**Project summary**

**Support Human Rights Defenders in post-Soviet Countries**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Funder | Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Human Rights Fund) |
| Time period | Overall project: 48 months, 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017Project component in Georgia: 24 months, 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2017 |
| Lead organisations | Netherlands Helsinki Committee (The Hague)Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw) |
| Target groups | Human rights defenders in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the disputed/ breakaway regions in the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe |
| Project objectives | To strategically strengthen outreach and advocacy by, and provide practical, moral and legal support to, human rights defenders under threat of pressure and repression |
| Outcomes | 1. Public support for the defence of human rights by independent NGOs has increased
2. Civil society actively and effectively advocate for more freedom to operate, using an increasing diversity of methods and strategies
3. Human rights defenders take increasingly effective steps in legal and physical protection in their work
 |
| Main activities general  | * Strategy sessions on communication and advocacy
* Monitoring and reporting on situation of human rights defenders and NGOs
* Conducting campaigns and/or outreach activities that promote human rights, directed at general public
* Advocacy activities towards IGOs, national authorities and non-traditional targets
* Providing legal support and monitoring of trials
* Emergency solidarity actions
 |
| Specification of activities in Georgia’s breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia | * Communication strategy development and implementation by the local partners;
* Mini-campaign promoting values of human rights and tolerance, targeting youth in Abkhazia;
* Publication of a free monthly newspaper in South Ossetia “Third Sector: Human Rights – Human Dignity”;
* Quarterly meetings of NGO representatives from across Abkhazia to review needs and discuss local human rights advocacy;
* Advocacy capacity-building and knowledge-exchange seminars, with participation of organisations from Sokhumi, Tskhinvali and Tbilisi, as well as regional and international experts;
* Free consultations and support for 200 representatives of vulnerable groups by the local implementing NGO, including for activists in Abkhazia;
* 4-month trainings in human rights for 60 law students in South Ossetia in 2016, with potential provision of consultations for vulnerable groups in 2017, depending on the context dynamics;
* Digital and physical security support/ capacity-building for partners and local activists as needed.
 |