

COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

DUNJA MIJATOVIĆ

3RD QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

1 July to 30 September

Presented to the Committee of Ministers
and the Parliamentary Assembly

This report contains a summary of the activities carried out by the Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, between 1 July and 30 September 2022.

1. Visits and Missions

Mission to Srebrenica

On 10-11 July, the Commissioner conducted a mission to Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to take part in the commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and in several other events organised in this context. On 10 July, she [participated](#) in the inauguration of the 'Mother's Scarf' art installation initiated by the Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa enclave, as part of the [Srebrenica Heroines Initiative](#), and issued a [statement](#) on the significance of the mothers' scarves and shawls as symbols of their relentless battle for truth and justice carried out for the last 27 years. She underscored that the instances of hate speech, genocide denial and glorification of war criminals which had regrettably intensified ahead of the event should be met with condemnation. She also met with mothers from the association and participated in a panel of the Srebrenica Heroines International [Conference](#) on memorialisation and the role of mothers to achieve truth, justice and reconciliation.

On the occasion of the commemoration on 11 July, the Commissioner [underlined](#) the importance of remembering and countering genocide denial for reconciliation and for allowing young generations to live peacefully.

2. Reports and continuous dialogue

Memorandum on Ukraine

On 8 July the Commissioner published a [memorandum](#) on the human rights consequences of the war in Ukraine. The memorandum drew especially on the Commissioner's visit to Ukraine from 2 to 7 May which included a field visit to areas in the Kyiv region among the most affected by hostilities. It aimed to address some of the humanitarian and human rights consequences of the war and to highlight issues which required urgent action.

In the memorandum, the Commissioner observed that the Russian Federation's attack against Ukraine had resulted in serious and massive violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, with disastrous effects on the enjoyment of virtually all human rights by people in Ukraine. The Commissioner was confronted with compelling evidence of patterns of violations attributable to Russian and Russian-controlled troops. These included violations of the right to life, including arbitrary killings and enforced disappearances; violations of the right to property, including massive destruction of civilian infrastructure; cases of torture and ill-treatment; gender-based violence and war-related sexual violence; and violations of the right to liberty and security, including abductions and arbitrary or incommunicado detention. Identifiable patterns of certain types of violations, including attacks of a widespread or systematic character, pointed to the possible qualification of many such violations as war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The Commissioner's memorandum further called for the prompt investigation of the reported widespread practice of forcible transfer of Ukrainian citizens to non-government-controlled areas of Ukraine or to the territory of the Russian Federation. Stressing that all humanitarian evacuations should be voluntary, safe, and informed, the Commissioner called on members of the international community to support any efforts which may facilitate the return of Ukrainian citizens who have been transferred to the Russian Federation against their will.

Noting numerous reports of war-related sexual violence allegedly committed by Russian troops, the Commissioner observed that while all such allegations should be duly investigated, priority should be given to the creation of safe conditions for survivors, ensuring their effective access to redress and justice, and the protection of their dignity and well-being.

The memorandum also focused on the situation of several categories of vulnerable persons who in the Commissioner's view required special and urgent attention, including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons internally and externally displaced by the war, and journalists and media workers covering the war.

The Commissioner reiterated her call for respect of human rights and international humanitarian law and stressed the obligation to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law. She welcomed the actions taken by the Ukrainian authorities in advancing accountability and encouraged them to continue to align the country's legal framework with the relevant international standards. Stressing the importance of effective coordination in the field of justice among domestic and international accountability mechanisms and actors and the need to prioritise the interests of victims and their families, she called for cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the continued provision of long-term support to the Ukrainian justice system.

The memorandum is available on the Commissioner's website.

Letter to the Minister of Interior of Spain on the deaths of migrants at Melilla's border

On 13 July, the Commissioner published her [letter](#) to the Minister of the Interior of Spain, Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez, urging the authorities to conduct an independent, full and effective investigation into the events leading to the deaths of at least 23 migrants who attempted to cross the fence between Nador, in Morocco, and Melilla on 24 June. Stressing that border control measures, including in co-operation with other states, must not directly or indirectly contribute to human rights violations, the Commissioner requested information concerning the steps the Spanish government intends to take to ensure that co-operation in the field of migration prioritises human rights in full compliance with Spain's international obligations.

The letter is available on the Commissioner's website along with the reply of the Minister of Interior of Spain.

Report on Georgia

On 15 July, the Commissioner published the [report](#) following her visit to Georgia in February 2022, with recommendations on combating discrimination against LGBTI people and persons belonging to religious minorities, as well as protecting human rights in the fields of labour and the environment.

To ensure that LGBTI people and persons belonging to religious minorities live free from violence and discrimination, the Commissioner called on the authorities to address the inadequate implementation of legal standards and the persistent deficiencies in combating impunity for hate crimes and incitement to violence.

Noting the pervasive discrimination against LGBTI people in Georgia, she called on the authorities to step up efforts to combat impunity for human rights violations against them, to increase awareness and train relevant categories of professionals on the importance of their role in promoting equality, dignity and non-discrimination. Hate speech against LGBTI people in the public sphere should be addressed through law enforcement and other mechanisms, such as prevention, monitoring, self-regulation and counter-speech. In light of repeated occurrences of LGBTI people having been denied their right to peaceful assembly, the Commissioner called for measures to enable them to freely express their views and assemble. Regarding transgender people, the authorities should facilitate legal gender recognition without invasive medical requirements and in a quick, transparent, and accessible manner.

As regards religious minorities, the authorities should ensure effective investigation, prosecution, and dissuasive and proportionate sanctioning for hate crimes committed on the grounds of religion and remove discriminatory barriers in accessing places of worship and in regulating tax and religious property matters. The authorities should also foster meaningful partnerships and open dialogue with religious denominations and pursue their efforts to eliminate religious biases and stereotyping from school textbooks.

The Commissioner welcomed the recently implemented legal and institutional labour reforms and urged the authorities to close the remaining legislative gaps by establishing a minimum wage compliant with international standards, ensuring equal access to parental leave, and developing clear guidelines on the duration and compensation for overtime work. In addition, the authorities should further improve occupational safety at the workplace; promote diversity and equality at work, including with regard to the integration of persons with disabilities; address the gender pay gap and gender stereotypes in employment; raise awareness about sexual harassment, ways to report it and available remedies; and take resolute action to address child labour and prevent and combat child trafficking.

As regards human rights and the environment, the Commissioner called on the authorities to strengthen the implementation of the existing national legal framework; guarantee public access to information and meaningful and transparent public participation in environmental decision-making processes at various levels of government; and improve air quality and the tracking of air pollution. Preventive measures should be in place to reduce the risk of environmental disasters and the rights of people displaced by disasters or owing to climate change should be fully protected.

The report is available on the Commissioner's website, along with the comments of the Georgian authorities.

Letter to the Minister of Interior of Finland on amendments to the Border Guard Act

On 8 August, the Commissioner published a [letter](#) to the Minister of Interior of Finland, Krista Mikkonen, concerning amendments to the Border Guard Act, which give the government the power to restrict access to the border and concentrate asylum applications at one or more border crossings in specific situations. This could deprive individuals of the effective possibility to claim international

protection. She therefore called for safeguards to be put in place to ensure that the amendments do not lead to human rights violations. She also stressed the importance of examining each case individually as a key safeguard to protect human rights at borders. The Commissioner also referred to the proposal to amend the Aliens Act to allow for border procedures. She noted that this should not deprive asylum seekers of a thorough examination of their applications and recommended that vulnerable people be excluded from such procedures.

The letter is available on the Commissioner's website along with the reply of the Minister of Interior of Finland.

Letter to the Minister of Interior of Latvia on the situation at the border with Belarus

On 9 August, the Commissioner published a [letter](#) she wrote to the Latvian Minister of Interior, Kristaps Eklons, expressing concern about reports of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants having been violently prevented from entering Latvia from Belarus, held in inhumane conditions in the forest, denied access to the asylum procedure, and forced into signing voluntary return declarations. She urged the Latvian authorities to ensure that an independent and thorough investigation be conducted resulting in full accountability for any abuses that might have occurred. She also called on the authorities to guarantee full access to the border area by representatives of civil society, relevant international organisations, and the media to ensure that adequate humanitarian assistance and legal aid can be provided to all people in need, underlining that Latvia remained bound to protect its borders in a fully human rights compliant manner, despite the significant challenges it faced in relation to irregular border crossings.

The letter is available on the Commissioner's website along with the reply from the Minister of Interior of Latvia.

Letter to the Minister of Migration of the Netherlands on reception conditions for asylum seekers

On 2 September, the Commissioner published her [letter](#) to the Dutch Minister for Migration, Eric van der Burg, about asylum reception conditions in the Netherlands. The Commissioner's letter followed a further worsening of the situation, especially at the Ter Apel registration centre. The conditions appeared to fall short of even the minimum standards under Article 3 of the ECHR. The Commissioner urged the government to take all necessary measures to effectively protect the right to health of those involved, to promptly identify vulnerable people and provide them with appropriate accommodation. The Commissioner further stressed that any steps to address the current situation should be fully in line with the Netherlands' international obligations. She also encouraged the authorities to work towards a more sustainable system of reception that is responsive to fluctuations in arrivals, ensures safe and dignified conditions for all, and can rely on the widest possible support in society.

The letter is available on the Commissioner's website along with the reply of the Minister for Migration of the Netherlands.

3. Themes

Human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants

During this reporting period, the Commissioner made several interventions in relation to the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including letters sent to the Ministers of Interior of Finland, Latvia, the Netherlands and Spain on different aspects of these rights (see *Reports and continuous dialogue*, above). She made a submission to the Committee of Ministers in relation to the execution of judgments in a case concerning the expulsion of asylum seekers and migrants by Hungary (see *System of the European Convention on Human Rights*, below) and issued a statement in view of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (see *Themes, Trafficking in human beings*, below).

In addition, on 29 September, the Commissioner published a [Human Rights Comment](#) on the plight of migrants going missing. The Commissioner observed that the phenomenon has reached a dreadful magnitude. Disappearances are recorded along migration routes on land and at sea, as well as within member states. A significant number of migrants, and especially unaccompanied children, go missing after their arrival in Europe. The Commissioner noted that disappearances must first and foremost be prevented. She therefore called on member states to put in place safe and legal routes, and to ensure adequate humanitarian assistance along migration routes, and search and rescue at sea. She also recommended that border management policies be subject to periodic human rights review. The Commissioner stressed the importance of upholding the right of the relatives of those missing to know the truth. To this end, she urged member states to step up their efforts to establish effective search mechanisms and identify the deceased. The Commissioner also encouraged member states to adopt a systematic approach to the collection of data concerning migrants' disappearances, including through the establishment of a dedicated European Network. To achieve this, close cooperation with civil society and organisations that are at the forefront of the search for missing migrants remains crucial.

Safety of journalists, freedom of expression and media freedom

On 15 July, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the murder of Dutch journalist Peter R. de Vries, the Commissioner [noted](#) the encouraging developments in the prosecution of those allegedly responsible for his murder and underscored the duty of member states to end impunity for crimes against journalists.

On 13 September, the Commissioner issued a [statement](#) in relation to the arrests of human rights lawyer Elchin Sadykov and independent journalist Avaz Zeynalli in Azerbaijan. Noting that the overnight trial ordering their detention in remand raised serious questions of compatibility with European human rights standards, she stressed that their arrests further aggravated the chilling effect on human rights lawyers and defenders and on freedom of expression, including media freedom, an issue of long-standing concern in the country. The Commissioner called on the authorities to release them immediately and fully ensure respect for their rights and liberties.

Freedom of assembly and association

On 13 September, the Commissioner delivered an opening speech at an [International Roundtable on the empowerment and accountability of civil society in Europe](#), co-organised by the Venice

Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR under the auspices of the Irish Presidency of the Council of Europe. She mentioned a number of challenges in this area, including the misuse of transparency requirements by certain governments and the lack of clear distinctions between political activities, lobbying carried out by for-profit private groups and advocacy by civil society actors. She recommended conducting impact assessments of regulatory initiatives affecting civil society organisations and repealing any legislation hindering the rights of human rights defenders and encouraged participants to contribute to further developing international guidelines in this area.

Women's rights and gender equality

On 18 July, the Commissioner [welcomed](#) the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Ukraine and, on 22 July, she [welcomed](#) the Convention's ratification by the United Kingdom, which became the 37th state party to this landmark instrument to combat violence against women.

On 26 September, on the occasion of World Contraception Day, the Commissioner [called](#) on member states to guarantee effective access to modern contraception, including their availability and affordability, as this is critical to safeguard sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On 28 September, on the occasion of International Safe Abortion Day, the Commissioner [called](#) on all member states to continue the progress achieved so far in ensuring women and girls' access to safe and legal abortion care. She stressed that any roll back of protections in this field is at variance with member states' obligation to fully guarantee this human right. The Commissioner pointed out that human rights defenders working to uphold women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to abortion care, must be recognised and not be subjected to administrative or judicial harassment for safeguarding human rights.

Children's rights

On 19 and 20 September, the Office of the Commissioner participated in the [Annual Conference of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children](#) in Reykjavik which focused on children's rights and climate justice. ENOC members, experts, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations and young advisors exchanged experiences of promising and problematic practices and discussed ways to improve the realisation of children's rights in the context of climate change.

Human rights of LGBTI people

The rights of LGBTI people were one of the topics covered by the Commissioner's report on her country visit to Georgia (see *Reports and continuous dialogue*, above). In addition, on 22 July, the Commissioner [welcomed](#) the law adopted by Greece banning non-urgent or medically necessary surgeries on intersex children under the age of fifteen. Noting that Greece became the fifth Council of Europe member state to take this important step to protect intersex children, the Commissioner encouraged other states to follow suit.

On 25 July, reacting to an attack against the LGBTI drop-in centre in Podgorica, Montenegro, the Commissioner stressed that this showed that more needed to be done to combat hate and prejudice against LGBTI people. She welcomed the condemnations expressed by political leaders and encouraged a swift investigation.

From 15 – 17 September, the Commissioner participated in events related to Europride 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia. Ahead of this, given the announcements by the Serbian authorities that Europride may be cancelled, the Commissioner [indicated](#) that she was working with the authorities and organisers to ensure freedom of assembly and expression are guaranteed for everyone without discrimination. Subsequently, she issued a [statement](#), regretting that the Serbian authorities had announced a ban on the Europride march. She underlined the importance of freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, recalling the Court’s case-law obliging states to neutralise risks of violence against an assembly and ensure the security of participants. The Commissioner later [greeted](#) the opening of Europride week, calling on the Serbian authorities to ensure the planned march could take place safely. At the closing session of the Europride International Human Rights Conference, the Commissioner gave a [speech](#), noting political backtracking and displays of hate preceding Europride, and recalling the authorities’ obligations to uphold the human rights of LGBTI people. The Commissioner further denounced attacks and scapegoating of LGBTI people, stressing that those who oppose LGBTI rights fail to honour their commitment to human rights in general.

On 29 September, on the occasion of the opening of the third conference of the European Lesbian Conference, the Commissioner [called](#) on member states to protect lesbian human rights defenders, stressing that their work is essential to ensure that LGBTI women are visible, and their human rights upheld.

Human rights of Roma

On 1 August, ahead of the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, the Commissioner [called](#) on all states to recognise past and present human rights violations affecting Roma people and to step up efforts to ensure the protection of their rights in all fields of life. She stressed the importance of exploring and exposing the history of Roma in Europe by supporting the remembrance of the Roma Holocaust. Remembering includes addressing the need to tackle the deep-seated prejudices and stereotypes that fuel the pervasive discrimination faced by Roma people against a backdrop of continuing hate speech and hate crimes. Antigypsyism must be confronted and efforts towards inclusion and participation of Roma in our societies are needed.

The rights of older persons

On 30 September, ahead of the International Day of Older Persons, the Commissioner [highlighted](#) the importance of the promotion of active ageing to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights throughout life. To this end, she called on member states to take measures to counter ageism in all its forms, including by prohibiting age discrimination in all areas. The Commissioner also underlined that it is crucial that policies reflect the reality of the diversity of older persons, including intersectional dimensions that may lead to higher risks of discrimination.

Trafficking in human beings

On 29 July, ahead of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the Commissioner [stressed](#) that Europe is not immune to this serious human rights violation and that the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic have increased the risks of trafficking, in particular for some vulnerable groups such as women, children and people on the move due to conflicts and economic hardship. She stressed that, including in times of crisis, member states should prevent trafficking, protect the victims and prosecute perpetrators by using the tools at their disposal, such as the Council of Europe anti-trafficking Convention.

Transitional justice

During the reporting period, the Commissioner raised important transitional justice issues in her country work on Ukraine (see *Reports and continuous dialogue*, above), in awareness raising work in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see *Visits and Missions*, above), in a submission to the Committee of Ministers in the context of the supervision of the execution of judgments on the legacy of the Troubles in Northern Ireland (see *System of the European Convention on Human Rights*, below) and in respect of Roma (see *Themes – Human rights of Roma*, above).

In addition, on 29 August, the Commissioner published a [statement](#) on the occasion of the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, in which she called for all persons reported disappeared or missing as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to be searched for, located, and released or returned. She also stressed that all cases of enforced disappearances in Ukraine should be duly investigated and those responsible punished. The Commissioner further observed that the lack of truth and justice for thousands of missing persons remains a serious human rights issue in Europe. She called for resolute action in this field, including urgent ratification of the [UN International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#).

Environment and human rights

On 28 July, the Commissioner [stressed](#) that the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution recognising at global level the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right was a powerful tool for climate action and called on member states to deliver for the present and future generations in this respect.

Artificial Intelligence and human rights

On 18 July, the Commissioner participated in a panel discussion on AI regulation during the [Digital Rights Summer School](#). She stressed the need for human rights safeguards to be integrated into all AI design and deployment and emphasised that new regulatory instruments should not weaken existing protections under international human rights law.

National Human Rights Structures

On 4-5 September, the Office of the Commissioner attended [a meeting](#) of heads of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) convened by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw. The meeting focused on current threats faced by NHRIs and how to strengthen their resilience so that they can function effectively and independently, including through support by international and regional organisations.

4. Other meetings

Meeting with 'Marianne Initiative' 2022 laureates

On 5 July, the Commissioner met in Strasbourg with a group of human rights defenders – laureates of the French government's programme [the Marianne Initiative](#). The group comprised around ten prominent women from all around the world active on various human rights issues. The

Commissioner praised them for their courage and tireless efforts to promote and protect human rights and encouraged them to build resilient networks to facilitate the exercise of their important activities.

Meeting with the Human Rights Ambassador for France

On 6 July, the Commissioner met with Delphine Borione, Human Rights Ambassador for France. They discussed various human rights issues of common interest, including as concerns the situation of human rights defenders, the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the war in Ukraine and the death penalty.

Meeting with the United Nations Special Adviser on the prevention of genocide

On 10 July, during her mission to Srebrenica, the Commissioner [met](#) with United Nations Special Adviser on the prevention of genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu. Their exchange focused on transitional justice in the Western Balkans, including the role of education and the need to counter genocide denial and hate speech.

Conference on Lighting the Shade: Effective Application of ECHR in Areas of Conflict in Europe

On 1 September, the Office of the Commissioner participated in the panel discussion on “Ensuring Unrestricted Human Rights Monitoring and Advisory Access to European territories” during the [conference](#) entitled “Lighting the Shade: Effective Application of ECHR in Areas of Conflict in Europe” organised in Galway by the Irish Centre for Human Rights and University of Galway School of Law. This discussion was an opportunity to introduce the work of the Commissioner and her predecessors in areas of conflict within the Council of Europe region.

Fundamental Rights Agency meeting of human rights experts and leaders

On 7-8 September, the Office of the Commissioner took part in the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) meeting on “Putting human rights at the heart of Europe’s future”. Against the backdrop of a convergence of major tests for Europe and the world, including the climate crisis, the rise of disinformation and corresponding decline in civic engagement and the war in Ukraine, the event aimed at bringing together around sixty human rights leaders and experts from across the continent to discuss elements of a human rights vision for the future and to identify opportunities for action.

Meeting with Human Rights Defender of Armenia

On 13 September, the Commissioner met online with Kristinne Grigoryan, Human Rights Defender (Ombud) of Armenia, who informed the Commissioner about the human rights situation in Armenia resulting from armed hostilities around the Armenian-Azerbaijan border on 13 September and described the Human Rights Defender’s work in this regard.

5. Human Rights Defenders

On 13 July, the Commissioner held an online meeting with Russian and Belarusian civil society representatives, including activists, journalists and human rights defenders and international NGOs assisting them, to assess their situation and challenges they face in various parts of Europe. The

meeting focused on a large spectrum of issues related to the relocation of civil society members from Russia and Belarus to Council of Europe member states, as well as to the hostile and repressive environment they face in those two countries, and the possible role that the Commissioner and Council of Europe member states could play in supporting Russian and Belarusian civil societies.

On 31 August, the Commissioner published a [Human Rights Comment](#) entitled “Support Russian and Belarusian civil societies and human rights defenders”, stressing that their situation is characterised by an unprecedented level of repression on human rights by the Russian and Belarusian governments, notably in the context of the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine. The Commissioner welcomed the relocation policies and practices implemented in support of human rights activists and independent journalists in a growing number of Council of Europe member states and encouraged all member states to take a similar approach. She also assessed various obstacles civil society activists encounter upon their arrival to member states and provided a number of recommendations in that regard. She also focused on the need to maintain and increase the support for civil society members who have stayed in Russia and Belarus, highlighting the crucial role they play in defending human rights, promoting democracy and transforming their societies. She concluded by stressing that working together, expressing support and building bridges for a better future is of crucial importance for a Europe free of war and violence.

On 13 September, the Commissioner issued a [statement](#) on the arrests of a human rights lawyer and an independent journalist in Azerbaijan (see *Safety of journalists, freedom of expression and media freedom*, above).

Building on her previous statements on the pattern of persecution targeting Crimean Tatar human rights defenders, activists, leaders, journalists and many ordinary members of this group, on 22 September the Commissioner [reacted](#) to the criminal conviction by a court in Crimea of Tatar leader Nariman Dzhelyal and two others. Noting that the conviction, based on spurious charges, showed that the persecution of Crimean Tatars in the peninsula was not abating, she called for those convicted to be exonerated and released from detention.

6. System of the European Convention on Human Rights

Submission to the Committee of Ministers in the context of the supervision of the execution of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ilias and Ahmed v. Hungary

On 31 August, the Commissioner published her [submission](#) to the Committee of Ministers regarding the supervision of the execution of the judgment in the case of *Ilias and Ahmed v. Hungary*. It concerns the expulsion of applicants from Hungary to Serbia without carrying out a thorough examination of their risk of ill-treatment, in violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Commissioner stressed that access to asylum and to any form of international protection in Hungary had become virtually impossible due to multiple measures taken by the Government since 2015, and that the number of forced removals to Serbia had increased significantly, with over 75,000 reported cases in 2022 alone. She also noted that allegations of ill-treatment and disproportionate use of force applied in the context of these removals persisted. The Commissioner considered that the underlying issues identified by the Court in its judgment had not been addressed as laws, policies and practices related to asylum and removal procedures in Hungary remained characterised by a lack of safeguards to ensure compliance with Article 3, Article 4 of

Protocol 4 (prohibition of collective expulsions), and Article 13 of the Convention (effective remedies). Fundamental and far-reaching measures should be undertaken to bring the asylum system in line with Hungary's international human rights and refugee protection obligations. The authorities should establish a fair and effective asylum procedure and refrain from all arbitrary removals of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to Serbia.

Submission to the Committee of Ministers in the context of the supervision of the execution of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the McKerr group of cases against the United Kingdom

On 31 August, the Commissioner published her [submission](#) to the Committee of Ministers regarding the supervision of the execution of the *McKerr* group of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. This group of judgments relates to several shortcomings in the investigation of deaths during the Troubles in Northern Ireland leading to procedural violations of Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In her submission, the Commissioner specifically dealt with the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill, which has potentially far-reaching implications for the handling of so-called 'legacy cases' involving killings and other serious violations during the Troubles. The submission draws from the discussions that the Commissioner had about the Bill with stakeholders in Northern Ireland during her recent [visit](#) to the United Kingdom. The submission particularly highlighted concerns about a newly proposed review mechanism for legacy cases being able to meet all the requirements of an independent and effective investigation of deaths under Article 2 of the Convention, the shutting down of existing mechanisms for truth and justice which are valued greatly by victims' families, and the compatibility with the Convention of a conditional immunity scheme, which would prevent the prosecution of perpetrators of violations.

7. Communication and information work

More than 150 news items from different national and international news outlets referred to the Commissioner's work in the period under review. The three main topics covered by the media were migration, women's rights and the rights of LGBTI people.

Almost half of all new articles concerned the Commissioner's work on migration, which was covered, inter alia, by ABC, ACN, Anadolu Agency, EFE, El Confidencial, El Diario, El Faro de Ceuta, El Faro de Melilla, El Mundo, El Nacional, Europa Press, La Republica, La Vanguardia, La Voz Digital, Naiz, Publico, Svenska Magasinet, The Local, BNE Intellinews, Halsingin Sanomat, Index.hu, InfoMigrants, LETA, MTI, The Budapest Times, SIR, Agentschap Belga, ANP, ANSA, APA, Daily News Hungary, De Groene Amsterdammer, De Stentor, De Volkskrant, DPA, DW, Euronews, France TV Info, Glas Istre, Hina, Hungary Today, Independent Online, Jurist, PAP, Reuters, Rzeczpopolita, SDA/ATS, Stuttgarter Zeitung, The Canadian Press, The Malta Independent, Trouw, Wiener Zeitung, WNP.pl, and YLE.

The Commissioner's work on women's rights was mainly covered by BBC, Euronews, Independent Online, Index.hu, MTI, AFP, Kurier Online, ANSA, Corriere della sera, El Espectador, Euractiv, La Repubblica, La Stampa, RTE, RTV Slovenija, the Telegraph Online, Times of Malta, and Wiadomosci.

The Commissioner's positions on the protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTI people was covered by BETA, Danas, VOA Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso, ANSA, BBC, DW, Euronews.com, EUObserver, EurActiv, Euronews, European Western Balkans, Faz.net, Gay.it, Il

Fatto Quotidiano Online, Insajder, La Stampa, Los Angeles Blade, Massnews.com, N1 Info, News-24, Novi Magazin, Vecernje Novosti, and Vijesti.

The main news outlets covering the visit to the UK were BBC, The Associated Press, Evening Standard Online, Independent Online, The Irish News, AFP, Agence Europe, Anadolu Agency, Athens News Agency, Daily Mail, ERT, Estonia Free Press, Independent Online, Le Figaro, Skai, The Guardian, The Justice Gap, and The Law Society Gazette.

The Memorandum on Ukraine was covered mainly by AFP, AgerPress, France TV Info, Le Figaro, Liberte, RFE/RL, RTS, SDA/ATS, and Ukraine Nouvelles.

Additional news articles focused on the Commissioner's work on transitional justice (BETA, Danas, Mirage News, Oslobodjenje, Radio Slobodna Evropa); the report on Georgia (Agence Europe, Agenda.ge, Civil.ge, Prime News); freedom of expression (Il Manifesto, Articolo 21); human trafficking (SIR); Roma (Press Agency, Pressenza International, Romea.cz); and human rights defenders (Irish Legal News, Kavkazskiy Uzel, Turan).

39 tweets were published, generating over 575,000 impressions in total and an engagement rate of 3.5% with an increase of the number of followers by 1638 (+2,5%). On Facebook, 33 posts reached 25903 people and garnered 118 new subscribers (up +2,7%).

The website was consulted by more than 84,000 unique visitors, an increase of 20,000 unique visitors compared to the same period of 2021.