugee Children

Our active support of refugee children through the Centre continued in 2014. In 2014, 67 children came to the Centre, and were helped by 78 volunteers over the course of almost 6000 lessons. Most of our pupils are school-aged children who have difficulty accessing Russian public schools. They do not speak Russian well, and many have knowledge gaps from not having regularly attended school or from differences in programming.

The dramatic circumstances under which refugee families leave their homelands leave strong marks on kids' psyches. Public schools have no resources to provide additional support to these children, and the Centre works to help them adapt and grow. Volunteer teachers work on Russian and other school subjects with children at the Centre, with the help of supervisors by subject matter, who test the children, help volunteers establish lesson plans, and provide consultations as necessary.



In October 2014, a psychologist-pedagogue began work at the Centre, who performs cognitive-emotional examinations, and helps volunteers determine the most appropriate teaching practices. These examinations helped us see that most of the younger children who attend the Centre have delayed development of communication skills, likely a result of the isolation that characterises their life in Russia. We therefore decided to begin the "Long Day" program, during which about a dozen children per day have a 4-hour special lesson with our psychologist-pedagogue. The program has been very effective: children who have participated in these lessons have considerably increased their Russian language skills, and sped up the development of basic reading, writing, and numeracy.



Starting in September, children started coming to the Centre after not being allowed to enroll at school due to a Ministry of Education order. Volunteers educate these kids according to the regular curriculum—which allows young refugee children to quickly integrate if and when they are allowed to enroll in school. Before introducing a new child to the collective, we join them in introductory groups of two to four.

The Adaptation and Education Centre for Refugee Children works with the Committee Against Racism and Human Trafficking, thanks to whom a group of Congolese children were able to take daily two-hour French lessons. We supported—and continue to support—a volunteer-run school for Syrian refugee children in Noginsk, founded in 2014 with CAC support. Over 40 children attend the school who are deprived of access to the

regular school system. The Noginsk school was founded by the Syrian journalist Muiz Abu Aljadail—who was incidentally later refused an extension of his temporary asylum in Russia.

Time at the Centre is not all hard work, but also fun and games. In September we organised a celebration where our pupils were joined by members of the Young Critics Club of the Pushkin State Fine Art Museum, who led games, drew and made crafts with the children. At the end of October we celebrated Halloween with adventure games, and at New Year's we organised a colourful concert and games dedicated to worldwide traditions of ringing in the new year.

During the course of the year, we led excursions to the Darwin Museum, went to shows, and conducted education and career-guidance seminars. In 2014, Centre

staff and volunteers continued to organise charitable breakfasts to raise funds. During the course of the year, our breakfasts were joined by public figures: the poet, essayist, and editor of online publication Colta.ru, Mariya Stepanova; the authors of the “History Through the Eyes of a Crocodile” project, and other, no less interesting people.



Over the last years, we have taught Russian not just to children: thanks to volunteer teachers, we have been able to offer individual lessons to adult refugees as well. In 2014, 20 people attended such lessons. A new project, initiated in November 2014 with American support through the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), we were able to significantly expand our educational programming for adult refugees and other migrants.

Rights school for migrants



The project is aimed at facilitating refugee integration and raising their level of legal literacy. The main plank of the program is rights training. The first months of courses explored the topic of legalisation in Russia, which is particularly important for refugees and migrants. The programming includes Russian courses, as well as computer literacy training. The courses were offered to nine participants in the starting months in 2014, and we expect them to reach 54 people over the course of their first year.

Thank you to our supporters this year:



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2014 Annual Report

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