

**Meeting on  
The Role of NHRIs in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of  
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in (Post) Conflict Situations**

**Concept Note**

**Date:** 26-27 April 2018

**Location:** Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Kyiv, Ukraine (21/8, Instytutska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine)

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Explore the role of NHRIs to promote and protect the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in (post) conflict situations;
- Foster dialogue between European NHRIs and key national, regional and international actors and build awareness on the role of NHRIs in this area; and
- Identify joint actions and means of cooperation to ensure an effective contribution of NHRIs to the promotion and protection of IDPs rights in (post) conflict situations.

**Context:**

Over the last decade, conflicts and related violence in the wider Europe have led to large-scale internal displacement, often involving massive human rights violations. In some European countries, recent outbursts of violence have caused such displacement and major human rights and humanitarian concerns; while in others, IDPs keep facing protracted internal displacement for years or even decades, with serious limitations to enjoy the full scope of their human rights.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play a key role in promoting and protecting the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in times of (post) conflict. Given their unique mandate, NHRIs monitor directly the IDPs human rights situation and constantly engage with national authorities and other relevant actors on states' duties towards IDPs. NHRIs also report to regional and international stakeholders, and thus bridge international standards within their national frameworks. Accordingly, NHRIs address IDPs' human rights violations, contribute to the prevention of new conflict(s) and/or conflict(s) escalation, and promote an IDP-sensitive approach in reconstruction initiatives and peace processes.

However, the role of NHRIs to promote and protect the human rights of IDPs can only be effective when supported by a sufficient level of responsiveness from state authorities and other actors, in addition to adequate funding and capacity for the NHRI to carry out its mandate. These preconditions are often challenged by the difficult environments surrounding NHRIs operating in (post) conflict. In particular, challenges reported by European NHRIs in this area often include lack of capacity, resources and awareness from state authorities to support IDP-sensitive measures or change in legislation.

This event is organised within ENNHRI's Human Rights and Conflict Project, implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of the event are the sole responsibility of ENNHRI and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union



Following the 2015 Kyiv Meeting on the Role of NHRIs in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations, ENNHRI members have called for further actions to explore in depth their role towards IDPs' rights in (post) conflict situations, with a strong emphasis on engagement with national authorities, civil society, and regional and international stakeholders.

**Approach:**

This Meeting will facilitate a discussion forum between European NHRIs and key national, regional and international stakeholders, to jointly reinforce the role of NHRIs in the promotion and protection of IDPs' human rights in (post) conflict situations. Key invitees from state institutions, civil society, and regional and international stakeholders will actively engage in the discussions, including the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

Participant will reflect on the unique mandate of NHRIs in this area, including in supporting the national implementation of international standards such as the United Nations [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), celebrating this year their [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) (GP20).

With the aim of building synergies and continuity in the discussion, the Meeting is organised back to back with ENNHRI's Capacity-Building Workshop on the same topic, taking place during 23-25 April 2018 in Kyiv. Furthermore, the Workshop key conclusions and recommendations will be presented during the Meeting to explore together with stakeholders the important role of NHRIs to promote and protect IDPs' human rights in (post) conflict situations.

The Meeting will last one day and a half and will include panels, small group discussions, questions and answer sessions, to capture the full scope of the issue. The Meeting will also include the possibility for European NHRIs and stakeholders to adopt jointly a Statement on the Role of NHRIs in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of IDPs.

**Further information:**

For further information and/or any questions regarding this Meeting, please contact: Valentina Purcel at [Valentina.Purcel@ennhri.org](mailto:Valentina.Purcel@ennhri.org) and Zoe Vautard at [Zoe.Vautard@ennhri.org](mailto:Zoe.Vautard@ennhri.org).

**ENNHRI and NHRIs**

The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) brings together 42 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across the wider Europe. ENNHRI mission is to support, strengthen and connect NHRIs to promote and protect human rights across the wider Europe, in line with the Paris Principles. NHRIs are independent state bodies, with a broad mandate to promote and protect human rights. They are trusted actors within the human rights framework, at local, national and international levels, given their regular accreditation by reference to the UN Paris Principles to ensure their independence, pluralism, accountability and effectiveness.