Human Rights and Conflict

The Role of NHRIs in Situations of Conflict and Post-Conflict
What are NHRIs?

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are state-mandated bodies, independent of government, who promote and protect human rights at the national level. They address the full range of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

NHRIs promote and protect human rights through: handling individual complaints and providing legal assistance; monitoring the human rights situation; advising governments, parliaments and other state bodies; reporting to international human rights mechanisms and promoting a culture of rights through training and awareness raising.

ENNHRI

ENNHRI, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, brings together 41 NHRIs across wider Europe. ENNHRI’s goal is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights across the European region. It carries this out through assisting in the establishment and accreditation of NHRIs; coordinating exchange of information and best practice between members; facilitating capacity building and training; engaging with regional mechanisms; and intervening on legal and policy developments at a European level.

The Project Advisory Group

The Project will be steered by an Advisory Group composed of ENNHRI members and key international stakeholders. The group ensures the strategic directions of the project, in line with ENNHRI members’ needs.
The Role of NHRIs in Situations of Conflict and Post-Conflict

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), given their broad mandate, can take a holistic approach towards addressing human rights violations in (post) conflict situations, by:

- Monitoring and documenting human rights abuses;
- Embedding human rights within conflict prevention, resolution processes as well as reconstruction initiatives;
- Providing a platform for dialogue in (post) conflict polarized societies;
- Promoting a culture of rights and supporting individuals, human rights defenders and civil society organizations to enhance the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- Acting as bridge between international/regional and national actors;
- Delivering public statements and reports, in cooperation with media, to address urgent human rights violations;
- Using research to highlight and address human rights concerns.
About the project

Between April 2017 and March 2020 ENNHRI is conducting a 3-year EU funded Project to enhance the effectiveness of NHRIs to promote and protect human rights in situations of conflict and post-conflict in wider Europe.

We aim to do so by:

- **Raising awareness on the role of European NHRIs to promote and protect human rights in (post) conflict and building NHRIs capacities to function effectively in these difficult situations.**

  We will produce, and widely disseminate, a Guidance on the role of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict. We will also organise four workshops with the aim to strengthen the capacities of the NHRIs on specific human rights and conflict related issues.

- **Enhancing solidarity, cooperation and communication between European NHRIs.**

  We will facilitate contacts between NHRIs from states involved in (post) conflict. This will be achieved by providing a safe and neutral space for dialogue; by supporting and providing guidance and by further developing and putting into practice ENNHRI’s policy on support for NHRI under threat.

- **Supporting European NHRIs’ sustained engagement with national and international actors, and with the civil society in the affected regions.**

  This will help to address the human rights challenges specific to the region and will allow for a coherent approach and targeted strategies on human rights concerns to be developed with the involvement of relevant NHRIs and national stakeholders.

- **Strengthening the capacity of the network in order to be able to provide adequate support to the European NHRIs in a sustainable manner.**

  We will increase ENNHRI’s understanding of the particular needs and demands of NHRIs by, among others, organising exchange visits between ENNHRI Secretariat and its members and enhancing institutional sustainability.
Human Rights and Conflict
Project Objectives

1. Build capacity of NHRIs and raise awareness on their role in (post) conflict.
2. Strengthen the capacity of ENNHRI, the European Network of NHRIs.
3. Strengthen NHRIs engagement with national, regional and international actors.
4. Enhance solidarity and cooperation between NHRIs.
5. Strengthen the capacity of ENNHRI, the European Network of NHRIs.
Would you like to know more about our project?

Get in touch!