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Dear all,

I am pleased to introduce the Human Rights House Network's Program *International Law in Advocacy* (Международное право для защиты общественных интересов).

The Program has started and runs as a joint framework of local Human Rights Houses, experts, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and aims to support human rights organizations.

Support of the OSCE ODIHR, the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Humanity University who shared their *know how* in distance training, has allowed the Human Rights House Foundation to launch the human rights online education program for lawyers.

It is recognized that international instruments which shaped the basic human rights as a set of normative rules and obligations of the states is a perfect tool for lawyers defending rights of victims and supporting civil rights organizations. To apply the human rights standards, however, lawyers first have to be taught in the national implementation of the international commitments made by the states. The World Conference on Human Rights (1993) called on all states and institutions to include human rights in the curricula of all educational institutions. The online training, conducted by the HRHN's Project gives the participants access to study material, expert consultations.

Running since 2009, the HRHN's Project "Electronic Human Rights Education for lawyers" gave an opportunity to receive education in human rights to more than two hundreds lawyers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine. Dozens of them continue to work with the local civil rights organizations. Lawyers create a strong network.

Several national Bar Associations and national institutions have recognized the value of the human rights education provided by the HRHF and its partners. The Regional Russian Bar Associations, Moldavian National Institute of Justice, Georgian and Ukrainian law

associations are keen to cooperate in order to bring the needed human rights education home to lawyers.

The UN Declaration on Human Rights Education (2011) states that Governments should create a safe and enabling environment for the engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in human rights education.

We recommend:

To states –

- encourage lawyers including judges and prosecutors to increase their knowledge in human rights law and international standards
- support and facilitate the closer cooperation of national human rights institutions with human rights organizations and lawyers
- provide financial support to the OSCE ODIHR, the CoE for collecting best practices in human rights education and providing expertises and assistance for lawyers and human rights defenders

To international organizations –

- Continue to support lawyers with training and expertises on implementation of human rights standards
- Broader involve human rights lawyers in work of international conferences, by developing guidelines, recommendations and legal standards.

To NGOs –

- seek and get professional support and legal aid rendered by lawyers educated in human rights

To human rights lawyers –

- Continue your work bringing international human rights standards home.

Prepared for the HDIM Warsaw

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