

**HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION  
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
FIGHT FOR RIGHT  
2024**



In 2024, we once again stood firm in our commitment to sustainability and responsibility. Amid air raids, ongoing Russian terror, and global turbulence, we continued our daily fight for the rights of people with disabilities. In these circumstances, we not only upheld our faith in dignity and humanity but also made Ukraine's voice heard in international discussions.

One of our key priorities was **deinstitutionalization** – we built a community of allies, influenced state policy, and ensured that the issue of unlawful confinement and the people living in institutions were not forgotten or ignored.

Together with women and girls with disabilities, we have become stronger – and in 2024, we helped to open new horizons for them. Our “LEADERKA teens” school for teen girls with disabilities, the “Strengthening” program, the mutual support network, researches, and media campaigns became more than just projects; they became spaces of women's power. We expanded opportunities and helped shape a new reality – one in which the voice of women with a disability is heard, influential, and meaningfully presented.



For me personally, this year was about trust – in the team, in our partners – and about the belief that change is possible when you don't simply wait for it, but work persistently to create it.

We continued to provide humanitarian, legal, psychological, and financial support to people with disabilities, especially in frontline areas, and responded swiftly to emerging challenges – from evacuations to assistance during prolonged power outages. Fight For Right's involvement in the European integration process became one of our most important priorities – to ensure that in every European document and every negotiating position, there is space for the voice of people with disabilities. And we will not stop.

**Yuliia Sachuk, Head of Fight For Right**

**Fight For Right upholds the core humanitarian principles in all activities:**

**HUMANITY:** No person should be subjected to suffering, wherever they may be. Our aim is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for individuals.

**NEUTRALITY:** As a humanitarian organization, we do not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**IMPARTIALITY:** We carry out humanitarian actions solely on the basis of a person's needs, regardless of their nationality, race, gender, religion, political beliefs, or any other status.

**INDEPENDENCE:** Our humanitarian actions must be autonomous from political, economic, military or other external influences.

# PROTECTION AND SUPPORT

Many people with disabilities face life-threatening risks and isolation during power outages. Therefore, providing alternative power sources remains a top priority for Fight For Right.

We provided generators, charging stations, and power banks to help people power vital equipment, use anti-decubitus mattresses, charge electric wheelchairs and smartphones to stay in touch with families.

For example, we provided a family from Konotop city in the Sumy region with an EcoFlow charging station to ensure they could recharge an anti-decubitus mattress and use a blender for meal preparation during power outages. The family includes a 44-year-old man with a disability who has been bedridden since 2010, cared for by his 76-year-old mother.

We provided a family from Iziium city in the Kharkiv region with funds to purchase a generator, ensuring that a woman with a Group I could stay connected to her oxygen concentrator during power outages.

Sleeping bags, heating pads, thermoses, battery-powered and chargeable lamps, power banks, life-saving foil blankets, thermal blankets, fan heaters, radiators, electric stoves, and electric blankets – these essential items helped people in frontline towns and villages protect themselves from hypothermia, stay connected, and access assistive applications via internet.

In 2024, we supported **6 862** people with disabilities and their families across Ukraine!

As part of the TEPLO initiative and other wartime support projects, we provided **1 049** kits to people with disabilities.

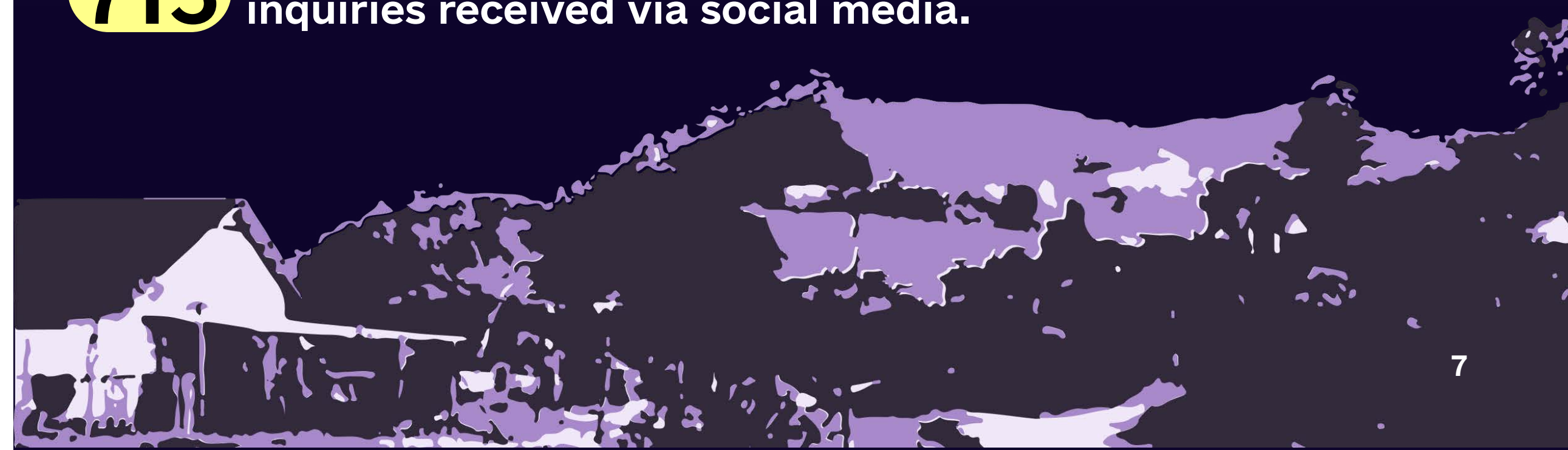
We received a total of **36 598** requests, including

**29 273** requests submitted through various electronic forms,

**4 613** hotline calls,

**1 997** letters,

**715** inquiries received via social media.



We provided financial assistance to **1052** people with disabilities from the Kherson, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Mykolaiv regions.



Oleksii, who has a Group I disability and was forced to flee his home in Novovorontsovka, Kherson region, due to heavy shelling, relocated to the Dnipropetrovsk region, where his sister and her family live.

**With the support from Fight For Right, Oleksii was able to replace the old radiators in the house, which no longer worked, with new ones. Now, Oleksii, his sister, and their family can enjoy a warm home.**



**We helped Viktor, who is a wheelchair user, cover three months of rent for housing in Mykolaiv.** Originally man is from Kherson region and survived the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant by clinging to an inflatable pillow, swimming to an attic, and remaining there without food for nearly two weeks. When the water receded, a second tragedy struck – his home burned down. Viktor miraculously survived and evacuated through russia (as his town was under occupation) to Mykolaiv, where he found modestly affordable housing to rent.

« Thank you for helping me in such a hard time. After arriving from the occupied territory, I was initially in shock and struggling to regain my footing . I'm really grateful that your organization provided me with funds to rent. Now I have a place to live, as my own home no longer exists. »

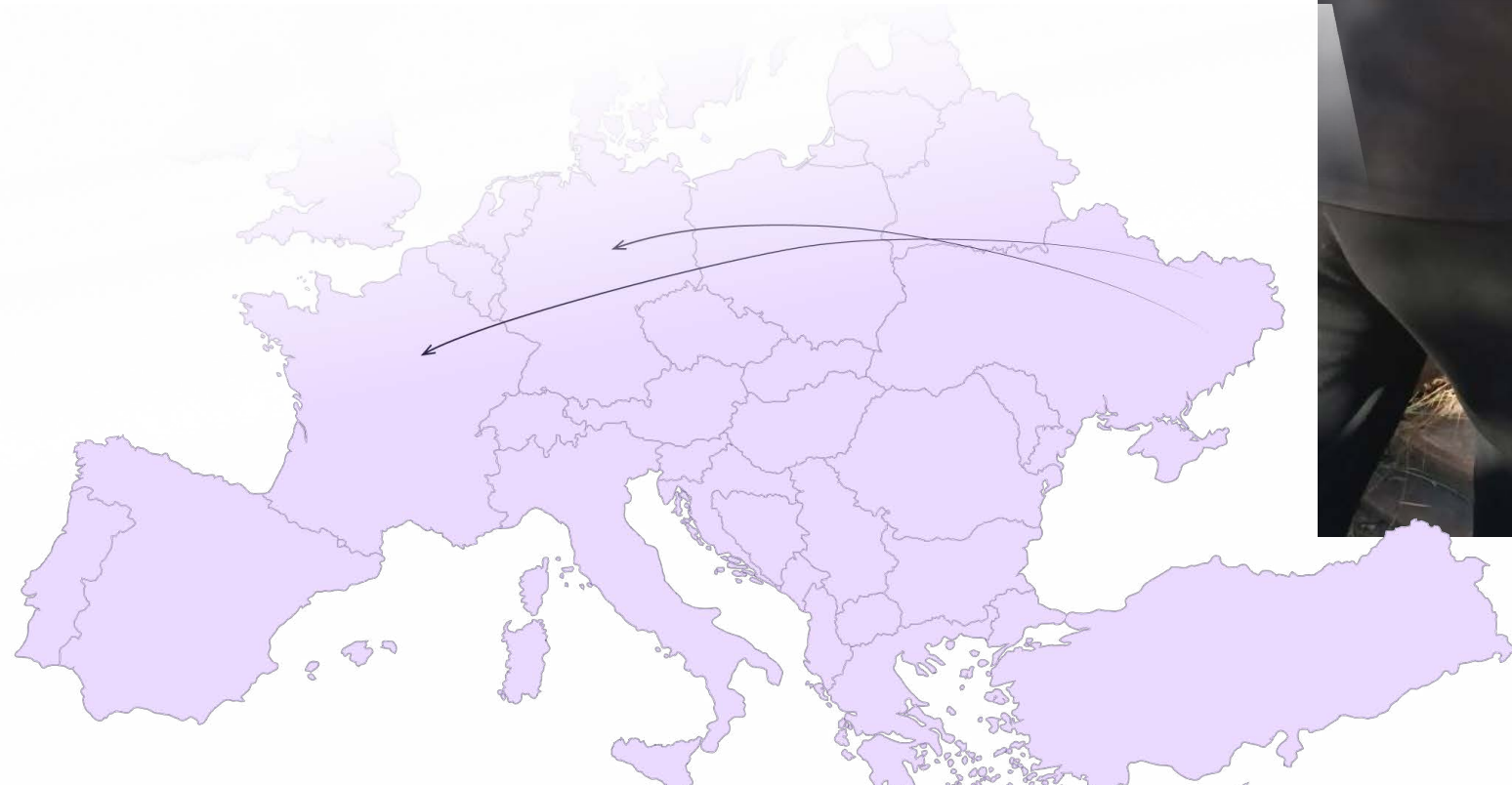
## Evacuations have always been a priority for the Fight For Right team

We understand that people often decide to leave homes only when they can no longer cope with all the challenges alone.

### Besides evacuations within Ukraine, we also carried out several evacuations abroad.

Halyna (name changed), from Kostiantynivka in Donetsk region, was severely weakened by oncological illnesses and could only move around in a wheelchair.

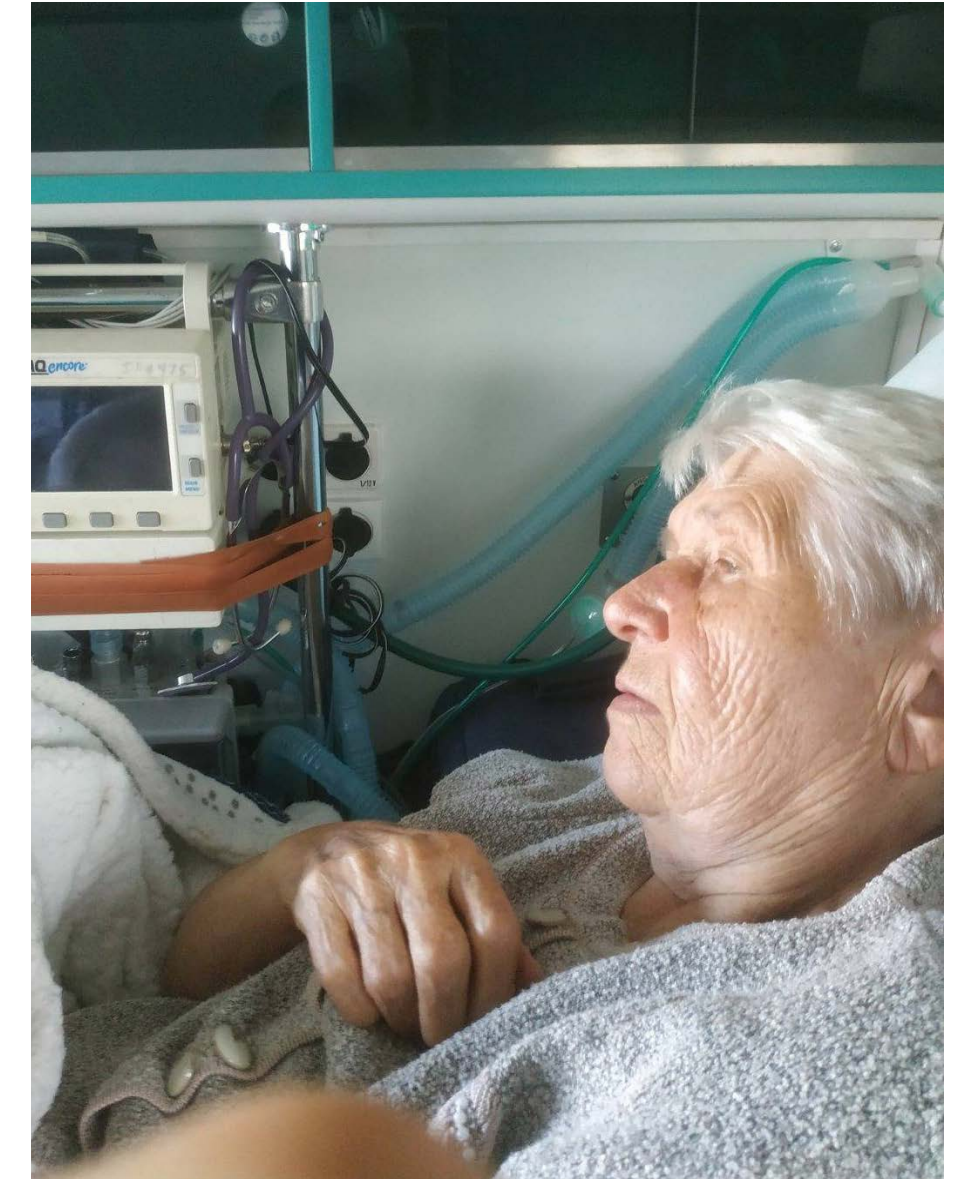
Initially, her eldest daughter took her to Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka, but that town was also frequently shelled by Russian troops. Halyna eventually made the decision to evacuate to Germany, where her youngest daughter lives. Thanks to Fight For Right, she is now safe and reunited with her family.



In another case, our team helped evacuate an older woman, **Kateryna (name changed)**, to France. She is originally from the Vovchansk district in the Kharkiv region, where Russian forces launched renewed attacks in the spring of 2024.

During one of these attacks, a shell exploded nearby, and the blast wave threw Kateryna to the ground, causing a hip fracture. Her son initially helped her evacuate to a village in the Poltava region, but due to inadequate living conditions, they had to search for other options. The son's wife and daughter, who had previously evacuated to France, invited them to join them there. However, the evacuation was complicated by Kateryna's health – she could sit for no more than an hour and a half and required specialized transport.

**Fight For Right arranged all necessary conditions, and today the family is reunited, with Kateryna receiving the care she needs.**



### Assistive rehabilitation aids

A total of **444** assistive devices were provided to people with disabilities, including

**105** – walkers      **43** – wheelchairs      **34** – rollators

**5** – hearing aids      **5** – anti-decubitus mattresses

**1** – medical functional bed  
and many other items.



### Legal and psychological assistance

We provided **1 548** legal consultations  
and **810** psychological consultations to people with disabilities.

We organized **6** psychological support groups for **60** women,  
conducting a total of **89** sessions with psychologists.

### Fight For Right’s assistance in obtaining disability status

Many healthcare facilities fail to inform patients of their rights, and sometimes deliberately create barriers to access free services. That’s why at Fight For Right, we provide step-by-step guidance to help people access the support they need, often “leading them by the hand” through the process.

In Zaporizhzhya, a woman with cancer who was unable to move independently was denied disability status simply because she couldn’t physically attend the MSEC (Medical Social Experts Commission which is responsible for granting legal disability status to a person).

In another case, a woman from the Kharkiv region had been told back in 2018 that she needed a joint replacement surgery, which came with a high price tag. As her condition worsened over time, and she could no longer leave the house, she eventually decided to proceed with the operation. In both cases, Fight For Right provided guidance on how to access the necessary services free of charge.

Veterans with disabilities are increasingly reaching out for advice – and we are glad to help. To make the process easier, we’ve published informational videos for both [civilians](#) and [military](#) personnel on how to obtain disability status.

# ADVOCACY

**In 2024, we continued our core mission – transforming disability policy in Ukraine by helping state institutions implement international human rights standards.**

We are working to ensure that Ukraine finally moves away from the outdated medical model of disability and adopts a human rights-based approach. Our advocacy covers both national and international levels, aiming to ensure that every reform and every decision reflects the voices and needs of people with disabilities.



**During this year, we focused on the following key areas:**

- Deinstitutionalization and the right to independent living in the community
- Systemic reforms of disability policies and community support services
- Equal access to employment
- Alignment with EU standards on the rights of people with disabilities during the European integration process
- Inclusive humanitarian response and protection in times of war

**Our selection in the “Analytics” category on our website has been enriched with significant work:**

- [“Stakeholder Mapping – Deinstitutionalization in Ukraine”](#)
- [“Theory of Change: Deinstitutionalization is Possible”](#)
- [“Assessment of Barriers and Legal Requirements for Girls and Women with Disabilities”](#)
- [Joint NGOs report “Situation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine”](#)
- [“Assessment of the Political Involvement of People with Disabilities in Ukraine: Understanding Inclusive Decision-Making and Expectations from European Integration”](#)
- [“Recommendations for Interviewing People with Disabilities Affected by War Crimes”](#)

## National advocacy

At the beginning of 2024, we held a strategic session to develop a theory of change for **deinstitutionalization** in Ukraine. As a result of this session, the so-called “Uzhhorod Group” was formed, bringing together Ukrainian non-governmental organizations committed to support the deinstitutionalization process.

Together with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the International Renaissance Foundation, we held an open public **discussion** titled “The Path to Deinstitutionalization (DI): Partnership Between the State and Civil Society for the Development of Social Services.”

We supported the state in drafting the deinstitutionalization strategy, which was officially adopted in December 2024.



To highlight the path to a free and independent life for every person with a disability in Ukrainian communities, **we have created the platform [diukraine.info](https://diukraine.info)**, where we share information about:

- deinstitutionalization, important related concepts, approaches, and international standards and practices;
- personal experiences of people with disabilities who have experienced institutionalization.



**We took part in the “Inclusive Recovery of Communities” forum.** At the forum’s opening, Advocacy Manager Liudmyla Fursova encouraged participants to overcome barriers to the inclusion of people with disabilities in community decision-making.

## National advocacy

Fight For Right conducted a **training** for media representatives, civil servants from the Kyiv City State Administration, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on accessibility – with a focus on informational accessibility and the use of accurate terminology and language related to disability.

We contributed to the **reform of the MSEC (Medical Social Experts Commission)** and took part in related legislative work – resulting in the **liquidation** of the MSEC as a structure!

We issued a **public statement** regarding the incorrect translation of the **International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)**. To address the issue, we developed a **Position Paper on the Ukrainian translation of the ICF**, which was supported by the World Health Organization in Ukraine, the National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine, the League of the Strong, the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf, and Inclusion Ukraine. As a result, we initiated and began work on a new translation of the ICF.

We developed **Recommendations** for interviewing people with disabilities affected by war crimes and conducted **training** sessions for documentarians, providing them with clear guidelines on how to properly conduct interviews with people with various types of disabilities.

We prepared an **overview of the evacuation situation in inpatient care facilities in the Kharkiv region as of June 21, 2024**, for IPHR, and also **published** the information we gathered.

We became partners of the [Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund](#).

## International advocacy

Yuliia Sachuk **presented** the position of the Ukrainian disability community at the **OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “The Role of Civil Society in the Promotion and Protection of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law,”** held in Vienna, Austria.



In Brussels, Belgium, we **met** with representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, and international organizations of people with disabilities. Yuliia Sachuk spoke about the challenges faced by the Ukrainian disability community and emphasized the importance of including people with disabilities in both the European integration and recovery processes.

**Fight For Right took part in the 31st session of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, where Ukraine presented its combined second and third periodic reports in response to questions from the Committee.** Together with other non-governmental organizations, we submitted an alternative report on Ukraine's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



In Berlin, during the **Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024**, Fight For Right monitored how disability issues were addressed in the discussions on Ukraine's recovery.

**Yuliia Sachuk spoke at the European Parliament** and participated in Freedom Drive 2024 – a peaceful demonstration of people with disabilities organized by [ENIL](#).



We advocated for the rights of Ukrainian men and women with disabilities during the 17th session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York, USA.

Within the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks in Geneva, Switzerland, we discussed the importance of including people with disabilities in Ukraine's post-war recovery with ambassadors, UNDP representatives, and disability rights organizations from various countries.

# COMMUNITY

Together with the League of the Strong, we **organized** the National Forum on the Rights of People with Disabilities, titled “On the Way to the EU.”

The forum brought together over **180** participants.

As a result, we developed the Community’s Agenda for 2025, which is now published on the official **website** of the President of Ukraine.





For the fourth time, at Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square), a **public action** titled “Is the Path to the EU Accessible?” was held as part of the National Forum on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Around fifty participants from across Ukraine joined the initiative under the slogans “Our Strength is an Accessible Ukraine!” and “Inclusivity is Our Ticket to Europe.” The main demand of the activists was the equal participation of people with disabilities in the European integration process.

The National Forum and action were covered by more than 40 media outlets.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, we have collected stories of leadership, strength, and fight from girls and women with disabilities for the **“Being Your Own Goal” brochure** – to preserve and show the world our contributions, experiences, and resilience. **A photo exhibition** featuring portraits of the brochure’s heroines was also held during the National Forum on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

**We met in Lviv with graduates of the 2019–2023 LEADERKA School** to join forces in advocating for the rights of women with disabilities.



As part of the **“LEADERKA teens” school**, we held a **camp** in Pylypets for teenage-girls with disabilities. Before the camp, our young leaders worked intensively with mentors and took part in inspiring online meetings – with social project coach Uliana Ustinova, activist Oksana Bryndzak, and Paralympic champion Maryna Lytovchenko.

Together with Internationales Bildungs- und Begegnungswerk (IBB) in Dortmund, Germany, and the NGO **“Incubator of Democratic Initiatives,”** we held the **forum “Human Rights of People with Disabilities in Ukraine: A Map of Necessary Changes Until 2029”** in Lviv.

Together with Austausch e.V., we presented the informational campaign **Displaced by War. Залишене життя (“Abandoned Life”)**, which features **documented stories** of people with disabilities and their families, including mothers of children with disabilities, who were forced to evacuate due to Russia’s war against Ukraine and the challenges they faced along the way.

We organized **a camp in the Carpathians within the “Strengthening”** program for 10 girls and women with disabilities – finalists of the grant competition under the project “Leadership of Women with Disabilities in Communities.”



Together with the EdEra platform, we created a free **online training course for women and girls with disabilities – Being Your Own Goal – focused on leadership development.** The course materials are accessible to people with various types of disabilities, including intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

We traveled to Armenia, where we met with women’s organizations of people with disabilities from Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia. Together, we explored opportunities for regional cooperation, discussed approaches to implementing the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us,” and examined ways to strengthen the role of women with disabilities within the international women’s movement.

We established two **accessible shelters** in Kyiv and presented a **methodology** for assessing the architectural accessibility of civil protection facilities.

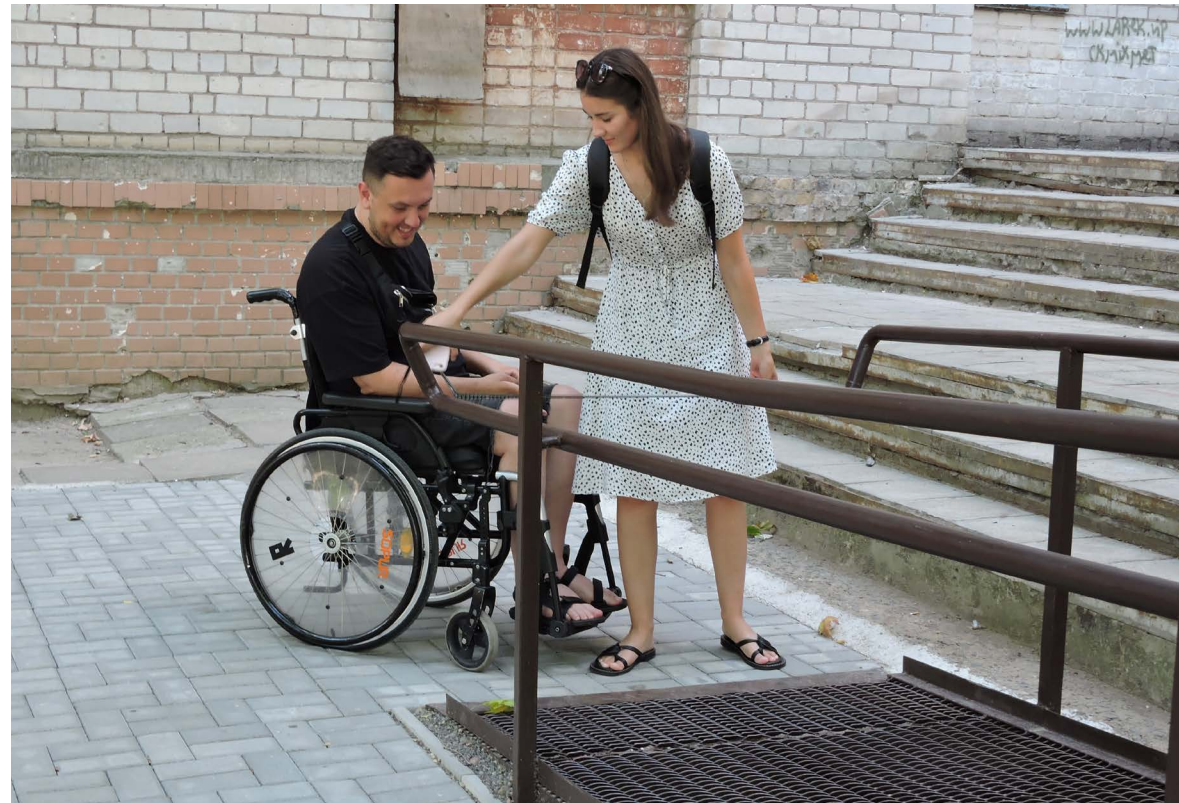


We conducted **an accessibility audit** of the Solomianskyi Administrative Service Center in Kyiv and **the Actor Theater** (Lira Cinema), and provided recommendations for improving the accessibility of both facilities.

We visited four **shelters** where accessibility improvements were made using mini-grants from Fight For Right.



We supported and provided individual **guidance** to activists from various regions on conducting advocacy campaigns aimed at improving accessibility.



# COMMUNICATIONS

**> 150** media posts about Fight For Right

Our work was covered by:

euronews.

AI ANGLICAN JOURNAL

hromadske

Рубрика

ESPRESSO

TELEGRAF

УНІАН

СУСПІЛЬНЕ МОВЛЕННЯ

НАКИПІЛО радіо

ZMIANA

5

день

#ШОТАМ

ICTV

БУКВИ

ТЕЛЕБАЧЕННЯ ТОРОНТО

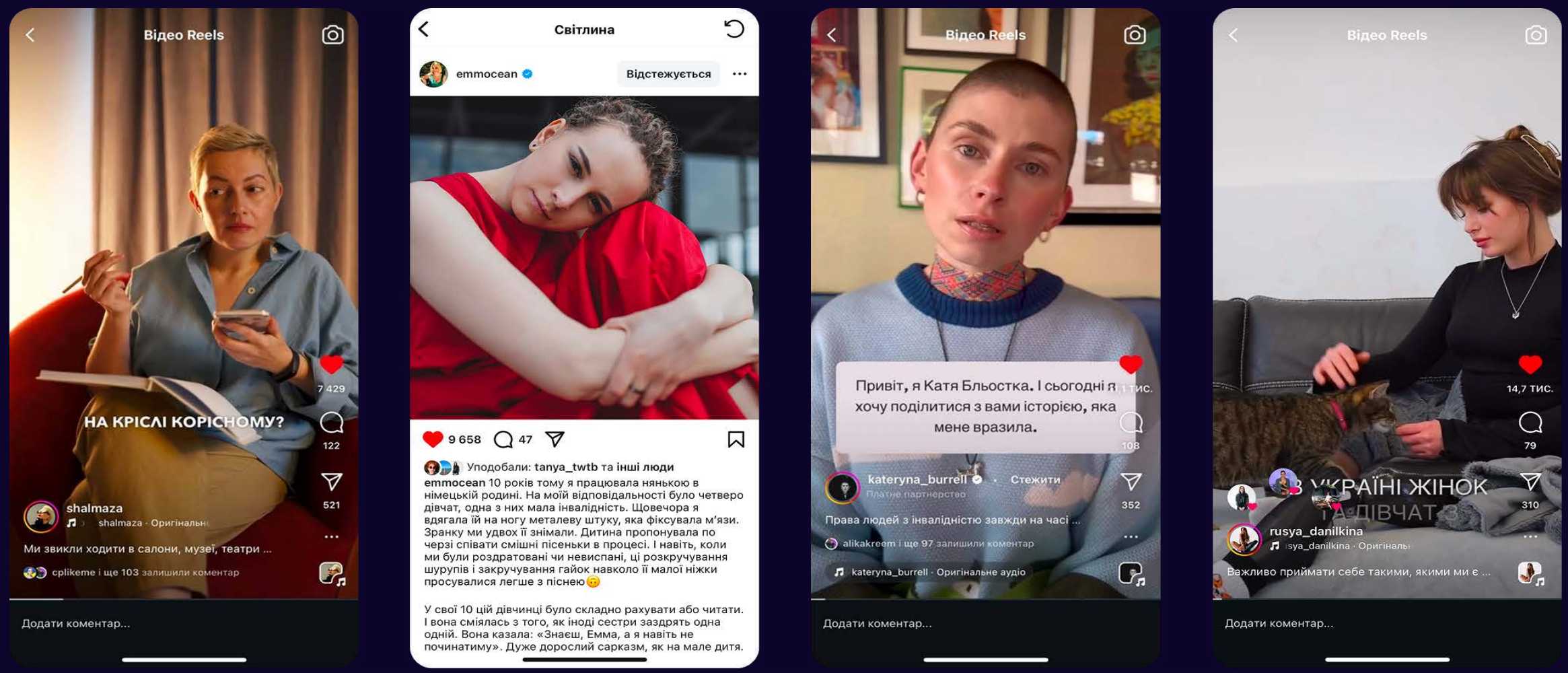


The **video** in collaboration with Toronto TV about famous Ukrainian women with disabilities received

**> 95 thousand** views

**> 600** comments

Our social media posts were viewed **487 210** times in 2024



**Yaroslava Kravchenko, Emma Antoniuk, Katya Bliostka, Ruslana Danilkina, and the Toronto TV team became our information partners and allies in defending the rights and amplifying the voices of women with disabilities.**

For over 30 articles on deinstitutionalization, leadership of women with disabilities, employment, survival under occupation and evacuation, access to gastrostomy tube service for children with disabilities, promotion of sign language, and shelter accessibility, we conducted 40 interviews.

We launched the **newsletter** «Disability. Rights. Fight», with each of the five issues reaching between 740 and 850 readers.



We released a calendar with portraits and quotes from the heroines of the “Being Your Own Goal” photo exhibition.

**We updated our communication strategy with the support of our incredible mentor, [Maryna Hovorukhina](#).**

# THE TEAM

We have implemented **16 projects,** 3 more than in 2023

We arranged **7 international trips**

We conducted **86** interviews for different positions. As a result, **7** people joined the team.

Fight For Right became the first organization from Ukraine to gain full membership in the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL).



Tetiana Herasymova joined **the Professional Fellowship Program** cohort in Washington, organized by **the American Council,** facilitating cultural and professional exchange between Ukraine and the United States.



Creative Manager Oleksandr Nikulin became a finalist of **the Fulbright Ukraine program** and began his studies at a top university in Pittsburgh. He now can receive a Western education while also joining one of the leading research groups in the United States.

Project Assistant **Khrystyna Styranets** became one of the speakers in the video tutorial **“History of Residential Care Institutions”**, in the video course “Institutional Care: Why Do We Need a Different Approach?” developed by the Ukrainian Child Rights Network – a project our team also contributed to.

We conducted strategic planning for Fight For Right's activities in 2024, aligning on a shared vision for the organization's development, projects, and initiatives focused on advancing the rights of people with disabilities.



We completed over **> 100** training sessions on various topics to strengthen our capacity to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

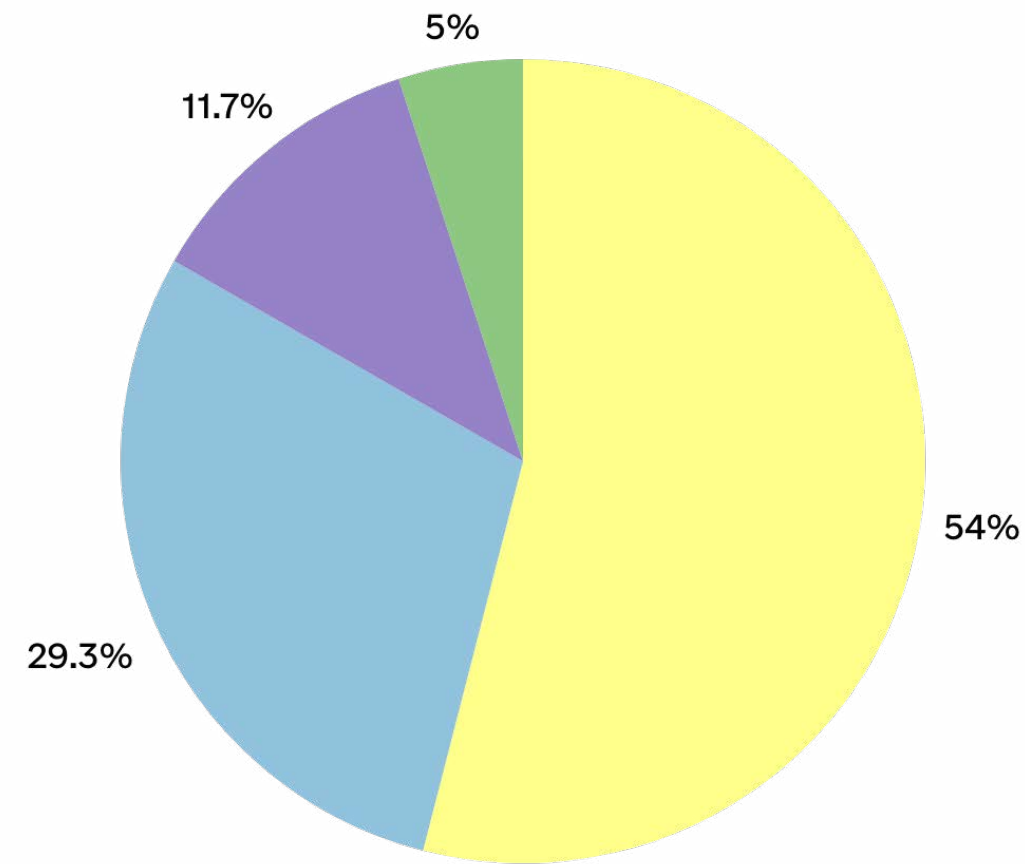
Fight For Right is one of 12 organizations featured in the documentary series **Knights of Human Rights**, created by Suspilne.



Fight For Right received the "TOP-100" award in the ranking of the best cases of government-civil society partnerships for its work on creating accessible shelters in Kyiv.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**Total expenses of Fight For Right in 2024:**



**54%**

**Protection and Support:**

- Winter support project TEPLA (WARMTH)
- Assistive technologies
- Financial support
- Alternative power sources
- Case management
- Rehabilitation and other humanitarian aid

**29,30%**

**Support and development of the Ukrainian Disability movement:**

- National Forum on the Rights of People with Disabilities
- The “Strengthening” program
- Camp for girls with disabilities «LEADERKA teens»
- Support for initiatives within the framework of the «Ukrainian Disability Fund»
- Offline event «LEADERKA» school for graduates 2019-2023

**11,70%**

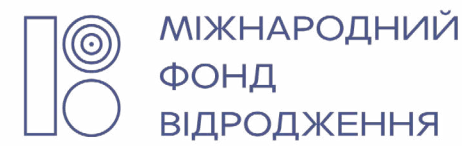
**Advocacy**

- Promoting deinstitutionalization and independent living
- Work on amendments to legislation on employment, disability determination, and implementation of the ICF
- Work on the translation of the International Classification of Functioning
- Disability Research Center (DRC)
- Organization and participation in national and international advocacy events

**5%**

**Administrative costs**

# THANKS TO



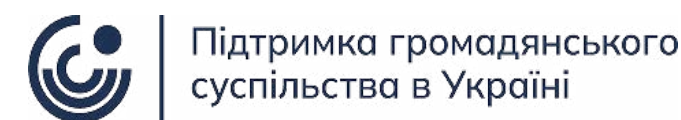
OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS



CHOOSE  
LOVE



LEGACY  
OF WAR  
FOUNDATION



MacArthur  
Foundation

