

# **NHRI-CSO collaboration: Ukrainian experience**



11th World Conference - Exercising voting rights at General Assembly Meeting  
November, 15-19, Bangkok

**In 1994 at the Budapest Summit, the OSCE participating States committed to move “Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era” recognizing partnership with CSOs as the fundamental issue in promoting human rights and strengthening rule of Law**

**Now there is not a single State, not a single institution which doesn't recognize partnership with CSOs as the fundamental issue in promoting human rights and strengthening rule of Law.**



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**“In view of the fundamental role played by the non-governmental organizations in expanding the work of the national institutions, develop relations with the non-governmental organizations devoted to promoting and protecting human rights, to economic and social development, to combating racism, to protecting particularly vulnerable groups (especially children, migrant workers, refugees, physically and mentally disabled persons) or to specialized areas”.**

**Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions  
(The Paris Principles) adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134  
of 20 December 1993**



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## Open crowd-sourcing:

**To become a “CSO-friendly” Office we decided to set our structure, priorities, principles, mechanisms and policies according to recommendations of human rights CSOs.**



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**The model of activity of our Office is the model  
“Ombudsman plus” –**

**Ombudsman plus CSOs’ representatives**



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**All the Representatives of the Ombudsperson upon concrete directions have relevant Expert Councils functioning under them on a voluntary basis and consisting of the prominent and professional experts representing CSOs which specialize in the relevant sphere of advocacy.**



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## **The Consultative Board to the Ombudsperson:**

**The biggest step towards effective, open and transparent cooperation with human rights defenders and CSOs was the decision to create a “civic parliament of Commissioner”- the Consultative Board to the Ombudsperson**



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**To ensure transparency of the Office back in 2012 we decided to establish a mechanism of independent external public monitoring of the activity of the Ombudsperson and the Office.**

**Thus we became the first state institution which decided to open its doors for public inspection.**



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Public Principles of Cooperation with CSOs approved by the Advisory Council. The main spheres of cooperation are:

- \* **Prevention of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;**
- \* **Promotion of bringing the legislation of Ukraine in compliance with international standards in the human rights sphere;**
- \* **Renewal of violated human rights and fundamental freedoms;**
- \* **Legal awareness raising activity.**



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**To ensure cooperation of the Commissioner with citizens and representatives of CSOs at regional level the network of Regional coordinators for public relations from the number of local community activists has been created**



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**During dramatic events that took place in Ukraine November 2013 – February 2014 strong and equal trust to our Institution from both sides – civil society and the Government (as it is foreseen by the Paris Principles) made it possible for our Office to act as a mediator to minimize the level of aggression and defend protestors.**



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In 2014 a special mechanism for joint with CSOs proceedings was established. It foresees cooperation with the public in the areas of:

- \* **identification of systematic violations of human rights;**
- \* **collecting of evidences of human rights violations;**
- \* **generalization and preparation of opinions and control over implementation of Commissioner's acts of reacting within the legislation.**



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In partnership with SCOs we established the Resource center for those who live in temporarily occupied and dangerous territories, and also IDPs.

It consists of three main components:

- \* **the block of legal regulations and advocacy;**
- \* **the humanitarian block;**
- \* **the block of assistance to victims of prosecutions.**



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# Cooperation with NGOs is the best way to manage threats and challenges:

- \* violation of “The Paris Principles”, adopted by the General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993;
- \* intervening in the activity of the Ombudsman by state organs or politicians;
- \* applying outright political pressure on the National human rights institutions;
- \* applying financial pressure on the National human rights institutions;
- \* prosecution of the NHRIs for their position;
- \* allegations in “selectivity” or “hidden agenda” while performing monitoring visits and revisions.



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**Formula of effectiveness and efficiency:  
“Stronger together in friendship and  
solidarity”**



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