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**HELP in the Western Balkans**  
**Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022**

## ***Regional HELP/UNHCR online course on Asylum and Human Rights***

***Online presentation***

***Thursday, 27 January 2022***

*Concept paper and agenda*

<b>Link</b>	It will be provided to participants prior to the presentation
<b>Language</b>	English, Albanian, Bosnian/Montenegrin/Serbian, Macedonian (remote simultaneous interpretation)
<b>Participation</b>	Justice professionals from the Western Balkans
<b>Registration</b>	Open call ( <a href="#">link</a> ) to participate in the regional presentation by <b>25 January 2022</b> . It will be possible to apply for the course until <b>27 February 2022</b> .

## Background

The right to asylum may not be enshrined within the European Convention on Human Rights (the ECHR). However, the ECHR applies to any asylum seeker and refugee under the jurisdiction of a High Contracting State.

In the recent years, hundreds of thousands of migrants arrived in Europe and many died along the way. The scale of the crisis has put huge pressure on transit and destination countries. States have a **shared responsibility** to welcome asylum seekers in a dignified manner, ensuring that their case is examined and determined fairly and efficiently. Asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their application must be provided with proper reception conditions. However, in many instances, authorities are increasingly detaining asylum-seekers for irregular crossing of the border while such detention is not always necessary.

The HELP course “**Asylum and Human Rights**” covers in an interactive way the key concepts, the international and European (**UN, CoE and EU**) **framework** related to asylum and the impressive body of **case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)**. One of the key reference materials to develop this course has been the [Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration](#), developed jointly by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the European Court of Human Rights.

## The HELP online course on Asylum and Human Rights

The course was initially developed in 2015 **jointly** by the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (**HELP**) **Programme of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**. It was updated in 2021 under the EU-CoE “HELP in the EU II” project to contain the most recent developments. The update process was done in cooperation with the **UNHCR Office in Strasbourg** and involved several representatives of relevant CoE services, namely the **Council of Europe Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees**, the **Independent Human Rights Bodies Division** as well the **Registry of the European Court of Human Rights**.

The course consists of **an introductory module**, as well as **4 specific modules** addressing the main aspects related to asylum: non-refoulement, the right to life and prohibition of ill-treatment; detention and reception; family life; and effective remedies.

### 1

#### Introduction

- Why this course?
- What are the relevant human rights standards?
- What are the relevant complaint mechanisms?
- Redress



2

## Non-refoulement, the right to life and prohibition of ill-treatment

- Non-refoulement principle
- Right to life
- Prohibition of ill-treatment
- Access to territory
- Non-refoulement and the Dublin Regulation



3

## Detention and reception

- Meaning of liberty
- Lawfulness of detention
- Procedural safeguards
- Reception and alternatives to detention



4

## The right to family life and asylum

- The importance of family unity
- Legal standards
- The different meanings of family
- Admission and expulsion of family members
- Procedural safeguards



5

## Effective Remedy

- General principles
- Procedural safeguards and non-refoulement
- Procedural safeguards related to collective expulsions



### The online presentation

The **presentation of the HELP/UNHCR course will be held online, by web conference on Thursday, 27 January 2022**. Its main goal is to introduce participants to the HELP platform and the course pages on which each group will follow the course (translated into all local languages) with the assistance of a tutor.

The working language for the online launch will be English with remote simultaneous interpretation into Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian and Serbian. Selected participants will receive from the HELP Secretariat a link allowing them to access the web-conference, based on which they can follow the event on their computer or mobile devices (tablet/smartphone).

It is recommended that participants in the HELP/UNHCR course attend the online presentation. For those who will not be able to attend the regional presentation but will express their interest in the course, recorded sessions will be available.

The regional HELP online course on Asylum and Human Rights is implemented under the “HELP in the Western Balkans” action which is part of the joint European Union/Council of Europe programme “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022”, implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the Council of Europe Special Representative on Migration and Refugees and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

### The course preparation and implementation

Following the regional presentation of the course, beneficiary-specific launching events will be organised with the presence of the selected participants and their respective tutors at the beginning of March 2022. Launching event will be held in the local languages.

Interested justice professionals from the Western Balkans will be able to express their interest in the HELP/UNHCR course **until 27 February 2022**.

Before the online launch events, participants should create an account on the [HELP e-learning platform](#)

*For creating your HELP account, please follow these steps:*

*- go to this link and fill in the form (it takes about 2 mins):*

*<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/login/signup.php>*

*- once submitted, you will receive an activation link on the email you used for creating the account*

*- go to your email inbox and click on the link to activate your account.*

**VIDEO TUTORIAL**

how to create a HELP account

During the launch event, the participants will be registered on their course page, prepared in advance by their tutors. Over the following 3 months and based on the planning set by the tutor, the participants will go through the **online course**, complemented by the **adaptation** to the domestic legal frameworks prepared by the tutor.

The participants who have successfully completed the course and passed the evaluation set by the tutors will receive **certificates** issued by the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe.

### Registration

Interested participants should:

- be available to **attend the regional presentation and the beneficiary-specific launch event** (join the web-conference via the link provided by the HELP Secretariat before the event)
- undertake to **follow and complete the online tutored course** in the following 3 months (approx. 1-2 hours of work per week)
- register for the event by contacting Irena Kotarska ([irena.kotarska@coe.int](mailto:irena.kotarska@coe.int)) by mentioning job position and institution
- have a laptop/tablet/smartphone available for accessing the launch event via a link provided by the HELP Secretariat.

### Further information

For any information, do not hesitate to **contact the project team**:

Content related issues, speakers, agenda: Valentina Boz – Project Coordinator ([valentina.boz@coe.int](mailto:valentina.boz@coe.int))

Organisational and administrative issues: Irena Kotarska – Project Assistant ([irena.kotarska@coe.int](mailto:irena.kotarska@coe.int))

## Draft agenda

09.45 – 10.00	<i>Online connection</i>
10.00 – 10.15	<p><b>Welcoming addresses</b></p> <p><i>European Commission representative TBC</i></p> <p><b>Andreas Wissner</b>, UNCHR Representative to the European Institutions in Strasbourg</p> <p><b>Leyla Kayacik</b>, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees</p> <p><b>Eva Pastrana</b>, Head of the Justice and Human Rights Training Division, Council of Europe</p>
10.15 – 10.45	<p><b>UNCHR presentation (title TBC)</b></p> <p><b>Murad Ulla</b>, Protection Officer, UNHCR Bureau for Europe, Geneva</p>
10.45 – 11.15	<p><b>Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum (2021-2025): presentation</b></p> <p><b>Vedran Ian-Kjeldsen</b>, Senior Programme Officer, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees</p>
11.15 – 11.45	<b>EASO session (TBC)</b>
11.45 – 12.00	<b>Break</b>
12.00 – 12.30	<p><b>HELP online course on Asylum and Human Rights: presentation</b></p> <p><b>Horizontal Facility action “HELP in the Western Balkans”:</b> presentation and walk-through the HELP online platform</p> <p><i>Valentina BOZ, Project Coordinator, HELP in the Western Balkans, Council of Europe</i></p>
12.30 – 12.45	<p><b>HELP online course on Asylum and Human Rights: practical aspects of its implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>presentation of the tutors and their role</i></li> <li>- <i>enrolment to the course</i></li> <li>- <i>registration to the CoE HELP platform</i></li> <li>- <i>clarification of participants’ tasks</i></li> <li>- <i>adaptation to the domestic legal context.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>HELP tutors</b></p>
12.45 – 13.00	<b>Discussion</b>
13.00	<b>Closing remarks</b>

