

UnMode



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01 CREATING AN ORGANIZATION



In August 2020, the first General Meeting of UnMode was held, at which a decision was made on the legal registration of the Organization in Georgia, Tbilisi, goals, objectives were defined and membership criteria were fixed.

UnMode — Community movement for Access to Justice: an international non-governmental organization of a network nature. Geography of representation: countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asia region.

At the General Meeting, **employees of the UnMode Secretariat** were identified:



Alexander Levin
Information Manager
(Tel Aviv, Israel)



Igor Kuzmenko
Video Maker
(Kherson, Ukraine)



Lyudmila Vince
Legal Coordinator
(Yekaterinburg, Russia)

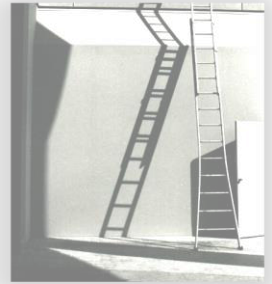


Oksana Tuzikova
Financial Specialist
(Orenburg, Russia)



David Subeliani
Advocacy Manager
(Tbilisi, Georgia)

The **first Board of the Organization** was elected, which appointed an **executive director - Aidana Fedosik**.



Board of UnMode:



Peter Us
(Moldova)



Ivan Anoshkin
(Russia)



Giorgi Gogua
(Georgia)

On September 7, 2020, UnMode was officially registered with the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, ID 405410817



WHY AND FOR WHAT WE HAVE GATHERED

In the countries of the former Soviet Union, the equality of all citizens before the law is enshrined. Declaratively, States are obliged to provide free qualified legal assistance to all citizens who do not have financial means and have been brought to criminal responsibility. De facto, this does not exist. At the same time, the observance of human rights in many countries has already been officially designated as a threat to the existing political regime. This situation is observed, for example, in **Russia and Belarus**. A huge number of people, due to their marginal status, the presence of certain diseases, a difficult financial and social situation, have low social and legal literacy, do not have high-quality protection in criminal proceedings from the state and access to independent and high-quality legal assistance.



To solve these problems, the **UnMode** network was registered. The members of the Organization change the situation not from the side of politicians, legislators and lawyers, but through the people themselves - victims of police and judicial arbitrariness. We provide them with accessible and really applicable legal protection tools, advise and appeal to the courts as public defenders, and also make this problem visible through our information work.

UnMode is a young international network human rights organization with democratic principles of governance and open membership. Each of us is a representative of the community whose interests he serves. For us, everything we do is not a job, but a continuation of our life. We are fighting for an open society, the rule of law and the accessibility of justice for all. We systematically document cases of human rights violations, conduct media campaigns, defend people in courts, file complaints with the European Court of Human Rights and relevant UN committees. We provide social and legal assistance to prisoners/ex-prisoners with drug use experience and their relatives in the countries of their presence. But at the center of our work, first of all, is the support of those who are ready to express active disagreement with the violation of their rights. Our support can be different: from basic humanitarian to systemic psychological, from security to emergency evacuation, from simply providing information about rights and laws to appealing against violations of rights and restoring justice in court, including international institutions for the protection of human rights.

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02 OUR FIRST STUDY

Barriers to effective human rights advocacy by organizations and civil society activists in the EECA region in protecting the human rights of key populations

Security threats, protection mechanisms for human rights defenders, and the involvement of civil society organizations in management processes



To study

In order to develop effective procedures and policies of the Organization, the study "Barriers to effective human rights activities in the countries of the EECA region in the field of protecting the rights, freedoms and interests of people who use drugs" was launched in September 2020.

What is this study about?

This study was devoted to the study of the specifics of human rights activities in the field of protecting the rights, freedoms and interests of drug users in a number of countries in the EECA region, in particular, the safety of human rights activities in this area and the protection of NGO staff, activists and members of initiative groups. Representatives of NGOs from Ukraine, Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Russia and Moldova took part in the study.



Conclusions and recommendations



State and local self-government bodies

We recommend taking into account the important role of NGOs in the system of protecting the rights of groups vulnerable to HIV infection, ensuring the safety of human rights defenders working to protect the rights of people who use drugs/prisoners/ex-prisoners at the legislative level, improving the use of mechanisms to protect the rights of human rights defenders.



Donors and support/development institutions of non-profit/non-governmental organizations/associations

We note the importance of organizational and financial, advisory support from donors and NGO support/development institutions not only for the project / program activities of

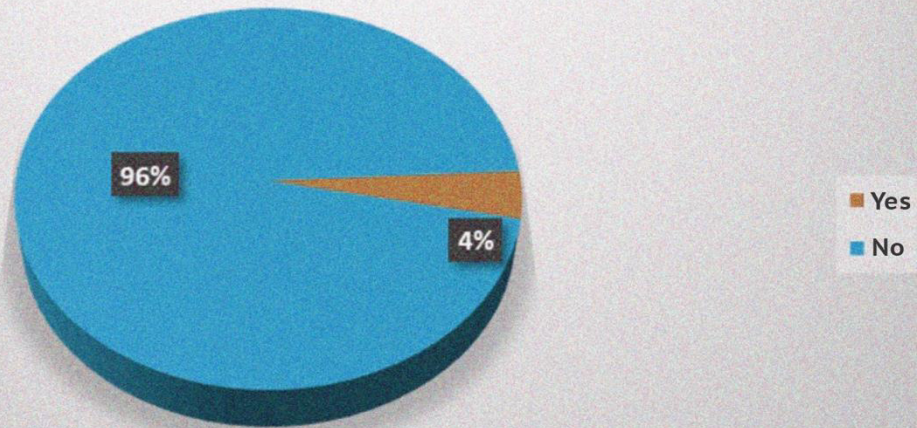
NGOs/NGOs working in the field of protecting the rights of groups vulnerable to HIV infection, but also for the institutional development of such organizations (statutory activities), initiative groups and activists, including training on ensuring the safety of the activities of the above-mentioned organizations.



Organizations and associations, initiative groups and activists involved in protecting the rights of people who use drugs, prisoners/ex-prisoners

We recommend developing and adopting protocols to ensure the security of human rights activities, monitoring and ensuring the security of internal processes in the organization, as well as the security of storing and using information.

Do you feel safe doing human rights work?



Conclusion

The study revealed barriers to the activities of human rights defenders in the field of protecting the rights, freedoms and interests of drug users in Georgia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Estonia, threats to the safety of human rights defenders and public activists, existing mechanisms to protect them and their needs to protect their safety.

We recorded data on the vulnerability of the human rights defenders interviewed and the almost complete absence of any security measures or support from the NGOs in which these human rights defenders worked/were members.

Human rights defenders themselves in the field of protecting the rights of people who use drugs use protective mechanisms with the involvement of professional lawyers. Organizations often lack the capacity to protect their employees who have been threatened in connection with their rights protection activities, as well as basic security documents and principles.

Thus, human rights defenders from among

people who use drugs have a special vulnerability not only to the repressive legislation of the country against human rights defenders, but also to a low level of understanding of security threats within the organization in which they work. The combination of these factors influences the decision to continue human rights activities. UnMode recommends paying key attention to supporting the activities of human rights defenders and protecting them from negative consequences; encouraging the training, development and initiatives of novice activists.



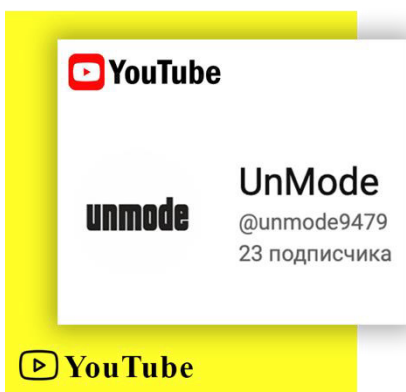
03 LOCAL ACTIVITIES OF OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The activities of UnMode are regularly covered on key media platforms

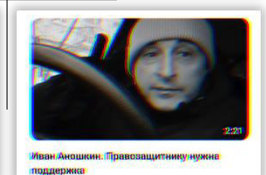
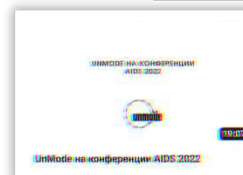
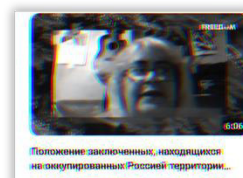
3.1. The following have been created for external communications:

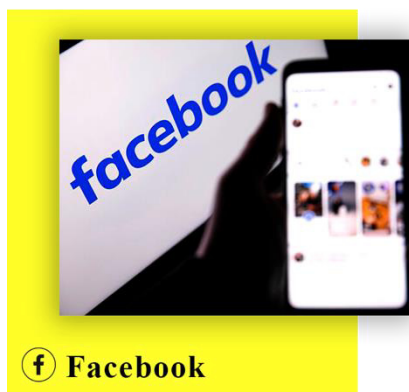


The site actively covered the activities of UnMode members in their countries

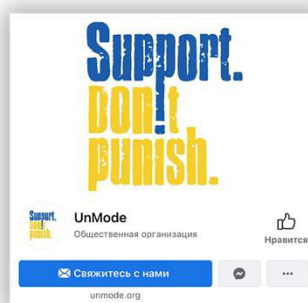


Channel for publishing multimedia content

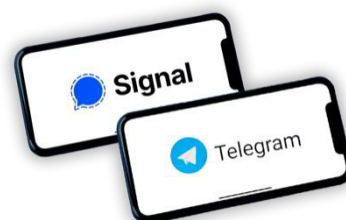




Organization groups on the Facebook social network



3.2. For communication within the Organization, as well as within the staff of the secretariat, Signal and Telegram messengers were selected, which fully comply with the basics of security. They were developed already at the stage of creating the idea of UnMode.



3.3. The work of online banking, online document management, communication systems of the organization's team has been created and adjusted.



3.4. The first logo of the organization was developed - a universal video business card, which briefly, but at the same time, could fully present the Organization to both beneficiaries and partners and donors.



3.5. 3 applications for financing activities have been submitted.

In 2020, there were no financial transactions, the UnMode team carried out all activities on a voluntary basis.

04

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRIES

Lawyer and UnMode member Arseny Levinson in 2020 conducted an analysis of judicial practice on complaints from prisoners about improper medical care in Russian prisons.

Problems

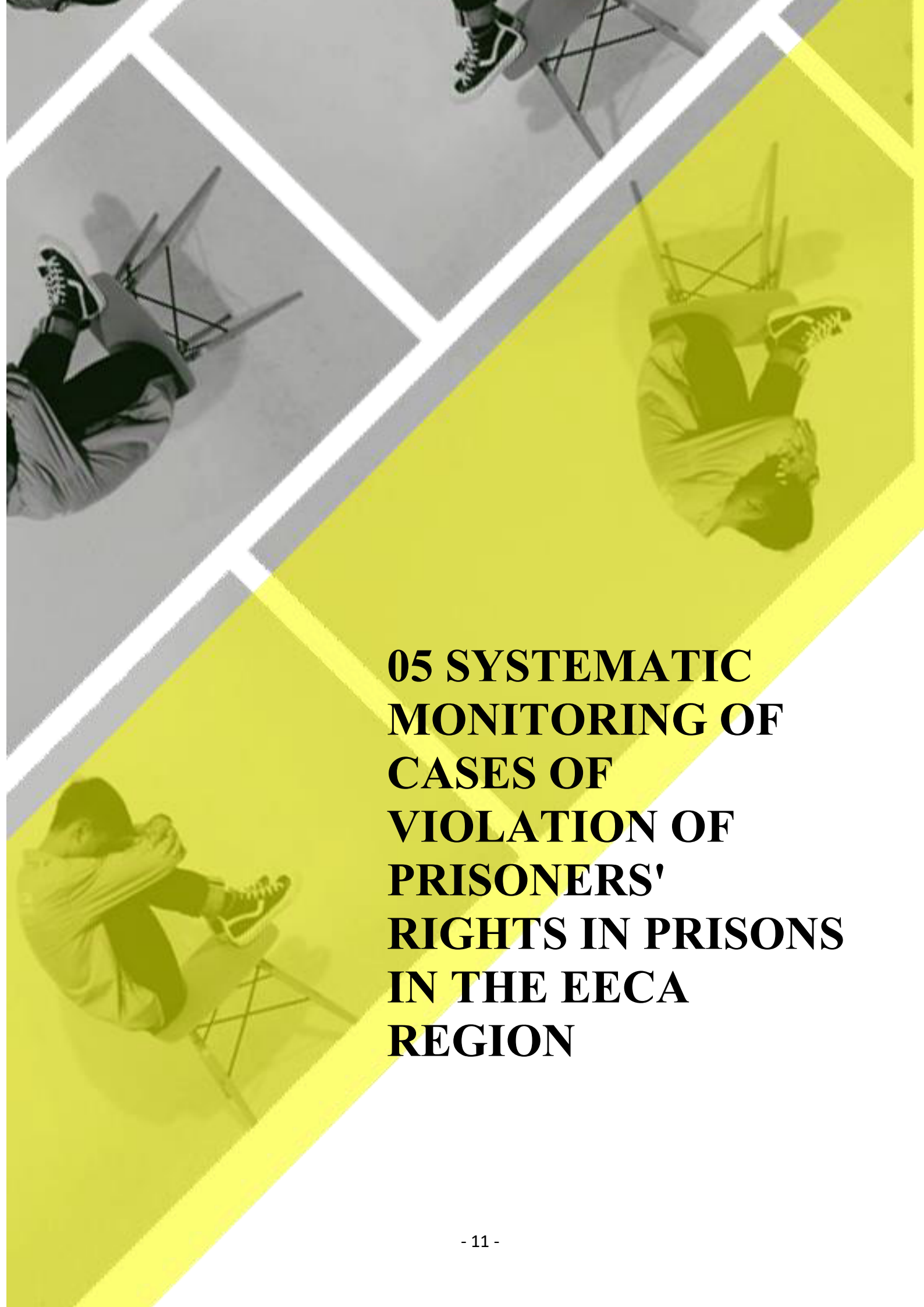
One of the problems that we would like to draw attention to is the low percentage of women prisoners who complain to the court about inadequate medical care. We assume that this is due to the more difficult conditions of their detention in correctional institutions and the need for external support.

Positive legislative aspects

Despite the contradictory nature of the independence of the Russian judicial system



from the executive, the courts periodically satisfy the demands of prisoners and do so much more often than one might assume. At the same time, claims for compensation for moral damage in civil proceedings are more likely to be satisfied than claims for challenging illegal actions for non-provision of medical care in the framework of administrative proceedings. In such circumstances, the use of this remedy seems appropriate solely as compensation for illegal actions committed against the convicted person in the past. In view of the above, despite the existence of significant structural deficiencies, the existing judicial protection procedure can be effectively used by convicts, especially with the assistance of human rights defenders, for the fullest realization of the right to health protection and medical care in prisons.



**05 SYSTEMATIC
MONITORING OF
CASES OF
VIOLATION OF
PRISONERS'
RIGHTS IN PRISONS
IN THE EECA
REGION**

In September 2020, monitoring of access to medical care among prisoners in prisons in the EECA region was developed and launched.

PURPOSE OF MONITORING

To assess the situation with violation of the rights to access to treatment and prevention of HIV infection, tuberculosis, withdrawal syndrome and other diseases among drug users held in places of deprivation/restriction of liberty.



TASK FORCE ON MONITORING

Persons held in places of deprivation/restriction of liberty in Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan; persons using drugs, aged 18 years and older.

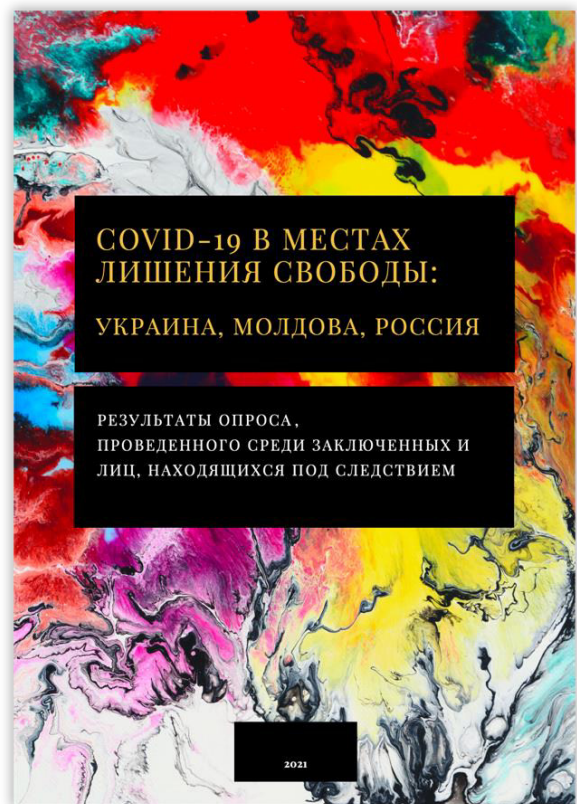
7 (seven) human rights defenders, members of UnMode, from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, at the end of 2020, began monitoring and documenting cases of violations of the rights of prisoners in prisons and former prisoners with drug use experience.

It became possible not only to document cases, but also to provide further support and legal



assistance with the involvement of professional lawyers in the countries.

During the survey of prisoners, cases of violations of rights were identified, work on which continued in 2021.





06 PARTICIPATION IN THE HIV2020 CONFERENCE

Every two years, a global conference is held dedicated to problems, achievements, new challenges and approaches in the field of combating the HIV epidemic.

In 2020, the conference was held online from 06.07.2020 to 23.10.2020 in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic. UnMode took part in the HIV2020 conference with a presentation "Overcoming legal barriers as a mechanism for fighting for the rights of vulnerable groups in the fight against the HIV epidemic in the EECA region". In it, we talked about our work, the main areas of activity and the initial results.



The HIV2020 online conference was key, interdisciplinary, sex-positive and reflected the ideas of intimacy, solidarity and intersectorality. The sessions addressed issues of increasing funding for the community's response to HIV infection and explored the relationship of HIV infection with broader health and human rights movements. The event confirmed the leading role of the community in the global response to HIV infection.

All sessions were available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian.

The organizers of the international conference HIV2020 were the Global Network of People Livingwith HIV (GNP+), the Global Network of Sex Business Projects (NSWP), International Support for Civil Society (ICSS), the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), and MPact Global Action for Gay Health and Rights.

The organizers of HIV2020 recalled that their efforts to prepare for the conference in Mexico were initially dictated by the reaction

to the ill-considered decision of the IAS to hold AIDS 2020 in the United States.

"We remain firmly convinced that it is inappropriate to hold a global HIV meeting in the United States, given their discriminatory travel bans and immigration policies. HIV 2020 seemed like a safe alternative for people who cannot or do not want to enter the United States, but at the same time want to participate in global discussions about HIV responses."

HIV2020 also became a protest against "the IAS policy and its decisions, which still lack systematic and most meaningful strategies for involving communities of people living with HIV and those most affected by the epidemic."

The key goal of HIV2020 was to strive to create formats suitable for these purposes, while respecting the universal equal discussion of community and key group responses, best science, best practices, developments in related fields, including



human rights, and their implications for the global response to HIV.

07 THE FIRST REPORT

OF THE BOARD ON THE RESULTS OF 2020

At the end of December 2020, the first report of the Board of UnMode was held before the General Meeting of the Organization.



It was decided that it was necessary to improve the managerial and financial competence of the members of the Management Board, and training events for the members of the Management Board are planned for 2021. The activities of the Management Board and the Executive Director of UnMode were found satisfactory by a majority vote of the full members of the Organization.



Due to the lack of financial activity in 2020, a separate financial report was not submitted for approval.



The staffing table, financial and program plan for 2021, developed by the Executive Director, were approved by the Board of UnMode in December 2020

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and must act in respect each other in a spirit of brotherhood"
Universal Declaration of Human Rights