

FIGHT
FOR
RIGHT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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YULIIA SACHUK,
Head of Fight For Right

FOR FIGHT FOR RIGHT, 2025 MARKS ANOTHER YEAR OF WAR

A year in which Ukraine certainly did not become significantly more accessible or make dramatic improvements in disability policy. Still, there were interim wins on the path to our strategic goals in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

THE FOURTH YEAR OF PROTECTION AND SUPPORT DURING THE WAR

This was our fourth year of nonstop humanitarian work. We continued to rescue people from frontline areas where government services are often unavailable: evacuations, case management, assistive devices, and financial, psychological, and legal support. In response to massive attacks on Ukraine's energy system, we provided hundreds of people with power and warmth—from blankets and power banks to high-capacity charging stations.

EU INTEGRATION AS A CHANCE FOR CHANGE IN DISABILITY POLICY

EU integration strengthened disability rights advocacy in Ukraine, and we worked to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities were taken into account in the EU integration process. We held important meetings with the European Commission in November 2025 and advocated for Ukraine's legislation to align with EU law. During the Fifth Annual Conference, The European Future of the Rights of People with Disabilities in Ukraine, held in Kyiv on December 3-4, together with government officials and EU diplomats, we spoke with one voice: Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction must be inclusive.

2025 was also another difficult year in the fight against Ukraine's unlawful system of institutions – thousands of facilities that deprive persons with disabilities of freedom and of a dignified life in their communities. Our research and investigations documented and made visible facts that had been concealed for decades. For example, the state spends more than UAH 8.7 billion every year to maintain this institutional system, in which nearly 40,000 people are isolated.

We made every effort to document crimes against persons with disabilities and to ensure that justice mechanisms are accessible to Ukrainians with disabilities.

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Girls and women with disabilities, as well as women veterans, implemented 15 projects – training and business initiatives in their communities – with Fight For Right support totaling UAH 4,969,439.

Graduates of our five Leaderka schools founded the fast-growing Leaderka Drive movement, which brings together the experience and strength of women with disabilities. In Brussels, we held our first international LEADERKA School for young women from EU candidate countries.

The fifth disability visibility action, Lights for Rights, on Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) was a symbol of resilience and of our contribution to a better future for our European country, where human rights are a reality. Every flashlight in the hands of our activists on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 was a symbol that our right to life, dignity, and freedom will not go out under any pressure.

We enter 2026 knowing it will be difficult because of Russia's war against Ukraine and the many obstacles ahead, but also knowing our own strength in the fight for justice and a dignified life for every person with a disability in Ukraine.

FIGHT FOR RIGHT UPHOLDS THE CORE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES IN ALL ITS ACTIVITIES:

HUMANITY



No one should suffer, no matter where they are. Our goal is to protect life and health and to uphold respect for every individual.

NEUTRALITY



As a humanitarian organization, we do not take sides in conflicts and refrain from involvement in political, racial, religious, or ideological disputes.

IMPARTIALITY



Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, prioritizing the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religion, class or political opinions.

INDEPENDENCE



Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives.

PROTECTION AND SUPPORT

Throughout 2025, Fight For Right supported

6 672 people with disabilities and their family members.

«We work to ensure that people who find themselves in crisis can remain independent, make decisions, and stay in control of their own lives. Support is not about “giving things.” It is about creating conditions in which people can feel safe, warm, and in the light – both literally and symbolically. Because when we talk about human rights, we are first and foremost talking about the right to a dignified life. And we are here so that everyone can feel that, even in the most difficult moments»



**OLEKSANDRA
MELNYK,**

Protection and Support
Department Lead at
Fight For Right

Ukraine's only national hotline for inquiries from people with disabilities has been operating since 2022.

In 2025, it received **6 203** calls.

Individual peer-to-peer case management is a unique system, built since 2022, designed to provide the most effective support to people with disabilities amid Russia's war against Ukraine.

Protection and support also includes:

evacuations of people with disabilities and families from frontline communities, including medical evacuations

WARMTH – assistance during the cold season

providing alternative sources of power

provision of medical equipment and assistive devices (wheelchairs, hearing aids, and more)

legal consultations

financial assistance

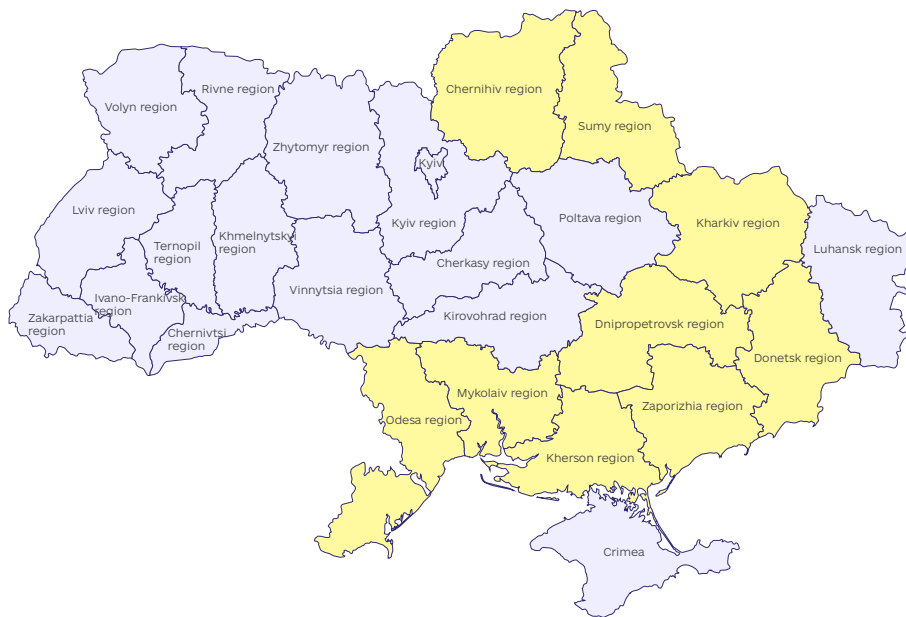
psychosocial support

Fight For Right is the only organization of people with disabilities that is a partner of the Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund

UHF Ukraine
Humanitarian
Fund

In 2025, constant shelling, power outages, cold weather, limited resources, and inaccessible services in communities remained the reality in which people with disabilities in Ukraine have to fight for basic safety every day.

That is why Fight For Right focused its support on persons with disabilities and families raising children with disabilities living in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Kherson regions.



Ten-year-old Liza, who has a hearing impairment, lives with her family in the Sumy region, 27 kilometers from the front line. Because of constant shelling by Russian forces, students at her school are often forced to study in a shelter, the school's basement, in fact. For Liza, learning in these conditions is extremely difficult: several classes are studied in the same room at the same time, and multiple teachers teach simultaneously.

Due to the learning conditions and the stress caused by the war, Liza's hearing began to deteriorate, and she urgently needed new hearing aids. **Her family could not afford them on their own and reached out to Fight For Right. We provided support, and Liza now has modern hearing aids that enable her to fully participate in learning and to communicate with everyone.**

In 2025, we provided **164** assistive devices to people with disabilities, including:



59
wheelchairs



58
anti-decubitus
mattresses



18
hearing
aids



15
walkers



12
rollators

As well as:



1
an eye tracker



1
a medical adjustable bed

... and many other life-saving devices.

Seventeen-year-old Oleksandr from the Odesa region uses a rollator every day to stay active and independent.

When his mobility aid broke, an official replacement could have taken a long time he did not have ahead of university admission and rehabilitation.

Fight For Right promptly provided a new rollator, restoring Oleksandr's ability to move, plan his studies, and take steps toward his future.



After evacuating from Svatove to Kharkiv, Hennadii was left without his wheelchair. The state denied his request: formally, its service life had not yet expired.

Fight For Right stepped in where the system stopped. A new wheelchair enabled Hennadii and his family to begin rebuilding their lives in a new place.



«All the best to you, and only good things. People who help one another must be happy. Be happy!»

Fight For Right purchased and provided an eye-gaze communication device, Tobii Dynavox, and the TD Snap app for Valerii, who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

For three years after his diagnosis, he was unable to communicate fully. While the state does not provide this technology, people can only rely on their own strength and on support from the community.



We managed to raise more than UAH 296,000 and purchase a powered wheelchair with chin control for Oleh from the Poltava region.

He sustained a spinal injury back in 2005. His previous wheelchair, provided by a charitable organization 12 years ago, became unusable and could not be repaired.

The state refused to provide Oleh with a wheelchair, citing an absurd and incorrect conclusion by the Medical and Social Expert Commission (prior to the reform) that “no medical indications have been established for providing a wheelchair and a car.”

No one took into account Oleh’s abilities and needs, including the fact that he had been using a powered wheelchair for many years.

But thanks to Fight For Right and caring people around the world, Oleh now has a new powered wheelchair.



In 2025, we provided **817** individual WARMTH assistance kits.

WARMTH

is a Fight For Right initiative that we have implemented **since 2022** to help people with disabilities safely get through the winter amid the war and attacks on the energy system.

WARMTH includes **alternative sources of power and basic winter items such as blankets, sleeping bags, and so on.**



In 2025, **297** people with disabilities received financial assistance from Fight For Right in the Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Chernihiv regions.

Financial support helped **families repair their homes after shelling, provide households with fuel for the winter, purchase warm clothing, and obtain essential devices for monitoring their health.**

Sixteen-year-old Vitalii from the Dnipropetrovsk region, who has cerebral palsy, developed aspiration pneumonia. He urgently needed a surgical suction device to remove mucus and phlegm in order to clear his airways and reduce the risk of dangerous complications.

Fight For Right helped Vitalii's family purchase the device, because they could not afford it on their own. This saved the boy's life.



During the occupation of Kherson, Anastasiia's family lived in constant fear and starvation. There was often no electricity or water. At times, they would share a single loaf of bread for three days. It was difficult to find food, and it was impossible to purchase the necessary medicines. Anastasiia herself could not receive proper medical care, as Russian troops were stationed in the hospital. At the time, her older daughter was only two years old, and Anastasiia was expecting her second child.

After the liberation of Kherson, the family moved to the Kharkiv region, to a safer place. After what she experienced, Anastasiia's older daughter did not speak for a long time and was afraid of the dark. The family now lives in an old house with stove heating.

Thanks to financial assistance from Fight For Right, the family was able to purchase an electric fireplace.

«Thank you for your help.
Now our house will be warm.
You helped us so much»



KARYNA HRESKIV, case lead at Fight For Right:

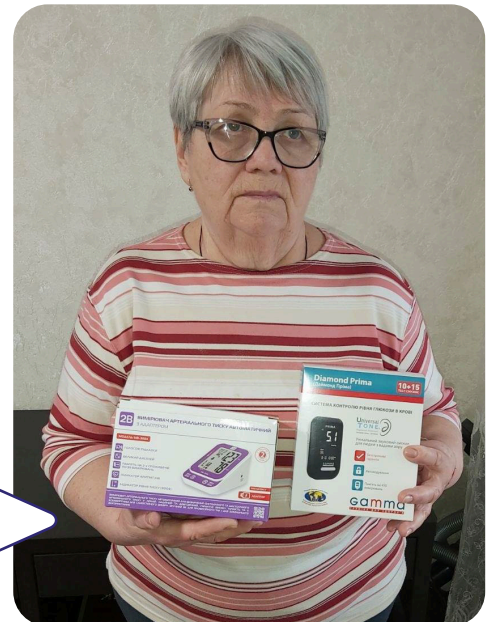
«For me, it matters that our support affects not only improvements in quality of life and well-being, but also gives people a sense of support and care. That is exactly why we do this work»



Valentyna is 72. Because of the war, she was forced to leave her hometown of Orikhiv and move to Zaporizhzhia. Following cancer surgery, she has to purchase medications that are not covered by the “Affordable Medicines” program. In addition, Valentyna has diabetes and often experiences high blood pressure.

To regularly monitor her health, she needed a glucometer and a blood pressure monitor, which she could not purchase herself. **Fight For Right provided Valentyna with financial support to buy the necessary equipment.**

«Thanks to your help, I have the opportunity to monitor my health and improve my quality of life. This is not only material assistance, but also tremendous moral support»



SERHII HRYN,

Fight For Right's evacuation vehicle driver, carried out aid missions in dozens of localities in frontline regions in 2025:

«War tries to break us, to make us closed off. But I see how people, despite everything, want to stay on their native land in Ukraine. And each of our humanitarian missions, each evacuation to rescue people with disabilities, is also an important contribution to preserving the state»



In 2025, Fight For Right carried out **12** evacuations, bringing **20** people to safety.

Among those rescued were 74-year-old Antonina and her 76-year-old husband Ivan (names changed at the family's request). They found themselves in Sviatohirsk, at the very epicenter of hostilities.

Because of their health condition, the couple could not leave the town on their own: the woman has a Category II disability and walks with a cane, while the man uses a wheelchair. The only place where they could feel at least somewhat safe was the basement of the Sviatohirsk Lavra.

A friend of Antonina and Ivan, who had previously managed to evacuate, purchased a house in the Zhytomyr region and invited the couple to live with her, in warmth and peace.

Through the joint efforts of Fight For Right and the Rose on Hand charitable organization, the family was evacuated.



NATALIIA SHYSHOLIK,

hotline operator and case manager at Fight For Right:

«We try to make sure that after the conversation, people feel at least a little better, even if solving their problem takes time or is beyond our capacity. One of the hardest parts of the job is understanding, already during the first call, how critical the situation is. We try to determine who needs help first, and where there is a real threat to life and health»



Shelling of Ukrainian cities and villages gives no time to recover. At Fight For Right, we understand that we cannot stop providing support. Every day, our hotline receives dozens of calls from people with disabilities and families raising children with disabilities.

Overall, in 2025 we processed

53 896 requests for assistance, of which:

40 590

requests were submitted
via online forms

6 203

through the hotline

6 112

by email

991

via social media

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

We provided

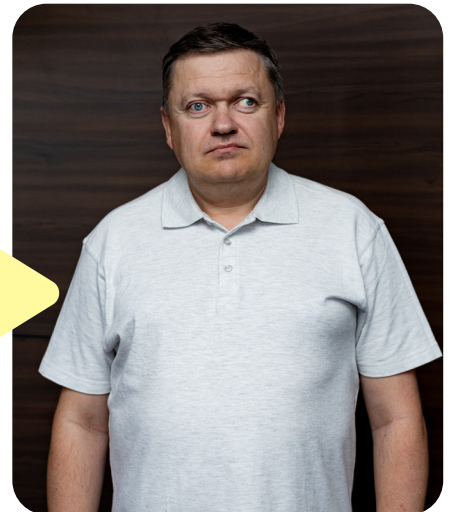
400 individual legal consultations to people with disabilities.

Timely and professional legal advice is one of the important guarantees for the exercise and protection of the rights of people with disabilities.

YAROSLAV BOCHKO,

hotline lawyer at Fight For Right:

«Legal assistance from Fight For Right is not only about providing people with disabilities with legal mechanisms to address a specific difficult life situation, but also about raising their legal awareness and developing legal consciousness, which will enable them to resolve issues independently in the future»



For example, **the family of 14-year-old Nikita received legal support from Fight For Right.** As a result of a missile strike by enemy forces on Kharkiv, the boy lost his mother. This painful tragedy led him, together with his aunt, who became his guardian, and his grandmother to relocate to western Ukraine.

The boy has damage to his nervous system, which has affected his mobility. However, the bright young man is determined to receive an education and studies remotely.

After relocating, the family sought support in completing the necessary documents. **Thanks to Fight For Right, they received legal advice on arranging Nikita's disability status and a pension for his grandmother, as well as financial assistance to purchase winter clothing and footwear for the teenager.**

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

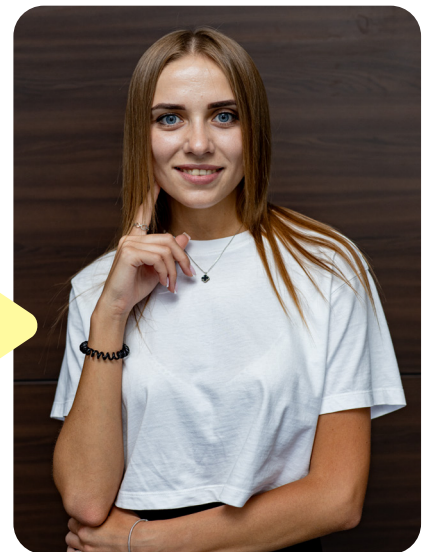
We provided

316 individual psychological consultations to people with disabilities.

MARYNA STADNYK,

hotline psychologist
at Fight For Right:

«Above all, psychological support gives people with disabilities the feeling that they are heard and understood without judgment. For many, this alone is a powerful therapeutic experience, and their sense of inner strength grows. When people can safely talk about fear, shame, guilt, loss, or anger, the tension gradually decreases»



In addition,

27 women veterans received another **88** psychological consultations

15 women veterans used Fight For Right's legal support.

ADVOCACY

FIGHT FOR RIGHT'S ADVOCACY WORK IN 2025:

- 1. Deinstitutionalisation, Legal Capacity, and the Right to Independent Living**
- 2. Harmonising Ukrainian legislation with the EU disability acquis and ensuring the participation of the disability community in Ukraine's EU integration processes.**
- 3. Changes in national policies on employment, disability determination, media, and accessibility, based on a human-rights approach to disability.**
- 4. Documentation of war crimes committed against people with disabilities, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).**
- 5. Inclusive humanitarian response.**

Since 2019, Fight For Right has operated the Disability Research Center.

Our 2025 selection in the “Analytics” section expanded with 11 analytical briefs, studies, and manuals that not only identify problems and gaps in current policies and practices in Ukraine, but also build a strong foundation for human-centered change and reforms, and strengthen advocacy efforts.

Fight For Right cooperates with:

- the Ministry of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine;
- the Advisor–Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Accessibility;
- the Government Office for Coordination of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

Our civil society partners are the Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition, the VETERANKA movement, Five in the Morning Coalition, ZMINA, and others.



DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

In February 2025, a public presentation of the **Deinstitutionalization Strategy** took place, in the advocacy and development of which **Fight For Right** actively participated.

Advocacy Manager **Yevheniia Bulana** emphasized the importance of turning the Strategy into real change on the path toward independent living for people with disabilities:



«Institutions do not treat a person as a priority, but as a resource for keeping the system alive and securing funding»

We developed recommendations for the Ministry of Social Policy regarding a new version of the **draft state standard for the supported living social service**, to prevent the creation of **small-scale institutional facilities**.

In 2025, **Fight For Right** maintained an ongoing working dialogue with the **Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine**, including at the deputy minister level, to monitor implementation of the national deinstitutionalization strategy and respond to the critical situation of people with disabilities in institutions, including in temporarily occupied territories.

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

Fight For Right held two three-day schools, “From Institutions to Freedom: School of Human Rights of People with Disabilities for Allies of Deinstitutionalization.”



The schools were attended by **30 representatives of influential civil society organizations, the public sector, and the donor community.** This helped build a **strategic circle of allies for deinstitutionalization** and significantly expand the community of those ready to defend the independent living of people with disabilities. These schools, with their unique program, **are important for Ukraine in the context of EU integration processes,** as they strengthen the capacity of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to implement systemic reforms in line with European human rights standards and deinstitutionalization practices.



DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

We held four meetings of the **Uzhhorod Group** (Ukrainian and international experts on disability rights compliance, who first convened in January 2024 in Uzhhorod).



Three meetings were held online and one offline in Kyiv. We agreed to collect information on organizations' work on deinstitutionalization, review the supported living standard, and join this process, initiate an expansion of the Uzhhorod Group, and, in particular, involve self-advocates from among people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.



On June 20–21, we **held a two-day strategic session in Budapest (Hungary) on implementing deinstitutionalization in Ukraine**. Leading experts from Ukraine, Canada, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Belgium joined the discussions. Together, we developed an agenda for change in the field of disability rights in Ukraine and outlined Fight For Right's priority areas of work.

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

In 2025, Fight For Right systematically invested in communications as a key tool for advancing deinstitutionalization in Ukraine.

We continued developing the **country's only specialized information platform, diukraine.info**, expanding it with analytical materials, research, and expert articles aimed at fostering an evidence-based public and policy discourse around the transition from institutions to independent living. Through the **#PersonalExperience** section, we collected testimonies from people with disabilities who had lived in institutions, including in temporarily occupied territories, which made it possible to combine a legal and analytical framework with the human dimension of rights violations.



Fight For Right also delivered a large-scale media campaign jointly with Hromadske, aimed at raising public awareness of the consequences of institutionalisation and the potential of independent living. Through personal stories, the campaign showed how the institutional system reproduces exclusion and rights violations, and how access to community-based support changes life trajectories. The short film and its social media adaptations reached **nearly half a million people, bringing deinstitutionalisation into broad public debate.**

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

Analytics and research remain a key foundation for deinstitutionalisation advocacy in Ukraine. In 2025, Fight For Right conducted a comprehensive analysis of the **institutional system** ahead of its transformation and identified systemic human rights violations, financial imbalances, and structural barriers that hindered the transition to independent living.

Fight For Right examined Ukraine's institutional system and demonstrated its scale and deep entrenchment, as well as documented key problems associated with keeping people in institutions. In particular, the analysis showed that the state's average spending to maintain one person in an institution is UAH 18,000 per month. This indicates that financial resources exist but are not directed toward developing community-based services. These findings formed the basis of the study **The Value of the System Above the Value of the Person: The Economics of Institutions in Ukraine** and the report **Analysis of Sources, Funding Distribution, and Cost Assessment of Institutional Settings: A Case Study of Khmelnytskyi Region.**

Fight For Right paid particular attention to the situation of people in institutions located in Ukraine's temporarily occupied territories under Russian control. The analytical review **The Situation of People in Institutions in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine** documented cases of forced isolation, the state's loss of control over facilities, and the absence of mechanisms to return and protect these people.

To accelerate the implementation of the national Deinstitutionalisation Strategy and ensure the right to independent living, Fight For Right prepared a **Ukrainian translation of the Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding.** This gave Ukrainian stakeholders access to a key European policy document in the field of deinstitutionalization.

LEGAL CAPACITY

In 2025, Fight For Right launched a systematic effort to reform the legal capacity regime in Ukraine to eliminate guardianship, deprivation of legal capacity, and substituted decision-making models, and to ensure full recognition of the rights of people with disabilities.

Under the leadership of **Michael Bach (New Society Institute)**, Fight For Right initiated an in-depth analysis of the national legal framework on legal capacity and laid the evidence and analytical foundation for further systemic change and transformation of the current model in Ukraine.



DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES

In 2025, Fight For Right ensured the systematic integration of disability rights into Ukraine's EU integration agenda.

In particular, at the invitation of the **Ministry of Justice of Ukraine**, we participated in meetings on implementation of the Rule of Law Roadmap and submitted proposals for its implementation (para. 3.13) to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. Some of our recommendations were reflected in further work.

In cooperation with the **Ministry of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine**, we advocated for the development of supported living services and deinstitutionalization. This issue was included on the agenda of relevant policy discussions.

Fight For Right contributed to the preparation of a **Shadow Report to the European Commission on Ukraine** for 2024, in the chapter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Shadow Report was presented on October 23, 2025.

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES

We built new strategic partnerships with representatives of the **European Commission, the European External Action Service, and the EU Delegation to Ukraine**. As a result, the integration of EU standards and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was raised more frequently in dialogue on EU integration reforms and their monitoring. In this way, we seek to ensure that disability rights are taken into account when assessing Ukraine's progress and developing further recommendations within the EU accession process.

Fight For Right also **systematically monitored whether reforms comply with EU standards and the CRPD**. We prepared analytical briefs and recommendations on draft legislation (including on reasonable accommodation mechanisms and on the Law of Ukraine on Media), and informed the public about progress and challenges in implementing relevant EU integration reforms.

We participated in the activities of the working (negotiation) groups responsible for preparing Ukraine's positions in accession talks with the EU. As a result, the quality of legislative initiatives improved under Chapters 19 (Social Policy and Employment) and 28 (Consumer and Health Protection). At the same time, Fight For Right strengthened its expert role in consultation processes to ensure systematic incorporation of EU standards into the development of regulatory changes.

Fight For Right analyzed the draft Rule of Law Roadmap in terms of the proposed steps to meet disability rights standards.

This resulted in the study, **Assessment of the Inclusion of Disability Rights in the Draft Rule of Law Roadmap**.

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES

In spring 2025, Yuliia Sachuk presented the **results of a study on the accessibility of audiovisual and media services in Ukraine**, comparing Ukrainian and European media legislation. This work includes a detailed comparative analysis and proposes concrete steps to improve Ukraine's media legislation.

On November 3–5, the Fight For Right advocacy team, led by Yuliia Sachuk, held more than 10 meetings with representatives of key EU institutions, as well as European and Ukrainian civil society organizations, during an advocacy visit to Brussels (Belgium).



Our delegation presented its advocacy messages and discussed reform challenges related to ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in Ukraine in the context of EU integration. In particular, we met with **representatives of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) and the Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighborhood (DG ENEST), the European External Action Service (EEAS), Get Ready for Europe, and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.**

As a result, we secured the support of EU institutions, new allies, and European partners for implementing deinstitutionalization, strengthening oversight mechanisms to ensure inclusive recovery, and more.



DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES

For the fifth time, we organized the National Conference on Disability Rights, The European Future of the Rights of People with Disabilities. The event was held jointly with the Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition.



A total of **216** participants attended, including representatives of state authorities, the European Commission, local governments, international organizations, and civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities and veteran communities.



In particular, the Conference featured:



MARTIN MULEK,

Head of the Good Governance and Fundamental Rights Team, Ukraine Service, Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighborhood (DG ENEST), European Commission;



OLEKSANDR ILKOV,

Director General, Government Office for Coordination on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration;



TETIANA LOMAKINA,

Advisor – Presidential Commissioner for Barrier-Free Environment;



RUSLAN PRYKHODKO,

Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine;



INNA SOLODKA,

Deputy Minister of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine;



KATERYNA PRYIMAK,

woman veteran, Head of the Women Veterans Movement NGO;



MASI NAYYEM,

veteran, lawyer, and co-founder of Pryncyp, the Human Rights Center for Military Personnel and Veterans

The key topics of discussion were:

- integrating disability rights into Ukraine's EU integration and recovery processes;
- deinstitutionalization and the development of community-based social services;
- ensuring the rights of women and men veterans after their return to civilian life.

Following the Conference, we outlined key priorities for 2026 and strengthened cross-sector dialogue.



For the fifth time, we held the disability visibility action, Lights for Rights, on Maidan Nezalezhnosti.



DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES

Fight For Right initiated the course “Ukraine’s EU Accession: Advocating for Disability Rights.” From June through the end of the year, 25 participants – both from the disability community and from among disability rights activists – learned the nuances of European advocacy amid missile attacks and blackouts.

Our goal was to build an expert network of people with disabilities who know how to make EU accession inclusive in practice and who will continue to contribute to the work of the negotiation groups.

Sixteen lectures were delivered by leading analysts:

- **MAKSYM YAKOVLIEV,**
Director of the School for Policy Analysis and Head of the Department of International Relations at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy;
- **YANINA ARSENIEVA,**
an independent disability expert in Europe and Eurasia;
- **OLHA LYMAR,**
Executive Director of the Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition;
- **LIUBOV AKULENKO,**
Executive Director of the Ukrainian Center for European Policy.

We also welcomed leading international disability experts, including

- **MONIKA CSABA,**
Disability and Inclusion Policy Officer at the European Commission (Brussels, Belgium);
- **INES BULIC,**
Director of ENIL – the European Network on Independent Living (Brussels, Belgium);
- **EVA KROLLA,**
a researcher at Maynooth University (Ireland).

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES

Participants developed practical skills needed by professional negotiators and learned advocacy techniques, including crafting impactful messages. They analysed the accession experience of other countries and adapted this knowledge to the Ukrainian context. They identified reforms already underway and those still needed for Ukraine to meet the Copenhagen criteria. They explored how disability rights are integrated into EU policy and which EU mechanisms can become tools for change in Ukraine. Later, they prepared analytical materials and held advocacy meetings in Kyiv and Brussels.



HUMAN RIGHTS

We contributed to the development of the National Human Rights Strategy through 2035. In particular, our advocates insisted that the Strategy include legal capacity reform and effective steps toward deinstitutionalization. Fight For Right developed recommendations for the future document that reflect the rights and interests of people with disabilities and embed a human rights approach as cross-cutting across the human rights agenda.

INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**We became members of the Humanitarian NGO Platform in Ukraine.**

Fight For Right actively engages with the humanitarian clusters **Protection, Health, and Shelter**, as well as inter-cluster working groups, including the **Age and Disability Working Group (ADWG)** and the **Cash Working Group**, at both national and subnational levels.

Through active participation in working group meetings, information exchange from field programs, and advocacy initiatives, Fight For Right strengthens cross-sector coordination, helps prevent duplication of assistance, and supports the integration of protection, gender equality, age, and inclusion principles into humanitarian planning.

Fight For Right Head Yuliia Sachuk spoke at the Zero Project Conference 2025: Employment and ICT, an annual global conference on innovations for disability inclusion held on March 5–7 at the United Nations Office at Vienna (Austria), bringing together more than 1,000 participants from over 90 countries.



At this international platform, Yuliia presented Fight For Right's experience in disability-inclusive humanitarian response during the war, highlighting three years of the organization's practical work in implementing inclusive approaches in humanitarian crises.

INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

During Humanitarian Weeks 2025 in Geneva, Fight For Right continued its international advocacy work by presenting practices and approaches that ensure the needs of people with disabilities are taken into account in humanitarian processes.



Liudmyla Fursova, Fight For Right advocate, spoke at the session “Engaging Persons with Disabilities in the Humanitarian Response in Ukraine” (with participation from the World Health Organization and Humanity & Inclusion U.S.), emphasizing the critical importance of including persons with disabilities not only as aid recipients, but also as active participants and partners in the humanitarian response. Liudmyla noted the potential of the Ukrainian community to shape sustainable, equitable models of support during the war.



DOCUMENTING WAR CRIMES

During field missions, we documented war crimes committed by Russian forces against people with disabilities. Our team spoke with people with disabilities who survived conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), in accordance with principles of ethical and accessible information collection.

A separate line of work **focused on researching war crimes committed by Russian forces** in institutional facilities in the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv regions.

We also examined the situation of people with disabilities in institutional facilities located in Ukraine's temporarily occupied territories under Russian control.

Analytical piece: "Behind Closed Doors: The Life of Residents of Psychoneurological Institutions in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Zaporizhzhia Region."

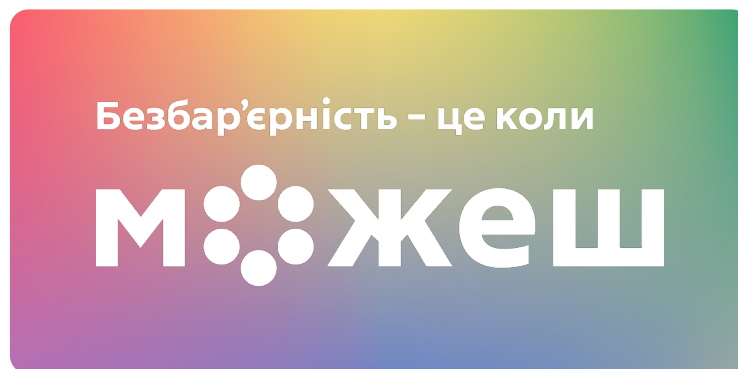
Analytical piece: "War Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine: Deportation, Terror, and Systemic Rights Violations."



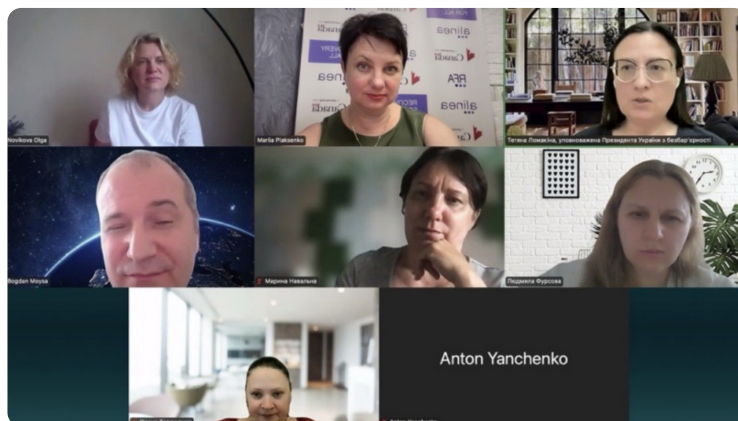
ACCESSIBILITY

In 2025, Fight For Right carried out expert and analytical work to support the implementation of the state **Accessibility Strategy** initiated by Ukraine's First Lady, which Yuliia Sachuk co-authored.

The organization became a member of the **Accessibility Platform**, a new cross-sector coordination mechanism, providing expert support to public authorities, including through working meetings with ministry leadership, with participation of Tetiana Lomakina, Advisor – Presidential Commissioner for Barrier-Free Environment.



As part of this work, Fight For Right also contributed to the development of the draft national standard “Accessibility Terminology,” insisting on modern human rights-based terminology and rejecting the medical model of disability as the basis of public policy.



We **joined** Ukrainian civil society in submitting comments on the draft Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine resolution “On Approving the Principles, Criteria, and Limits of Reasonable Accommodation and Universal Design” (Draft No. 66480-7-25).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



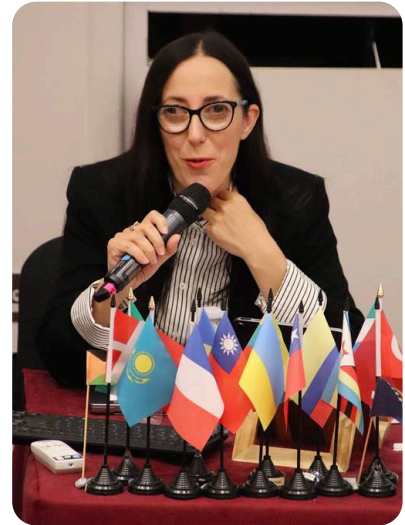
Fight For Right represented Ukraine at the Global Disability Summit – one of the world’s largest events in the field of disability rights. The event took place with participation of top political leadership, including the Chancellor of Germany and the King of Jordan. For us, the Summit became an important platform for promoting Ukraine’s experience of war, humanitarian response, and deinstitutionalization within the global disability rights agenda.

Yuliia Sachuk participated in events held on the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly in September in New York (United States).



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Yuliia Sachuk spoke at the **16th Annual Summer School on Disability Rights at the University of Galway (Ireland)** about the experience of defending and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities during the war, and about the important role of the veteran community as one of the driving forces for change in Ukraine.



Advocacy Manager Yevheniia Bulana also participated in the Disability Rights Summer School.

Together, the colleagues left a message of solidarity with Ukraine and our fight against Russia's aggression on the school's shared creative mural: a blue-and-yellow flag with an embroidered “++” symbol (military slang for “all good”).



COMMUNITY

RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

LEADERKA

Fight For Right and the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) held the first International LEADERKA School for girls and women with disabilities in Brussels.



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RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

LEADERKA

During a visit to the European Parliament, **Tilly Metz**, a Member of the European Parliament from the Greens/European Free Alliance group, emphasized in a meeting with LEADERKA School participants that the European Parliament needs representatives with disabilities:



«Politicians should not just talk about problems, but be part of the community they represent»



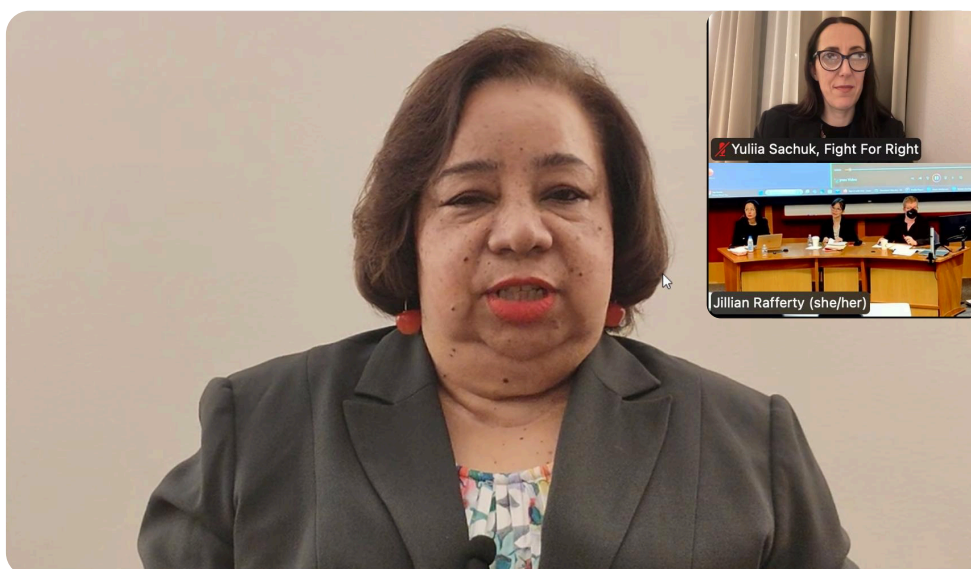
RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Fight For Right conducted the study **The Leadership Potential of Women with Disabilities in Ukraine During the War**. Girls and women of different ages and with different types of disabilities spoke about opportunities and barriers – how they understand “leadership,” the role of their environment and accessibility in developing leadership skills, and why it can seem that local authorities “fear persons with disabilities like the plague.”

Together with the Ukrainian Women’s Fund, we **developed 10 modules on gender-inclusive recovery of Ukraine**.

Fight For Right participated in the **69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York** (United States), dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the **Beijing Declaration** and Platform for Action.

In November, **Yuliia Sachuk spoke** during the discussion “Trafficking in Persons and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” held as part of the “Human Rights in Practice” series at Duke Law School, organized by the International Human Rights Clinic and the Center for International and Comparative Law. Yuliia spoke about the risks of trafficking in persons and other conflict-related rights violations affecting girls and women with disabilities in Ukraine.



The event also featured **Heba Hagrass, Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Yuliia Sachuk spoke at the event “Breaking Barriers: Women and Girls with Disabilities in Conflict and Emergencies,” held on May 20, 2025, in New York as part of the Protection of Civilians Week. The human rights defender spoke about the risks faced by girls and women with disabilities during Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



edera

Всі курси

UA 🌐 🗄

Бути собі ціллю:

онлайн-курс про лідерство жінок і дівчат з інвалідністю

[Зареєструватися](#)

Together with the EdEra platform, Fight For Right created the free online course “Be Your Goal” on the leadership of girls and women with disabilities.

RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**LEADERKA. DRIVE**

In 2025, Fight For Right launched the “LEADERKA DRIVE” movement of women and girls with disabilities to advance collective work on leadership and the protection of the rights of women with disabilities, bringing together graduates of Leaderka School of Political Participation for Young Women and Girls with Disabilities.



Movement members actively participate in advocacy meetings at the national and international levels and take part in working groups with ministries and state institutions to promote the rights of women with disabilities and integrate accessibility and inclusion principles into public policies. Our goal is to ensure that the needs of women with disabilities are taken into account in Ukraine’s recovery and European integration.

RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

We held a **forum** in Kyiv for the education community, **“Developing the Leadership of Girls with Disabilities Starting in School,”** and presented a new methodological guide that offers effective approaches to unlocking the potential of girls with disabilities from school onward.



During the presentation of the Olena Zelenska Foundation study “Future Index: Professional Expectations and Adolescent Development,” **Yuliia Sachuk presented the guide “Developing the Leadership of Girls with Disabilities” to Olena Zelenska and Kateryna Osadcha.** In her remarks, Yuliia also spoke about how to overcome infrastructure barriers and negative stereotypes in order to increase the chances of professional self-realisation for adolescents with disabilities.



RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

In 2025, nine girls and women with disabilities received grants from **Fight For Right** to implement community-based projects, with technical support from UN Women in Ukraine and funding from the UN Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). These initiatives focused on arts, business, leadership, participation in recovery, and promoting accessibility.



To help prepare for the grant competition, we held a camp, **“Being Your Own Goal,”** for women and girls with disabilities who are seeking real change in their communities. The camp participants are activists who work with women and girls with disabilities or are members of the community. They are already implementing projects in their communities in Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Lviv, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, and Zhytomyr regions.



RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Presentation of the photo exhibition “Being Your Own Goal” at Sens on Khreshchatyk. Nineteen portraits and stories about the strength, leadership, and fight for dignity of women with disabilities.

RIMMA ZIUBINA,
actor and activist:

«It is something to be proud to have such women and girls in Ukraine!»



EMMA ANTONIUK,
civic activist, co-author of the Asymmetry podcast and the Palaie project in a conversation with Yuliia Sachuk.

«Leadership is like being on a plane during turbulence: first put on your own oxygen mask, and only then help others. Because if you cannot breathe, you will not be able to save anyone»

YULIIA SACHUK,
Head of Fight For Right:

«We must learn to be the heroines of our own stories. Speak out loud. Name ourselves. This is also about leadership—because it begins where we dare to say: my story is worth being heard»



INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN VETERANS

We held the “**STRENGTHENING: Business and Professional Growth for Women Veterans**” school to strengthen the professional capacity and economic independence of women veterans, with and without disabilities.



As part of Fight For Right’s support program for women veterans, we ensured ongoing access to:

- high-quality psychological support;
- individual legal consultations.

We launched the online course “**Strengthening: Business and Professional Growth for Women Veterans**” on the EdEra learning platform:

- video lessons from women experts with practical experience in business and reskilling;
- written materials;
- practical case studies adapted to the needs of women veterans;
- assignments to develop a business plan or a professional pathway.

Results:

352

registered course participants

73

participants successfully completed the course

INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN VETERANS

We provided 10 grants for women veterans, with and without disabilities:

- 8** for launching or developing their own businesses;
- 2** for education and professional retraining.

Mentorship support was provided to ensure successful implementation.

The Toronto TV episode “THE POWER OF COMMUNITIES: How Veteran and Civic Organizations Support Veterans” received more than

> 65 000
views



COMMUNICATIONS

In 2025, Fight For Right’s communications team continued systematic work to make disability rights heard more clearly and our experience more visible in the public space. For us, communications are a way to shift public attention – from stereotypes and paternalism to equality and human rights.

In 2025, we focused on ensuring that the voices of women and girls with disabilities, including women veterans, were amplified, supported systemic change, and strengthened the organization’s expert position.

We sent out three issues of the “Disability. Rights. Fight” newsletter in English and Ukrainian.

**FIGHT
FOR
RIGHT**

ІНВАЛІДНІСТЬ. ПРАВА. БОРОТЬБА
DISABILITY. HUMAN RIGHTS. RESISTANCE

We published a 2026 calendar with motivational quotes from leaders of the disability rights movement in Ukraine and worldwide.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media served as a primary engagement channel for our audience.

Throughout the year, we published **338** on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

In 2025, our social media posts were viewed

2 883 504 times.

Most popular posts:



a **post** about 5 ways to promote independent living for persons with disabilities (Instagram)



a **post** about psychological and legal support for women veterans (Instagram)



a **reel** about the importance of implementing deinstitutionalization (Facebook)

WEBSITE: FFR.ORG.UA

In 2025, Fight For Right published
108 news items and articles on its website.

The total number of website visits was
94 816

The Fight For Right website remained a strategic platform where we shared not only organizational news, but also expert and advocacy content.

PLATFORM: DIUKRAINE.INFO

In 2025, we published
45 posts on the diukraine.info platform.

Platform materials were viewed
34 543 times.

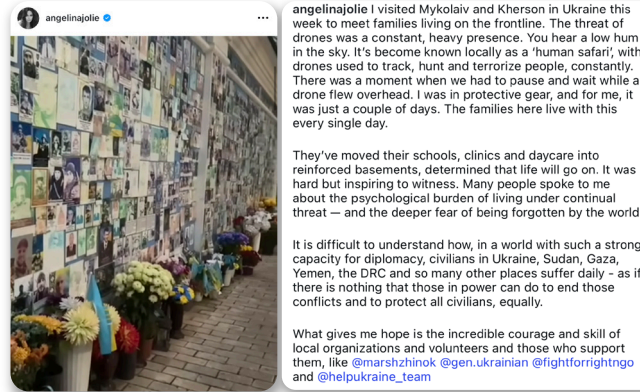
Throughout the year, we ran information campaigns to highlight, in particular, the following topics:

- documenting war crimes committed by Russian forces against people with disabilities during the full-scale war;
- implementing deinstitutionalization in Ukraine;
- strengthening the leadership of women veterans with disabilities after their return to civilian life.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF FIGHT FOR RIGHT

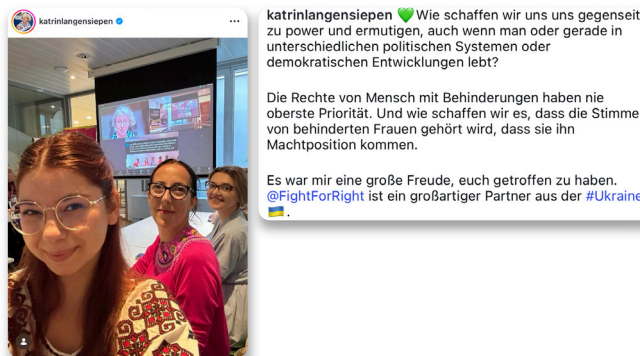
ANGELINA JOLIE,

actor, director, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador



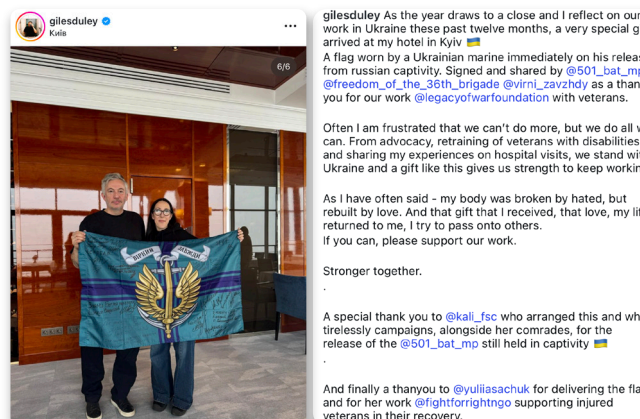
KATHRIN LANGENSIEPEN,

German politician from the Alliance 90/The Greens group, the first Member of the European Parliament with a visible disability



GILES DULEY,

photographer, founder of the Legacy of War Foundation, UN Advocate for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the context of war and peacebuilding



MORE THAN

> 200

**MEDIA PUBLICATIONS COVERED
FIGHT FOR RIGHT'S WORK**

Our work was featured by: Suspilne, Espresso, Detector Media, Television Toronto, Hromadske, Hromadske Radio, ZMINA, Elle, ICTV, Insider Media, Rubryka, Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, Bukvy, Den, and other outlets.

**детектор медіа****ТЕЛЕБАЧЕННЯ
ТОРОНТО****hromadske****громадське радіо**
слухайте. думайте.**ZMINA**
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER**ELLE**The logo for Insider Media, featuring a red circular icon with a white dot inside, to the left of the words "INSIDER MEDIA" in red uppercase letters.
INSIDER MEDIA
ІНФОРМАЦІЙНО-АНАЛІТИЧНЕ ВИДАННЯThe logo for Rubryka, featuring a blue square with a white cross-like shape inside, to the left of the word "Рубрика" in blue uppercase letters.
Рубрика

Yuliia Sachuk was a guest on Maksym Butkevych and Dariia Bura's [podcast "I Hear Others."](#)



She also gave an [interview to Vitalii Tkachuk](#) for the "Generation of Successful People" project.

More people learned about Fight For Right's work and the leadership of women with disabilities thanks to the warm support of influencers



EMMA ANTONIUK,
host and interviewer

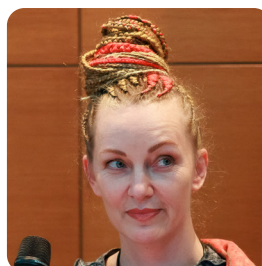


RIMMA ZIUBINA,
actor

Guest speakers at our events included:



OLHA OLKOVA,
poet and civic activist



LIUDMYLA HOROVA,
poet



OLHA VOITENKO,
writer

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR

In 2025, Fight For Right conducted training for the staff of the KFC chain and developed 10 recommendations that will enable KFC to provide services to people with disabilities on an equal basis with others. Through online lectures and practical sessions, KFC staff and management learned more about:

- respectful communication with people with disabilities;
- the difference between accessibility, reasonable accommodation, and universal design;
- employing people with disabilities, and more.

Together with Fight For Right's team, we also walked through the customer journey in KFC locations to identify barriers that need to be removed. Finally, we developed and shared a video with basic Ukrainian sign language gestures to support effective communication with deaf people.



ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR

At the **Ukrainian Construction Congress, Fight For Right spoke** about how to change approaches so that accessibility combines convenience and functionality for everyone, and why Ukrainian building standards are imperfect in practice.



Yuliia Sachuk was a speaker at the international IT conference “She is Tech Conference” in the discussion “Breaking Barriers—Empowering Women with Disabilities in Tech.”

I'm a speaker at She Is Tech Conference 3.0

October 23

Yuliia Sachuk

Head of the NGO Fight For Right | human rights defender and expert on the rights of persons with disabilities



TEAM

Yuliia Sachuk, Head of Fight For Right, became an ambassador for Lutsk.



Iryna Tekuchova, Development Director and Human Rights and Inclusion Consultant at Fight For Right, **defended her doctoral dissertation and became the first woman in Ukraine to receive a PhD from Maynooth University (Ireland)**. Her research focused on how EU disability legislation affects the legal framework of Eastern Partnership countries in general and Ukraine in particular.



On December 6–14, Advocacy Manager **Yuliia Martova** visited **Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia** on a study visit within a project supported by the **Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund and UN Women in Ukraine**. Fight For Right exchanged experience with civil society organizations in these countries that are actively involved in post-war reconstruction, post-conflict recovery, and advancing reforms in the context of EU integration.



Oleksandra Vovchenko delivered training on political participation and women's leadership as part of a **UN Women in Ukraine** project.



Iryna Dovhal and Valeria Lukash successfully completed training at **She Media School**.

We held a three-day team retreat in the Carpathians, which made it possible to reset internal processes and strengthen the foundations of our collaboration.



PARTNERS



МІЖНАРОДНИЙ
ФОНД
ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ



Співфінансується
Європейським Союзом

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



New Society
Institute



Center for Disaster Philanthropy



KVINNA
KVINNA



IPHR International
Partnership
for Human Rights



MERCY
CORPS



PREMIERE
URGENCE
INTERNATIONALE



UKaid
from the British people



UHF Ukraine
Humanitarian
Fund



FONDATION
LOGEMENT
Un combat en héritage



MEDU
ЛІКАРІ
ЗА
ПРАВА
ЛЮДИНИ



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO



Women's Peace &
Humanitarian Fund
A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership



UN WOMEN



FOR ALL
WOMEN
AND GIRLS



CHOOSE
LOVE



act:ionaid



Norway Швеція Sverige ЄДНАННЯ АСКОЛЬД І ДІР
НОРВЕГЬКО-ШВЕДСЬКИЙ ФОНД



МІЖНАРОДНА ФІНАНСОВА
ІНІЦІАТИВА
ІНТЕРНАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ
ФІНАНСОВИЙ СИСТЕМ



german
humanitarian
assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE



Help
Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe



HLF Help
Localisation
Facility



global
fund
for
children



LEGACY
OF WAR
FOUNDATION



ENIL
independent
rights
embroidery



EYF
European Youth Foundation
Fond européen pour la jeunesse



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Embassy of Finland, Kyiv
Посольство Фінляндії, Київ



UK International
Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



DPOD
DISABLED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS DENMARK



NEW
DEMOCRACY
FUND



World Health
Organization
Ukraine

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total expenditures of Fight For Right in 2025: UAH 52,815,515**40,3 %****Disability community development:**

- European Future of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine Conference, 2025
- International Leaderka School for Girls and Women with Disabilities in Brussels
- Leadership support and subgranting for initiatives by women veterans, girls, and women with disabilities
- Training courses for women veterans, girls, and women with disabilities
- Development of Leaderka Drive

35,1 %**Protection and Support:**

- Case management
- WARMTH Winter support project
- Alternative power solutions
- Assistive devices
- Financial assistance
- Repair and accessibility improvements for shelters for internally displaced people
- Other humanitarian assistance

20,6 %**Advocacy:**

- Support for implementing deinstitutionalisation in Ukraine
- Analytical and advocacy work in the EU integration process
- Research and documenting war crimes against people with disabilities
- Activities of the Disability Research Center (DRC)
- Organisation of and participation in national and international advocacy events

4 %**Administrative costs**