

Capacity Building Workshop for ENNHRI members

The Role of NHRIs in the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Situations of (Post) Conflict

Date: 23-25 April 2018

Location: Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Kyiv, Ukraine

Objectives:

- Strengthen NHRIs capacities to promote and protect human rights of IDPs, building upon NHRIs' unique mandate and functions, with the focus on monitoring; including their role in (post) conflict situations;
- Learn from peer NHRIs from the region and beyond and exchange good practices on human rights promotion and protection of IDPs in (post) conflict;
- Engage with international/regional stakeholders and peer NHRIs to jointly identify future actions in the area of human rights protection of IDPs in (post) conflict situations.

Background

The National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play an important bridging role between international stakeholders, national authorities, civil society and population effected by internal displacement.

The NHRIs' broad mandate equipped them with a set of instruments to ensure an effective promotion and protection of IDPs rights. In the context, NHRIs can *monitor* the situation and returns of IDPs; *report* on their human rights violations, including discrimination; *investigate* individual complaints and *conduct inquiries* into serious violations if IDPs' human rights. Additionally, NHRIs work with legislative bodies to develop national laws or policies; and conduct campaign to raise public awareness on the situations of IDPs at national and international level.

Given the diversity of (post) conflict situations in Europe, ENNHRI members report different levels of experience working on protection and promotion of rights of IDPs.¹ However, the common challenges identified are related to the lack of NHRIs' capacities, resources and experience; and support from national authorities when dealing with human rights protection of IDPs. Various security risks or physical difficulties reaching out to groups of IDPs often prevent NHRIs to effectively monitor the IDPs' situation and return. Moreover, ENNHRI members highlighted an overall lack of IDPs' access to fundamental human rights, in particular to the right to be protected from physical violence and the right to assistance from competent authorities in voluntary, dignified and safe return; resettlement or community integration; and the right to social security.

¹ ENNHRI members needs and challenges defined based on the results of broad needs assessment of ENNHRI members operating in (post) conflict, which included an Initial Project Survey (August 2016; 17 respondents), and a Follow-up Needs Assessment Survey on capacity-building and engagement (November 2017; 15 respondents).



Approach

The two-and-a-half-day tailored Capacity Building Workshop will be delivered by qualified trainers/experts with deep understanding of and extensive experience in human rights of IDPs and NHRIs' work in (post) conflict situations. Good practices and experience of NHRIs from other regions will be shared with participants. Exchanges with relevant stakeholders (e.g. UN, EU, CoE and others) will be ensured via panel discussions and small group sessions. A visit to the host institution may also be included in the programme.

The Workshop will address all the above-mentioned NHRIs' challenges and human rights issues of IDPs from the perspective of NHRIs' functions and methodology, with the focus on monitoring. Participants will have the possibility to engage in analysis of concrete case studies focusing on specific situation of IDPs in (post) conflict and human rights violations they face. The gender and SDGs aspects will be mainstreaming throughout the Workshop.

The strong engagement and networking component of the Workshop will be reflected in a broad participation of international stakeholders. This will encourage European NHRIs to discuss their challenges and potential needs of support and define possible future cooperation within and beyond the Project.

Further Information

The Workshop Agenda will be available in the up-coming weeks. For additional information requests and/or need for clarifications regarding this Workshop, please don't hesitate to contact ENNHRI Secretariat: [Valentina Purcel](#) and [Nina Panikova](#).

ENNHRI's "Human Rights and Conflict 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.

The Project intends to build the capacities of ENNHRI members operating in (post) conflict context and strengthen the engagement of European NHRIs with national, regional and international actors. Furthermore, the Project aims to boost solidarity and cooperation between NHRIs with an extensive experience working in conflict environments and those facing rather recent challenges, including NHRIs that found themselves on the opposite sides of the conflict.

Throughout its life-cycle, various project activities, including the Capacity Building Workshops, will inform the work on the "Guidance on the Role of NHRIs in situations of (post) conflict" that will represent one of the main outcomes of the Project.

Further information on the Project can be consulted on the Project Micro-site: <http://ennhri.org/-Human-Rights-and-Conflicts->