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The content of this publication is the responsibility of the Macedonian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and it does not reflect the views of Civica Mobilitas, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC or implementing organisations.

## MISSION AND VISION

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia is a civic association registered in 1994. The bodies governing the Helsinki Committee are:

- ▶ the Assembly,
- ▶ the Executive Board,
- ▶ the President,
- ▶ the Supervisory Board and
- ▶ the Executive Office.

The Committee monitors the situation with human rights, provides legal assistance, co-operates with other organizations and state bodies for the purpose of improving the promotion, respect and protection of human rights and freedoms.

The Committee's goal is protection and promotion of the human rights and freedoms guaranteed with the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the international instruments and the Helsinki Final Act from 1975, as well as building democratic conditions in which they can be exercised based on the rule of law.

The Committee sets off from the premise that all people should have the possibility to enjoy and practice their basic rights and freedoms and should be able to protect them in case of violation or limitation. This is the basis of the rule of law, human rights and democracy.

## ACTIVITIES

In its persistent efforts to promote and protect human rights and harmonize the domestic legislation and practice with that of the European Union, the Helsinki Committee:

- ▶ Organizes systemic monitoring of the situation of human rights in the country;
- ▶ Provides free legal assistance and protects the individual, collective and rights of other legal entities on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and before international organizations;
- ▶ Prepares monthly, annual and special reports on the situation of human rights;
- ▶ Prepares analyses and other specific documents related to the situation of human rights;
- ▶ Organizes conferences, seminars, panels, public actions and other legal forms of civic engagement;
- ▶ Promotes and aids the development of democracy, rule of law and civic society; and
- ▶ Performs other activities of public interest pursuant to the Law on Citizens' Associations.

## FREE LEGAL AID

The Helsinki Committee provides legal assistance in the following areas:

- ☑ Protection against discrimination
- ☑ Right to life
- ☑ Protection against torture and ill-treatment
- ☑ Protection against unlawful deprivation of liberty
- ☑ Rights to social protection
- ☑ Rights of people with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disabilities
- ☑ Equality between men and women
- ☑ Right to religion
- ☑ Freedom of speech and information
- ☑ Protection of personal data and privacy
- ☑ Freedom of association and protest
- ☑ Freedom of movement
- ☑ Right to healthcare
- ☑ Rights of children and youth
- ☑ Right to education
- ☑ Rights of members of communities
- ☑ Protection against domestic violence
- ☑ Right to fair trial within a reasonable time
- ☑ Right to asylum
- ☑ Election-related rights

The Helsinki Committee does not provide legal aid in the following areas:

- ☒ Right to property (unless it is violated by the state)
- ☒ Right to employment and work (except in cases of discrimination or mobbing)
- ☒ Financial liabilities (with the exception of obvious irregularities or violation of social protection)
- ☒ Protection of families (except in cases of domestic violence and violation of the rights of the child)
- ☒ Contractual relations between physical persons and legal entities (except in cases of violation of rights by the state)
- ☒ Copyrights and industrial property
- ☒ Insolvency proceedings
- ☒ Pension and disability insurance (except in cases of violation of rights by the state)
- ☒ Misdemeanors (except in cases of violation of rights by the state)
- ☒ Rights and obligations of political parties
- ☒ Rights and obligations in foreign countries
- ☒ Rights of the LGBTI community

## HOW TO GET FREE ASSISTANCE?

The Helsinki Committee is an association authorized to provide legal assistance, entered in the State Register of Preliminary Legal Aid.

In case you are in need of legal counsel, you can call the free telephone line

**0800 44 222**

In case you need free legal assistance after the talk, you can download and fill in the Request for Free Legal Assistance through our website – [www.mhc.org.mk](http://www.mhc.org.mk), or in our office. Please attach copies of all the documents related to your case along with the request. In case you are not able to make photocopies, we can do it in our office.

After sending the request by post, or via e-mail, or submitting it in our office, you will be assigned a legal advisor to work on your case. Depending on the case, and with your consent, the Helsinki Committee may provide counseling, support and representation before the state bodies and inform the public about severe violations of the rights.



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## VISION AND MISSION

The LGBTI Support Center was founded on 22 October, 2012, as a subsidiary of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

The LGBTI Center's vision is a society free of discrimination, where all the people enjoy the universal human rights and freedoms regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic.

The mission of the LGBTI Support Center is strengthening the LGBTI community's capacity for self-representation, as well as changing the legal and social status of the LGBTI people in the Republic of Macedonia.

The values of the LGBTI Support Center are based on diversity, equality and freedom. The cornerstone of our activity embeds the values of universality, solidarity and peace.

## WHY DOES THE LGBTI CENTER EXIST

- To support LGBTI people
- To strengthen the LGBTI community
- To eradicate the stereotypes and prejudice in society  
Promotion, protection and respect for the rights of LGBTI people
- To change the social and legal status of LGBTI people in Macedonia
- To increase the visibility of the LGBTI community
- To sensitize the competent institutions and the general public
- To provide resistance to the patriarchal and heteronormative concepts
- To strengthen the LGBTI population's capacity for self-representation
- To monitor the existing legislation, its implementation and practice.
- To build organizational networks, informal groups and activists on a national and international level

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LGBTI CENTER

- ☑ Free legal assistance
- ☑ Psycho-social support of LGBTI people
- ☑ Monitoring, reporting, advocacy and lobbying before national and international institutions
- ☑ Organizing support groups
- ☑ Organizing social activities
- ☑ Providing accommodation to LGBTI people, victims of violence and discrimination
- ☑ Organizing trainings, debates and seminars

## WHERE TO GO FOR HELP?

At the office of the LGBTI Center/Helsinki Committee for Human Rights,

Or dial the free telephone line:

**0800 666 66**