

# HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



## HELP

European Programme  
for **H**uman Rights **E**ducation  
for **L**egal **P**rofessionals

Funded by the Human  
Rights Trust Fund and  
the Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# THE HELP PROGRAMME

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■ The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) supports the Council of Europe (CoE) member states in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) at the national level, in accordance with the Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2004)4, the 2012 Brighton Declaration and Resolution 1982 (2014) of the Parliamentary Assembly.

■ This is done by enhancing the capacity of judges, lawyers and prosecutors of all 47 member states to apply the ECHR in their daily work.

## THE HELP NETWORK

■ The HELP Network is composed of representatives from national training institutions for judges and prosecutors and Bar associations of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. It is a peer-to-peer European Human Rights Training Network, which gathers annually to share best practices, provide advice and adopt a Roadmap with priority topics to be developed in future HELP curricula and materials.

## HELP CONSULTATIVE BOARD

■ The HELP Consultative Board is a body appointed by the HELP Network for providing regular advisory support to the HELP Secretariat.

■ It is composed of six members who are appointed among the representatives of the HELP Network.

## HELP TRAINING RESOURCES

■ The HELP website is a platform for distance-learning and self-learning resources on the ECHR and other European human rights standards.

■ Distance-learning resources are available for selected groups of legal professionals participating in pilot courses moderated by national tutors.

■ Self-training resources are accessible to any user by creating an account on <http://help.ppa.coe.int/login>. Training materials on each Article of the ECHR, as well as specific human rights themes are available in different languages.

■ The HELP Editorial Board is in charge of updating and ensuring the quality of the training resources.

■ Resources on the following topics are already available:

- ▶ Admissibility criteria in applications submitted to the European Court of Human Rights
- ▶ Anti-discrimination issues
- ▶ Asylum and the ECHR
- ▶ Business and human rights
- ▶ Chemical precursors
- ▶ Community sanctions and alternative measures to detention
- ▶ Counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes against public health
- ▶ Family law and Child-friendly justice
- ▶ Hate crime and hate speech
- ▶ International cooperation in criminal matters
- ▶ Introduction to the ECHR
- ▶ Trafficking in human beings

## HELP FOCAL AND INFO POINTS

■ To strengthen the HELP Network, national experts are appointed to be the link between the respective national institution and the HELP Secretariat and disseminate HELP resources during national events. HELP Focal Points liaise with national training institutions for judges and prosecutors and HELP Info Points with Bar associations.

## HELP IN THE 47 WEBPAGE

■ News on ECHR training for all legal professionals in the 47 member states of the CoE are available on the *HELP in the 47* webpage ([www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)).

■ News on HELP in a specific country and on any activity concerning the implementation of human rights at the national level are available on the HELP National Pages, updated by HELP Focal and Info Points.

## HELP METHODOLOGY

■ The HELP methodology, based on the principle of open education, takes into account the heavy time pressure imposed on legal professionals.

■ Training resources are designed by international experts and then adapted to the national legal orders. They therefore meet legal professionals' specific training needs and allow flexibility.

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST FUND

■ The HELP Programme is mainly funded by the Human Rights Trust Fund (HRTF).

■ The HRTF was set up in March 2008 by Norway, initiator and a founding contributor, the Council of Europe and the CEB – the Council of Europe Development Bank. Since its creation, the HRTF has been joined by Germany, The Netherlands, Finland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## HELP PARTNERS

- ▶ The European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)
- ▶ International associations of judges and prosecutors
- ▶ The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
- ▶ European Bars Federation (FBE)
- ▶ The European Court of Human Rights
- ▶ National associations of judges and prosecutors
- ▶ Professional associations of lawyers, legal aid networks and legal clinics specialised in human rights
- ▶ Mémoire Albert Cohen Foundation

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Directorate General of Human Rights  
and Rule of Law (DGI)

Human Rights Directorate

Human Rights Policy  
and Cooperation Department

Human Rights National  
Implementation Division

67075 Strasbourg Cedex

[www.coe.int/help](http://www.coe.int/help)

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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