

HELP Online course on Internal Displacement

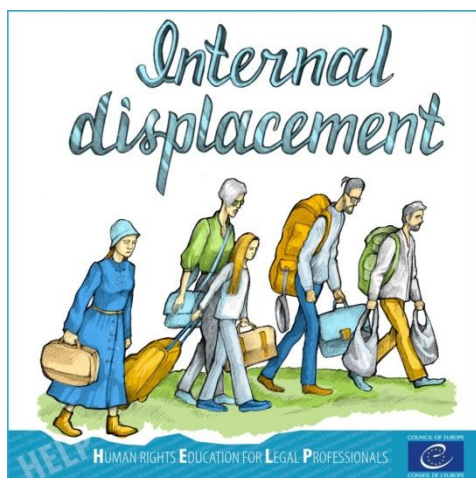
Background and aim

There are at least around 3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Europe and roughly 40 million of IDPs around the globe. The number of IDPs in the world has steadily increased over the past twenty years. The largest number of IDPs in Europe is in Ukraine, around 1.7 million as of early 2018. More than 1 million are in Türkiye. Other Council of Europe Member states, such as Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Armenia have a significant number of IDPs.

According to the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

IDPs are among the most vulnerable people in Europe and beyond, and the protection of their rights is a key tenant of international and regional human rights instruments. States are primarily responsible for protecting and assisting IDPs under their jurisdictions, in line with the obligations set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and other Council of Europe instruments. All Council of Europe member states must heed the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, and there is extensive jurisprudence in the field by which States can be guided.

The HELP course on internal displacement covers in an interactive way some of the key concepts on the protection of IDPs, giving an insight into the international and European legal framework and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. The course offers a comprehensive curriculum to improve the quality of the response to internal displacement, supporting those who work towards providing IDPs with access to their rights. The course will be adapted at a national level in Ukraine – and possibly elsewhere upon request from Council of Europe member States.



The topics are explored in a practical way, by using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises.

Throughout the course, there is an interactive scenario with exercises, which will enable the users to apply the gained knowledge and skills.

The course was developed in June 2018.

Target audience

This free on-line course is primarily addressed to legal professionals but can be also useful for to civil servants, law students, IDPs themselves, and the general public. The course can also be translated and adapted to a national context.

Course outline (5 modules)

1. **Overview and key concepts** (definition, trends, risks, needs and barriers, solutions, key actors working with IDPs)
2. **International and European legal framework** (sovereignty and IDPs protection, legal differences between IDPs and Refugees, development of IDPs protection, international law applicable to IDPs, Council of Europe standards and cross-cutting rights)
3. **Protection of property and home under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)** (property rights, home)
4. **Other frequently invoked ECHR Rights** (family rights and missing persons, freedom of movement, electoral rights, protection against discrimination)
5. **Protection of social rights** (international and Council of Europe standards, housing, education, employment and social protection, food and water, healthcare)

Development and implementation of the course

This free on-line course has been developed by the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals “HELP” of the Council of Europe under the Council of Europe Project ‘Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine.’

Acces the free online course

To access the model course in English, first you will need to enter the HELP e-learning platform at <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>. You will then need to open a HELP account if you have not yet done so (2 minutes).