

Just Access Annual Report
2021-2022



Table of contents

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Director's Statement.....	3
Mission Statement.....	4
Team.....	6
Achievements.....	7
Advocacy & Strategic Legal Action	
Press & Publications	
Partnerships	
Staff Training	
Geographical Range.....	15
Revenue, Expenses, Personnel.....	16

Director's Statement

In Just Access' second year, we got into our stride. Our membership has more than doubled. We successfully applied to join high-impact umbrella organisations. We engaged in strategic legal action, published articles, blog posts and an e-book, and trained our staff at UN-accredited courses. We used the resources entrusted to us by donors and volunteers for good, and we are proud of the body of work accomplished in Year 2.

Yet Just Access is young, and much of the value of its second year has come from the confirmation that this non-profit is viable and has greater promise than we even imagined when we paused to take stock at the end of its first year. The evidence of vitality and potential that jumps out from the tally of the second year becomes in turn our motivation to continue, to look for new ways to support others in Year 3 and beyond. We are immensely fortunate and grateful for the opportunity to serve; we see this opportunity as a trust and a responsibility; and we hope not only to act for the voiceless and vulnerable but to learn how to help them become human rights defenders, too. I hope that after you read this Report, you'll get in touch and join in our promise to do far more in the years to come.

Faithfully,

Prof. Mark Somos

BA MPhil (Cantab), LLM (Sussex), AM PhD (Harvard), PhD (Lugd.Bat.)

Mission Statement

Too many individuals and groups around the world today are denied access to justice. Such access is vital for making human rights effective and securing human dignity. Especially those in a situation of vulnerability - such as women, children, minorities, migrants or detainees - face excessive impediments and difficulties in claiming their rights and accessing justice. They are often even unaware of the possibility of enforcing their rights internationally.

For these reasons, Just Access intends to provide legal assistance and representation for victims of human rights abuses, as well as to counter injustice through legal action. Our organisation specialises in the field of public international law, so that legal action will be carried out mainly at the international level, before human rights treaty bodies. One of the main aims of Just Access is to help protecting and enforcing the rights contained in international treaties.

By enforcing the rights of the victims, Just Access also intends to expose and highlight situations of structural injustice. Therefore, through individual and collective legal action, we will seek to use and create remedies that address structural situations of human rights infringements. Thus, the objective is to be able to change patterns of systemic abuses and improve the implementation of human rights standards in the relevant legal orders. We seek justice not only for some individuals directly affected by human rights violations, but for all those in similar circumstances. One way to achieve this is to initiate and develop strategic litigation that allows holding state actors accountable for their human rights infringements.

Our volunteers from the legal profession work to defend the rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups, in particular their right to an equal and non-discriminatory access to impartial justice. For this purpose, we also focus on the independence of the judiciary worldwide. Just Access intends to empower vulnerable groups by increasing their knowledge of international law and international justice, as well as by providing them with information about access to courts and other bodies.

Just Access fulfills these objectives through different means, such as international and domestic litigation, development of legal strategies, legal research and training, as well as cooperation with international bodies and non-governmental organisations. Our main form of engagement is through legal action before international bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council and other UN treaty bodies and special procedures, as well as before regional human rights courts. Just Access assists and represents victims of human rights violations before these bodies free of charge. In this regard, we focus especially on the most vulnerable and disempowered victims, as well as on those cases that reveal wide-spread problems that lead to systemic human rights abuses in the corresponding state.

Another potential field for legal action are domestic courts, as it is necessary to hold accountable not only state actors, but also individual perpetrators of human rights abuses. In order to bring these individuals before justice, we will resort to the domestic criminal law systems of their home states or third states that allow for universal jurisdiction.

Another mechanism by which Just Access intends to improve the protection and enforcement of human rights around the world is legal research and investigation. In this respect, we write legal opinions concerning ongoing cases before international bodies or in relation to state reports by UN treaty bodies. For this purpose, our organisation will apply for special consultative status before the ECOSOC.

Finally, the last axis of our work concerns legal training and education, especially for individuals and communities who lack access to educational resources. Such legal training and education is focused on international law and access to international justice, and it is directed both at legal professionals and the general public. We organise seminars and conferences for human rights activists, legal practitioners, potential victims and students in order for them to gain the knowledge about their rights and their enforcement at the international level. For the same reason, Just Access cooperates with other NGOs, as well as with academic institutions and international legal bodies.

Team



Viktoriia Lapa,
Senior Legal Fellow



Sara Cvetanovska,
Head of Administration



Prof. Mark Somos, Director



Sara Masetti,
Legal Fellow



Cvetanka Kirovka,
Head of Project Management



Lucas Sanchez,
Head of International Litigation

Dr. Miranda Melcher
Senior Legal Fellow



Ida Manton,
Senior Adviser,
Negotiations &
Conflict Resolution



Marketa Klicova,
Head of Design



Simona Ross,
Senior Legal Fellow



Dr. Lukas Ley,
Head of Research

Achievements

I. Advocacy and Strategic Legal Action

- On 31 July 2021, we delivered a speech at “Protecting Human Rights on the Internet: the Role of Governments, Businesses and Civil Society”, organised on the sidelines of the UN Human Rights Council’s 47th session.
- With Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (Cairo, Egypt); the International Organization for the Least Developed Countries (Geneva, Switzerland); and Word for Peace (New Delhi, India), Just Access co-organised a side event to “Equal Access to Justice for All: a Necessary Element of Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection”, the 3rd session of the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Just Access also provided moderation and gave one of the speeches (17 November 2021).
- On 28 February 2022, Just Access delivered a statement at the formal briefing of the UN Human Rights Committee concerning the periodic review of Qatar’s compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Just Access gave the keynote speech at the “The Human Rights Situation in Qatar”, a side event to the UN Human Rights Council’s 49th Session (24 March 2022).
- Just Access co-organised and delivered the keynote speech on education and extremism at “Promoting Sustainable Development Goal 4 and its Role in Combating Extremism in Europe”, a side event at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (6 April 2022).

Virtual side event at the UN Economic Commission for Europe
(ECE) Regional Forum on Sustainable Development



Promoting **SDG 4** and its Role in Combating Extremism in Europe



**SDG4:
Quality
Education**



Nevena Dobрева
PhD, Chair of FECE
Foundation for Entrepreneurship,
Culture and Education



Mark Somos
Director
Just Access



Karolina Karpiuk
Project Manager
Green Elephant Foundation



Armelia Barci
Executive Director
People in Focus



Elisavet Vasileiou
European Projects' Coordinator
Entrepreneurship and Social
Economy Group



Hagar Monsif
Moderator

**Wednesday
6 April
2022
13:15
(Geneva Time)**




- In May 2022, the NGO began to offer Ukrainian refugees free legal representation, especially for human rights complaints at the United Nations.


Just Access e.V.
offers

free legal services
for

victims of
human rights violations
fleeing the war
in Ukraine



- Schedule an interview with us at:
contact@just-access.de
- Give us a statement about your experiences of war
- Our experienced legal team will draft and submit communications to UN bodies in search for justice for you!
- If you don't speak English, bring a friend who does!



www.just-access.de

Just Access e.V.
пропонує

безкоштовні юридичні послуги

жертвам порушень
прав людини,
які тікають від війни
в Україні



- Заплануйте співбесіду з нами:
contact@just-access.de
- Дайте нам свої свідчення про досвід війни
- Наша досвідчена юридична команда розробить і направить повідомлення до органів ООН задля пошуку справедливості для Вас!
- Якщо Ви не розмовляєте англійською, візьміть із собою друга, який розмовляє!



www.just-access.de

- Just Access co-organised a side event at the 31st Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice entitled, “Improving access to justice for gender-based violence”, where two Just Access speakers presented on measures to stop violence against women (18 May 2022). Unprecedentedly, the event was interrupted by anonymous participants. A Just Access member received death threats, which were duly reported to the police.

31st session of the Commission on Crime prevention and criminal justice

Side event : Improving access to justice gender-based violence: good practices and challenges

18th May 2022 The event will be held online through Zoom on 18th May 2022 during the second day of the 31st session
Duration: 50mins
Time: 12:15-1:05 CET Vienna time

Moderation

Wessam Farid
Human Rights officer
Maat for peace

Speakers

Ayman okeil
Chairman
Maat for peace

Sara Masetti
Legal Fellow
just access e.V

Marketa Klicova
Head of Design
just access e.V

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

JUST ACCESS
e. V., NGO

مجلس الامم المتحدة لحقوق الانسان
Shall For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Scan to join

- Just Access has successfully submitted joint NGO comments to the UN on Qatar’s compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (14 October 2021), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (16 February 2022), and its Universal Periodic Review (19 May 2022).

Press and Publications

Year Two has been a successful period for Just Access' public and media engagement.

- Deutsche Welle published the NGO's comment on Russian attacks on Ukrainian hospitals (7 April 2022).
- Just Access published 15 blog posts on a broad range of subjects related to access to justice, from Myanmar and Qatar through Ukraine to North Macedonia, extremism, police stops, environmental justice, homelessness and women's rights.
- The 15 blog posts published in Year 2 were re-edited and issued as NGO's second e-book, amounting to 127 pages. The e-books are designed to become teaching tools for the NGO's future project to create a fully accredited, free and open-access human rights academy.

Partnerships

- Just Access is a proud member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. On 27 June 2022, we attended an orientation for new members, and asked the Coalition to request that the ICC discloses the percentage of false and unverifiable allegations and starts a conversation about delegating verification to select NGOs.
- On 24 February 2022, Just Access joined WhatsOn, the online database and knowledge-sharing platform of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- On 2 March 2022, Just Access was admitted to the civil society network of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Convention Against Corruption.
- On 30 May 2022, Just Access became a Voting Member of CIVICUS Alliance, a human rights NGO umbrella established in 1993.
- Just Access held a dialogue with The Schmid Foundation on organisational development (11 April 2022).

- In addition to working with NGOs in the UN setting, in Year 2 Just Access has entered a collaboration with Gewaltambulanz, a German NGO and part of the University Hospital in Heidelberg, which provides medical services to victims of violence. Just Access is developing a pamphlet of practical legal advice for such victims, in collaboration with the Hospital, with a view to eventually creating low-cost, high-impact legal aids for victims of violence around Germany, and in the EU.

If you need legal support at any stage, you can contact one of the following NGOs:

Free online legal service: <https://www.anwalt.org/opferhilfe/> (national)

General victims: <https://weisser-ring.de/> (national)

Women victims:

<https://www.hilfetelefon.de/> (national)

<https://www.heidelberg.de/hd/HD/Rathaus/Hilfe+bei+Gewalt.html> (local)

Children:

<https://www.caritas.de/hilfeundberatung/onlineberatung/kinder-jugendliche/start> (national & local)

<https://www.dksb-hd.de/> (local)

Refugees:

<https://www.caritas-heidelberg.de/hilfe-und-beratung/soziale-dienste/fluechtlingssozialdienst-hardtstrasse/fluechtlingssozialdienst-hardtstrasse> (national & local)

<https://diakonie-heidelberg.de/angebote/flucht-und-migration/links-und-infos> (local)



If you need to speak to someone in your own language, call Hilfetelefon at **08000 116 016**

You are protected by the law



Staff Training

On 28 February 2022, Sara Cvetanovska, our Head of Administration, and Cvetanka Kirovski, our Head of Project Management, were awarded Certificates of Achievement for participating and successfully completing the SE4U Self-paced Course:

“Stakeholder Engagement for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime”, conducted from 25 January to 5 March 2022.

We are very proud of their work!

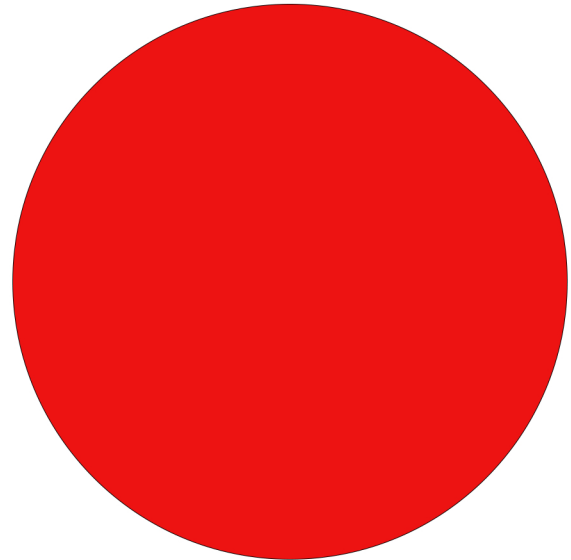


EU / Myanmar / Qatar / Yemen / Italy / Russia / Ukraine / North Macedonia / Bulgaria

Revenue, Expenses, Personnel

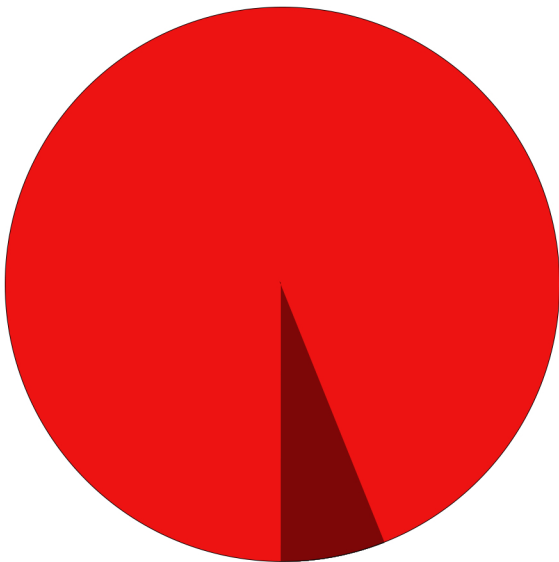
Revenue

100% donations



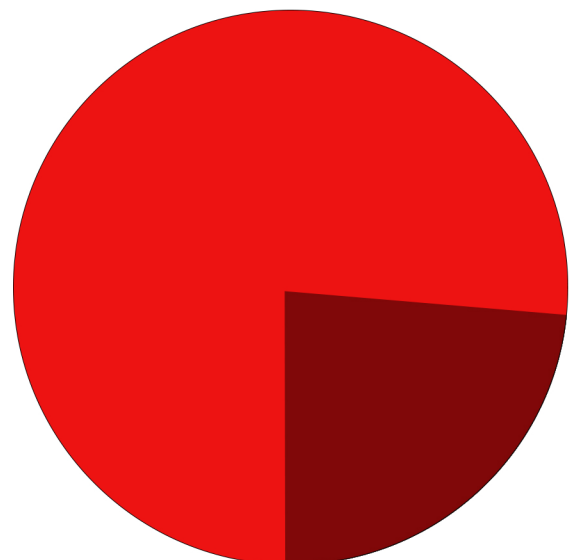
Expenses

personnel expenses 91.5%
other 8.5%



Personnel

volunteers 72.7%
employees 27.3%



**EVERYONE
CAN BE A HUMAN
RIGHTS DEFENDER**