



*A tool for sharing civil society knowledge and good practices*

## Civic Assistance Committee' School of Human Rights for Migrants

### Background

The project, launched in November 2014, made use of the expertise developed by the Civic Assistance Committee in working with refugees and migrants in the educational field.

Many refugees and migrants come to Russia from countries ruled by authoritarian regimes, and often lack some basic human rights concepts. Logically, they also know very little about Russian legislation, culture and tradition. The combination of these two factors often leads to difficulties in integration and has a negative impact on relations with the host population.

Refugees face considerable obstacles to fill their knowledge gap since they often cannot afford training costs nor even transport costs to attend trainings.

The School of Human Rights for Migrants aims at facilitating the integration of refugees and migrants into Russian society, raising their legal awareness, building tolerance as a social value and developing skills to prevent conflict situations.

### Statistical Snapshot\*

<b>Residing in Russian Federation</b>	
Refugees	315,313
Asylum Seekers	2,423
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced	0
Returned IDPs	0
Stateless Persons	113,474
Various	0
<b>Total Population of Concern</b>	<b>431,210</b>

### Originating from Russian Federation

Refugees	71,497
Asylum Seekers	23,605
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	0
Returned IDPs	0
Various	310
<b>Total Population of Concern</b>	<b>95,412</b>

### Notes -

\* As at June 2015

**Source:** UNHCR/  
Governments.  
Compiled by:  
UNHCR, FICSS





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## Methodology of civil society intervention

Every two months, a group of refugees is recruited to attend a training program that includes **fundamentals of law**, an **intensive language course**, and also **basic IT skills**.



Photo: Civic Assistance Committee

For those participants who cannot afford the travel to the location where courses take place, a special transport allowance is provided so that they can participate.



Photo: Civic Assistance Committee

The project is combined with other Civic Assistance Committee's initiative targeting migrant children.

The School is a pilot action – the first phase of implementation was conducted in 2014 – 2015. A follow up with participants and an analysis of best practices are planned to be conducted afterwards.

## Some important results

Russia has a strong economic need for migration. At the same time, it is important that those who come from other socio political realities are able to integrate into Russian society.

The lack of knowledge about Russian legislation, culture and traditions affects the relations between migrants and the hosting society. Migrants are in risk of becoming “second class citizens”.

The School trains around 60 people per year. Besides, useful information about the responsibilities of arriving foreigners in Russia and how to protect their rights are presented at the Civic Assistance Committee's website in a Q&A (questions and answers) format.

Important legal information is reflected in a booklet, which is another main output of the project. This material is distributed to migrant communities, and can be used in other education programs.

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## Contacts

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