

# ABSTRACT BOOK

*Issued for the annual Global Partnership Exchange workshop*



**POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: RESILIENCE IN ACTION**

*Strengthening Civil Society in an Age of Crisis and Constraint*

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## PUBLICATION DATA

# POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: RESILIENCE IN ACTION – *Abstract Book for Global Partnership Exchange Workshop 2025*

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This collection of abstracts, prepared for the workshop “Power of Partnerships: Resilience in Action”, brings together contributions from partner organizations working in diverse and often challenging contexts. The texts share practical experiences, lessons learned, and reflections on responding to conflict, repression, and social challenges, highlighting the value of collaboration and knowledge exchange in strengthening partnerships and supporting affected communities.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Abstract Book of the Global Partnership Exchange Workshop 2025* brings together contributions from over 25 nongovernmental organizations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Despite diverse contexts, their experiences reveal strikingly similar patterns of resilience, innovation, and solidarity in the face of crisis and constraint.

### Key Themes

#### 1. Resilience through Trauma-Informed Approaches

Many partners, from **Ukraine, Moldova, Ghana, Jordan, Palestine, Myanmar, and Uganda**, emphasize the central role of trauma-aware care in sustaining individuals, communities, and organizations. Integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) emerges as both a humanitarian necessity and a foundation for civic resilience.

#### 2. Civil Society under Pressure

Shrinking civic space, political repression, and armed conflict continue to define the working environment of many organizations. Partners in **Egypt, Belarus, Tunisia, Libya, Ukraine, and Uganda** describe how repression requires constant adaptation – developing “Plan B” strategies, diversifying advocacy methods, and strengthening international solidarity.

#### 3. Documentation and Accountability

A strong cross-cutting theme is the systematic documentation of torture, repression, and war crimes. From **Ukraine, Belarus, and Tunisia to the wider MENA region and Central America**, partners emphasize the dual purpose of documentation: preserving truth and providing legal evidence for justice mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court.

#### 4. Youth and Community Engagement

Several initiatives demonstrate the transformative role of young people and local communities in peacebuilding and resilience. Examples include youth hubs in **Jordan and Morocco**, women-led businesses in **Myanmar**, and grassroots violence prevention in **Guatemala** and other parts of **Central America**.

#### 5. Partnerships as a Source of Strength

Across all contexts, collaboration – between local NGOs, international partners, and affected communities – proves essential. Knowledge-sharing, coalition-building, and joint advocacy not only enhance impact but also provide psychological and political protection to civil society actors in **Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe**.

### Emerging Trends

#### • Integration of mental health into justice processes

In **Ukraine and Moldova**, psychological expertise is directly linked to legal accountability, with professional assessments of trauma used in courts and international mechanisms, including the ICC. This approach strengthens survivors’ cases and broadens recognition of psychological harm as legal evidence.

#### • Care for carers

Organizations in **Ukraine** highlight structured peer support, supervision, and self-care systems. These practices show that the resilience of civil society depends on sustaining the wellbeing of professionals working on the frontlines.

### • Localization and equity in partnerships

From the **Philippines to Ghana and Jordan**, local organizations stress fairer distribution of resources, recognition of indigenous expertise, and equal footing in international aid frameworks. Calls for decolonizing aid and ensuring sustainability through local leadership are increasingly visible.

### • Innovation in outreach

Partners are experimenting with diverse formats to reach marginalized groups:

- **Palestine** – mobile clinics and hotlines for mental health support.
- **Morocco** – art, digital media, and community radio as spaces of resilience.
- **Guatemala** – multisectoral community forums to address violence.
- **Myanmar** – culturally adapted Psychological First Aid in local languages for displaced populations.

### • Resilience through regional solidarity

Cross-border cooperation strengthens survival capacity: **Belarus** partners work in exile to keep repression documented; **Tunisia** – train partner specialists; **Kenya** – institutionalize forums for peace and accountability across all counties. These examples show that resilience extends beyond national borders.

### Takeaways for Partners and Donors

- **Support trauma-informed systems:** Sustainable investment in MHPSS, particularly in conflict-affected areas, is crucial for both humanitarian relief and democratic resilience.
- **Protect civic space:** International solidarity and funding flexibility are key to enabling NGOs to operate under authoritarian or wartime conditions.
- **Invest in youth and community initiatives:** Empowering grassroots actors enhances inclusion, prevents violence, and strengthens civic participation.
- **Recognize documentation as prevention:** Funding and technical support for monitoring and reporting mechanisms contribute directly to justice and long-term resilience.
- **Value partnerships as protection:** Strong alliances between local and international actors reduce isolation, amplify voices, and increase the survival capacity of organizations under threat.

Organizers of the annual Global Partnership Exchange Workshop:

DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture.

Co-organizer of the 2025 event and compiler of this collection:

NGO Forpost.





## Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)



[www.aappb.org](http://www.aappb.org)

[www.facebook.com/burmapoliticalprisoners](https://www.facebook.com/burmapoliticalprisoners)

### Turning Struggle into Strength: Nurturing Resilience Among Communities in Burma

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), founded in 2000 by former political prisoners, supports survivors and communities across Burma in their struggle for justice and democracy. Operating under conditions of systemic repression since the 1962 military coup, AAPP empowers political prisoners, their families, and activists to resist fear, rebuild, and transform lived experience into collective action.

AAPP provides material and financial assistance to political prisoners while documenting detention conditions for advocacy and future accountability. The organization conducts human rights and transitional justice training, equipping communities with tools to claim their rights and engage in civic action. At the same time, community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs strengthen resilience, helping individuals and groups cope with trauma and sustain participation in civic life.

Resilience for AAPP goes beyond endurance: it is about preserving dignity, sustaining hope, and fostering justice even under severe repression. By combining direct support, documentation, training, and advocacy, AAPP nurtures solidarity within Burma and ensures that survivors are not forgotten. Decades of work reflect not only the persistence of civil society under constraint but also the transformative power of international solidarity in turning trauma into strength.

Core components of AAPP's model:

Material and financial support for political prisoners and their families

Documentation of detention conditions for accountability and advocacy

Human rights and transitional justice training for communities

Community-based MHPSS to build resilience



## African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)



[www.actvuganda.org](http://www.actvuganda.org)



[www.facebook.com/www.actvuganda.org](https://www.facebook.com/www.actvuganda.org)

### Increasing Access to Timely Holistic Rehabilitation Services to Survivors of Torture and Violence

**Author: Alex Kigoye**

Torture and violence remain a major problem within Ugandan communities. The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) registered an average of 1000 survivors of torture and violence annually. Due to the effects of trauma, ignorance, and lack of structured systems at the national level for identification and rehabilitation of survivors, many of them do not receive the care and support needed for their healing (ACTV reports). The ACTV community support network volunteer (CSNV) model was set up to break the barrier to accessing timely and quality holistic rehabilitation services for the marginalized and vulnerable survivors of torture and violence. The CSNV model comprises community volunteers identified from the communities, with the support of local leaders. The volunteers are trained and empowered with basic skills in the identification of survivors of torture and violence, provide basic support, and make appropriate referrals for specialized holistic rehabilitation services. The volunteers are organized into holistic concepts that include; Community Counsellors who are responsible for providing basic psychological counselling; Peer Support Workers who are responsible for providing basic social support; Community Health Workers who are responsible for providing medical treatment and documentation of the incidents, Community Facilitators who are responsible for creating awareness about torture and violence to improve help seeking behavior, and the Rapid Response Team who offer slightly high level services including legal aid to survivors. The CSNV model is supervised by the ACTV technical teams with support from local leaders.

In a period of 4 years from 2021 – 2024, the CSNV model has increased help-seeking behavior among trauma-affected individuals resulting from torture and violence in the communities by 15%. Offered individualized and tailored support to over 1500 trauma-affected persons in communities. The model demonstrated an increase in trust among survivors and service providers, and it is key in breaking community stigma for traumatized persons.



## Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (TRC)



[www.trc-pal.org](http://www.trc-pal.org)

[www.facebook.com/Trc.Pal](https://www.facebook.com/Trc.Pal)

### Integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict-Affected Communities

The Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (TRC), a long-standing partner of DIGNITY, provides integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to individuals and communities across Palestine. Operating amid ongoing conflict and systemic restrictions, TRC has developed innovative models to reach vulnerable populations, restore dignity, and foster resilience.

A key initiative is the Mobile Clinic, which extends MHPSS services to high-risk and remote areas affected by military incursions, poverty, and social exclusion. Through on-site counselling, psychological first aid, and referrals, the clinic delivers care directly to marginalized communities that would otherwise remain underserved.

The Hotline Service represents TRC's digital outreach, acting as a lifeline for individuals affected by the war in Gaza. By offering phone-based psychological support, crisis intervention, and referral pathways, the hotline reduces isolation and strengthens emotional stability amid displacement and acute distress.

TRC also employs a holistic casework model in correctional and community settings. Examples include psychosocial and vocational rehabilitation for incarcerated women facing trauma and gender-based violence, and integrated therapy and physiotherapy for children injured by conflict. These case stories highlight trauma-informed care, family and group therapy, and the integration of creative and vocational skills as pathways to resilience and reintegration.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate TRC's commitment to providing accessible, trauma-informed, and context-sensitive support. By combining mobile, digital, and in-depth therapeutic approaches, TRC strengthens both individual recovery and community resilience in one of the world's most complex crisis environments.



"Human Rights  
Protection Group  
"SICH"  
Civic Organization

## Human Rights Protection Group SICH



[www.sich-pravo.org](http://www.sich-pravo.org)

[www.facebook.com/pgsich](https://www.facebook.com/pgsich)

### Visibility Strategies for Building Trust and Resilience in Times of Crisis

**Author: Olha Volynska**

For human rights defenders, visibility is not only a tool of advocacy but also a means of protection, recognition, and survival. Drawing on the experience of the Human Rights Protection Group SICH, this presentation explores how storytelling can serve as a strategic method for amplifying the voices of those affected by war, torture, and forced displacement.

By documenting lived experiences and sharing authentic narratives across multiple platforms, SICH highlights the power of storytelling to build trust in civil society organizations and their work. Such visibility not only strengthens public confidence but also preserves human dignity during times of crisis.

Storytelling, in this context, becomes more than communication – it is a practice of resilience. It enables survivors and communities to transform trauma into testimony, ensuring their experiences are neither silenced nor forgotten. At the same time, it connects local struggles to global audiences, fostering solidarity and reinforcing the vital role of civil society in moments of profound disruption.

Through these strategies, SICH demonstrates how visibility contributes to resilience, helping communities withstand crises while reinforcing the shared values of dignity, justice, and human rights.



## Adapting Anti-Torture Work to a Changing World: Lessons from Ukraine's NPM and the Need for a "Plan B"

**Author: Kostiantyn Avtukhov**

Founded in 2017 as part of the Ombudsman+ model, Ukraine Without Torture works to strengthen the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture and ill-treatment. The organization focuses on institutional capacity, methodological tools, and the civic dimension of the NPM as a central pillar of prevention.

Russia's full-scale invasion has drastically changed the operating environment. Wartime conditions have expanded state authority, reduced external oversight, and increased pressure on human rights defenders. In response, Ukraine Without Torture concentrated on sustaining the civic component of the NPM, ensuring independent monitoring and maintaining public trust.

This experience revealed the urgent need for a built-in contingency framework – a "Plan B" – for all civic oversight mechanisms under martial law. Such a plan must provide flexible monitoring methodologies, decentralized regional capacities less vulnerable to central disruptions, and psychological support to prevent burnout among monitors.

The Ukrainian case underscores that prevention cannot rely solely on formal institutions. Civic actors contribute resilience, adaptability, and community legitimacy. By investing in the civic component, Ukraine Without Torture ensures continuity of monitoring, advocacy, and documentation even amid systemic shocks.

The lesson extends beyond Ukraine: torture prevention and human rights oversight must be structurally crisis-resilient. A well-prepared "Plan B" is not optional but essential for civic control worldwide.



## NGO FORPOST



### Trauma-Aware Civil Society Support Amid War and Constraint

**Author: Yuliia Honchar**

Since 2013, FORPOST has worked at the intersection of trauma therapy, human rights, and civic resilience. In the context of war, the organization has developed trauma-informed systems to support both individuals and institutions.

FORPOST provides therapy for survivors of war, occupation, and illegal detention – including civilians returning from captivity. The team also documents psychological harm for submission to the International Criminal Court, helping survivors reclaim their agency and strengthening accountability for human rights violations.

The organization also addresses the secondary trauma and burnout experienced by its own staff and partners. To respond, the NGO has developed peer support models, burnout-prevention tools, and team-based self-help practices. Its resilience model includes:

- Trauma-informed therapy for war-affected populations
- Capacity building for frontline professionals
- Psychological input into torture documentation
- Peer-based support tools for civil society teams

In addition to its direct services and documentation work, Forpost engages in applied research and contributes to the refinement of methodological tools. The organization was also involved in the piloting and adaptation of a Threat Protocol in Ukraine as an instrument under the Istanbul Protocol framework, aimed at documenting psychological torture. Furthermore, Forpost is developing a conceptual framework on mental influences and strategies of resistance, opening new perspectives for understanding and countering subtle forms of psychological coercion.

Forpost emphasizes that mental health is essential for building a resilient democratic society. At the same time, the organization seeks to advance international collaboration on research and practice in this area, believing that joint efforts are key to strengthening both accountability and protection mechanisms globally.



## Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group



[khpg.org](http://khpg.org)



[www.facebook.com/khpgorg](https://www.facebook.com/khpgorg)

### Legal and Psychological Support for Victims of War Crimes as a Factor in Strengthening Civil Society Resilience

The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG) provides comprehensive support to individuals affected by war crimes in Ukraine, addressing their legal, psychological, and social recovery. The organization focuses on vulnerable groups such as missing servicemen, civilian hostages, the wounded, bereaved families, and survivors of torture or other violence.

KHPG's psychologists deliver free counseling and prepare professional assessments documenting the psychological consequences of torture, strengthening victims' cases in legal processes. Its lawyers provide national and international representation, including submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The legal team also undergoes continuous training on documenting violations and advancing human rights advocacy.

Beyond legal and psychological aid, the organization supports victims with financial assistance for medical examinations and dental services, enabling more complete physical and psychological recovery.

Key components of KHPG's approach include:

Psychological counseling for survivors of war crimes

Expert psychological conclusions on torture cases

Legal representation and advocacy nationally and internationally

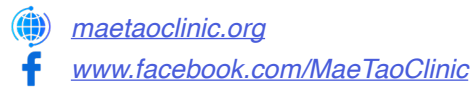
Ongoing professional development of staff

Comprehensive survivor support that strengthens civil society resilience

Through this integrated model, KHPG ensures essential assistance to hundreds of victims, while reinforcing the protection of human rights and the resilience of civil society amid war.



## Mae Tao Clinic



### Mental Health Services at Mae Tao Clinic: Addressing the Needs of Displaced Populations on the Thai-Myanmar Border

**Authors: Dr. Cynthia Maung, Dr. Aung Kay Tu, Dr. Moan Thawdar, Dr. Nyunt Naing Thein, Sophia Hla**

The Mae Tao Clinic (MTC), situated on the Thai-Myanmar border, provides essential healthcare for displaced and refugee populations affected by conflict and migration. To address the growing mental health burden, MTC established a Counseling Center offering counseling and psychiatric care.

In 2024, the Center supported over 500 clients, most of whom were women and displaced individuals living in Thailand, with some cross-border patients from Myanmar. The majority presented with trauma- and stress-related conditions, followed by anxiety, mood, and substance use disorders. Women were more likely to experience trauma and anxiety, while men more frequently faced substance use and neurocognitive disorders. Age also shaped diagnoses, with younger people showing higher rates of anxiety and adults more affected by substance use.

These findings underscore the importance of gender- and age-sensitive approaches to mental health care for displaced populations. MTC's Counseling Center demonstrates how localized, community-based services can address complex needs while ensuring access for cross-border communities.

By tailoring mental health interventions to demographic patterns, MTC strengthens the resilience and wellbeing of vulnerable groups on the Thai-Myanmar border and advocates for sustained international support.



## Suwannimit Foundation (SNF)



[www.suwannimit.org](http://www.suwannimit.org)

[www.facebook.com/SuwannimitFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/SuwannimitFoundation)

### **Culturally Appropriate Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) – Psychological First Aid (PFA) Training for Myanmar Displaced Populations on the Thailand-Myanmar Border: A Case Study of the Suwannimit Foundation Program**

**Author: Dr. Nyunt Naing Thein, Dr. Aung Kay Tu, Dr. Moan Thawdar, Naw Khu Paw, Spring Song**

The Suwannimit Foundation (SNF), based in Thailand, supports displaced populations from Myanmar who face severe mental health challenges following the 2021 military coup. Barriers such as legal uncertainty, discrimination, and limited access to care heighten the risks of trauma, anxiety, depression, and PTSD.


To address these needs, SNF developed a culturally adapted Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Psychological First Aid (PFA) program. The training integrates trauma awareness, resilience-building, and the SAFE TEAMS model, drawing on WHO and Johns Hopkins resources. Delivered in Burmese and Karen languages over three days, the program is tailored to participants with limited literacy.

Between October 2021 and March 2025, SNF trained 432 participants (65% women), enabling survivors not only to manage stress and strengthen self-care but also to act as lay counselors within their communities. Outcomes include reduced stress, greater confidence in coping, and the creation of peer support networks.

Challenges include emotional distress during training, limited resources, security constraints, and difficulty maintaining long-term follow-up due to mobility of displaced populations. Despite these barriers, the program demonstrates the potential of culturally sensitive, community-based approaches to expand access to mental health support. Sustainable funding and systematic evaluation remain key to its continuation and impact.



## Nebras Institute – Tunisian Institute for Rehabilitation of Survivors of Torture

 [nebrastunisie.org](http://nebrastunisie.org)  
 [www.facebook.com/nebras.asso](https://www.facebook.com/nebras.asso)

### Trauma-Informed Civil Society Support Amid Transitional Justice and Constraint

Founded in 2014, the Nebras Institute is Tunisia’s first specialized rehabilitation center for survivors of torture, built on a human rights–based and context-sensitive approach. From its base in Tunis, a multidisciplinary team of psychologists, psychiatrists, physiotherapists, and social workers provides holistic care that combines therapeutic, medical, and psychosocial support with referrals to legal and social services for dignified reintegration.

Nebras also plays a national and regional role in capacity building and advocacy. The Institute trains health and social service professionals, develops research-based clinical models adapted to local realities, and strengthens public institutions. Its beneficiaries include survivors of direct and indirect torture, family members, victims of trafficking, migrants, women and girls subjected to sexual violence, and LGBTQ+ individuals facing identity-based persecution.

Strategic partnerships extend Nebras’s reach: with DIGNITY (the Danish Institute Against Torture), UNFPA, and IOM, as well as regional programs such as “Amal,” which supports Libyan practitioners through training on mental health and victimology.

Key components of Nebras’s approach include:

Psychological, medical, and physiotherapy services for survivors

Training and continuing education for professionals

Research and development of context-sensitive clinical models

Reintegration support through medical, legal, and social referrals

Advocacy to uphold rehabilitation as a right within transitional justice

Nebras affirms that rehabilitation is a cornerstone of justice and civil society resilience. By restoring survivors’ mental health, the Institute helps individuals reclaim agency and supports democratic transformation in post-repressive contexts.



## Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims “Memoria” (A.O. RCTV Memoria)



[www.memoria.md](http://www.memoria.md)

[www.facebook.com/RCTV.Memoria](https://www.facebook.com/RCTV.Memoria)

### Trauma-Aware Civil Society Support Amid War and Constraint

**Author: Ludmila Popovici**

Founded in 1999, RCTV Memoria is Moldova’s first dedicated center for the rehabilitation of torture survivors and victims of interhuman violence. Its multidisciplinary team provides comprehensive rehabilitation combining medical care, trauma therapy, psychological counseling, psychotherapy, legal aid, and socio-economic support. The organization also documents cases of torture to improve survivors’ access to justice, with 36 cases submitted to the European Court of Human Rights.

Beyond direct services, Memoria promotes victims’ rights through research, publications, advocacy campaigns, and professional training programs on trauma care, case documentation, and resilience-based approaches.

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, Memoria has supported more than 4,500 refugees—primarily women and children—through crisis response projects tailored to their urgent needs. In partnership with ICAR Foundation (Romania), it co-authored a guide on preventing trauma among forcibly displaced persons, targeting professionals and caregivers in Romania and Moldova.

Key components of Memoria’s approach include:

Comprehensive rehabilitation services for torture survivors

Trauma-informed and resilience-based methodologies

Documentation of torture and gender-based violence cases for legal redress

Advocacy, research, and professional training

Crisis response and refugee support in the context of war

Memoria affirms that rehabilitation and accountability are pillars of civil society resilience. By restoring survivors’ health and agency, the organization contributes to justice and democratic transformation.

## Resilience in Action: Civil Society's Support and Justice for CRSV Survivors

**Author: Feride Rushiti**

Founded in 1999, the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT) pioneered psychosocial rehabilitation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in Kosovo, introducing a survivor-centered model that integrates medical, psychological, social, legal, and advocacy support.

KRCT has advanced survivors' rights through stigma reduction, sustained advocacy, and access to justice. It initiated the first legal case in Kosovo that successfully secured justice for a CRSV survivor and continues to provide legal assistance while strengthening institutions through trauma-informed training and capacity building.

The organization also leads in research and knowledge production, including the first study on intergenerational trauma in Kosovo, which informed innovative therapeutic models such as family therapy. KRCT has developed guidelines, protocols, and standards that shape national practice and are recognized internationally as examples of good practice.

Key components of KRCT's approach include:

Holistic psychosocial rehabilitation for CRSV survivors

Legal empowerment and precedent-setting cases

Advocacy to reduce stigma and advance survivors' rights

Capacity building for trauma-informed institutions

Research and innovation, including intergenerational trauma studies

By combining care, legal redress, advocacy, and research, KRCT supports individual recovery while transforming institutional and societal responses to CRSV. Today, it continues to lead nationally and contribute globally to recognition, prevention, and reparation for survivors.



## Liwan Youth Space



[www.liwanspace.com/en](http://www.liwanspace.com/en)

[www.facebook.com/LiwanSpace](https://www.facebook.com/LiwanSpace)

### Youth-Led Resilience and Civic Engagement in Times of Crisis

Liwan Youth Space is a youth-led civic hub in Amman that amplifies young people's voices and equips them to shape their communities. By providing free space, tools, and skills development, Liwan fosters both individual growth and collective action.

Its model emphasizes resilience through connection: nurturing trust and identity within youth groups, building bridges to civic and cultural opportunities, and linking youth with decision-makers for advocacy and policy influence. Liwan functions as a safe and creative space for workshops, cultural exchange, filmmaking, and grassroots initiatives, blending innovation with meaningful participation.

A cornerstone of Liwan's approach is incubation. Youth are empowered to set priorities, manage resources, and engage in governance, while inclusivity ensures that girls, young women, persons with disabilities, refugees, and rural youth are represented.

In 2025, Liwan expanded its focus to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In partnership with local and international actors, it introduced podcasts, awareness sessions, and accessible entry points such as PM+ and Psychological First Aid, reducing stigma and broadening access beyond urban centers. Peer educators were trained in trauma-informed practices, social support, and referral systems, enabling them to act as first responders within their communities. Initiatives like Circle of Hope further highlight Liwan's role as both a youth hub and an incubator of community-driven solutions.

Liwan's vision is rooted in the belief that when young people are equipped with skills, agency, and support, they can turn barriers into opportunities – strengthening resilience, inclusion, and adaptability in times of crisis.



## Violence Prevention and Community Resilience in Central America

Founded in 2014, CIPREVICA is a Guatemalan NGO specializing in violence prevention through research, training, and capacity building. The organization addresses violence as a multidimensional social issue and works with both civil society and government institutions to strengthen community resilience and promote sustainable, contextually appropriate interventions.

CIPREVICA focuses on marginalized urban and rural populations, particularly indigenous groups facing high levels of social, economic, and political vulnerability. Its approach combines social innovation, communication, advocacy, and humanitarian aid in areas including gender equality, youth empowerment, political participation, poverty reduction, and human rights.

The organization's work is structured around three main programs:

**Citizenship:** Promotes citizen participation at community, municipal, and national levels

**Gender and Culture of Peace:** Advances initiatives that address denial of women's rights and foster a culture of peace

**Health:** Provides holistic medical services including general and natural medicine, laboratory services, psychological care, and pharmacy support.

By fostering strategic alliances among stakeholders and providing expert technical consultation, CIPREVICA strengthens the capabilities of institutions and communities to address the root causes of violence. Its programs promote inclusion, resilience, and sustainable peace across Guatemala and the wider Central American region.



## Documenting Torture and Repression – Strengthening Human Rights and Civic Resilience

Founded in 1996 during a wave of mass arrests, Human Rights Center Viasna has stood with survivors of political repression in Belarus for nearly three decades. Despite the loss of official registration, constant persecution, and recent years of exile, Viasna continues to defend civil society space through documentation, advocacy, and survivor support.

In the midst of Belarus's ongoing human rights crisis – with more than 1,100 political prisoners, including Viasna members and its chairperson, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski – the organization documents torture and ill-treatment, monitors trials, conducts research and education, and provides legal, psychological, and humanitarian support to survivors and their families.

Viasna's resilience model includes:

Supporting survivors of political repression through legal, psychological, and humanitarian aid

Documenting torture and politically motivated repression according to international standards

Engaging accountability mechanisms to combat impunity

Building solidarity with Belarusian civil society and international networks

Monitoring violations and producing independent analysis

Safeguarding human rights defenders from burnout and secondary trauma

As a member of global coalitions (FIDH, OMCT, EaP CSF, EPDE, World Coalition Against the Death Penalty) and co-founder of the International Accountability Platform for Belarus, Viasna amplifies Belarusian voices worldwide. Its work demonstrates that resilience in civil society is rooted in dignity, solidarity, and memory – values that sustain hope for a democratic future.

## Resilience Through Documentation and Advocacy: Defending Rights Amid Crisis

**Author: Ahmed Mefreh**

The Committee for Justice (CFJ), based in Geneva, works to defend human rights in the MENA region where authoritarianism, conflict, and shrinking civic space threaten both individuals and organizations. By combining documentation, international advocacy, and direct support for defenders and victims, CFJ strengthens resilience across civil society.

CFJ's documentation programs monitor widespread violations – including enforced disappearance, torture, and unfair trials – particularly in Egypt, Sudan, and across North Africa and the Sahel. Through secure digital platforms, the organization collects and verifies testimonies that both preserve truth and serve as legal evidence before international accountability mechanisms.

Beyond documentation, CFJ provides support to human rights defenders and families of victims facing reprisals. This includes legal assistance, psychosocial support, and capacity-building to enable safe engagement with UN and African human rights mechanisms.

CFJ's model of resilience rests on four pillars:

Digital platforms for secure and credible documentation

Strategic engagement with UN and African mechanisms

Protection and capacity-building for defenders and families

Advocacy coalitions that link local struggles with global institutions

For CFJ, resilience means more than survival: it is about amplifying marginalized voices, raising expectations under authoritarian rule, and ensuring that truth and justice remain connected to local struggles. By protecting truth and enabling defenders to act, civil society can sustain hope and resist repression even in the harshest environments.

## Strengthening Peace and Security Through Multisectoral Forums in Kenya

**Author: Joseph Omondi**

For years, peace and security in Kenya were handled almost exclusively by state security agencies, with coordination limited and short-term, often tied to election cycles. This approach left little space for non-state actors and did not foster sustainable violence prevention.

A turning point came with the Ministry of Interior's directive to institutionalize multisectoral peace forums at national, county, and sub-county levels. These platforms bring together state and non-state actors to foster dialogue, build trust, and harmonize actions for long-term peace and accountability.

MIDRIFT HURINET has been at the forefront of this shift. Beginning in 2021, it convened forums in Nakuru and Baringo Counties, which – combined with community-level dialogue – helped reduce election-related violence in 2022. Building on this success, MIDRIFT worked with the Ministry of Interior to expand the model beyond elections, influencing a July 2024 national circular mandating multisectoral forums in all 47 counties. Alongside the National Steering Committee and partners, MIDRIFT co-developed Standard Operating Procedures to guide implementation.

Key lessons from MIDRIFT's experience:

Evidence-based programming can shape public policy

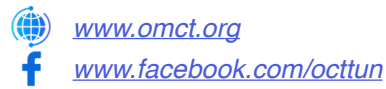
Violence prevention requires shared responsibility between state and non-state actors

Multisectoral platforms strengthen accountability and sustain peacebuilding amid crisis and constraints

By embedding collaborative forums into Kenya's governance framework, MIDRIFT demonstrates how civil society can drive systemic change and build resilience at both institutional and community levels.



## Organisation Contre la Torture en Tunisie (OCTT)



### Civil Society in Times of Crisis: Supporting Victims of Torture in Tunisia

Founded in 2003, the Organisation Contre la Torture en Tunisie (OCTT) has endured repression, political transitions, and shrinking civic space while remaining committed to assisting survivors of torture and ill-treatment. Initially denied legal recognition, OCTT's founders sustained the organization through grassroots activism until legalization in 2011, following the fall of Tunisia's dictatorship.

The post-2011 transition, however, brought widespread violence and renewed cases of torture. OCTT responded by building partnerships with local and international NGOs to provide legal and psychological assistance to survivors and to launch urgent prevention and awareness-raising programs.

In recent years, the organization has faced increasing constraints: administrative and financial restrictions, disrupted dialogue with authorities, and threats to repeal the 2011 decree guaranteeing freedom of association. These conditions have challenged advocacy work and limited civic space for human rights organizations.

To adapt, OCTT has shifted focus toward activities with greater impact under restrictive conditions, emphasizing professional training and direct victim support. By prioritizing services and capacity-building, the organization continues to protect survivors' rights and sustain resilience in an increasingly hostile environment.



## Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health



[www.healthright.org](http://www.healthright.org)

[www.facebook.com/HealthRightUkraine](https://www.facebook.com/HealthRightUkraine)

### Resilient Teams, Resilient Communities: Civil Society's Role in Safeguarding Health and Rights under Pressure

**Authors: Theresa Castillo, Nawaraj Upadhaya, Halyna Skipalska, Vira Goncharuk**

Since 2005, HealthRight International and the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health have delivered essential health and psychosocial services in Ukraine, with a focus on torture survivors since 2015. Russia's full-scale invasion has created urgent needs as survivors of torture, war crimes, and conflict-related sexual violence endure physical injuries alongside PTSD, depression, and social isolation.

With support from DIGNITY, our project strengthens civil society's capacity to provide trauma-informed, multidisciplinary care. In Mykolaiv, a team of psychologists and social workers offered over 2,000 services to 194 survivors between November 2024 and July 2025. Survivors reported improved coping, stronger social connectedness, and renewed hope for recovery. Collaboration with the Regional Prosecutor's Office and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group ensures that survivor-centered psychological evidence informs justice processes.

Equally vital is care for frontline professionals. Through the Caring for Carers (C4C) program, psychologists, social workers, and defenders receive structured peer support, supervision, and mental health care to prevent burnout and secondary trauma. Providers reported stronger resilience and greater confidence in managing trauma cases.

Key components of our model:

Trauma-informed, multidisciplinary care for survivors

Integrated psychosocial and case management services

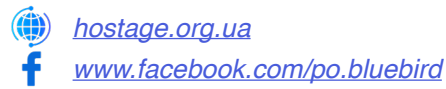
Caring for Carers program to sustain frontline professionals

Partnerships with prosecutors and human rights groups to link healing with justice.

Civil society in Ukraine serves as both a provider of healing and a driver of resilience, safeguarding rights and fostering recovery even amid war.



## NGO Blue Bird



### Crisis as a Stimulus for the Development of Civil Society

NGO Blue Bird provides comprehensive support to survivors of captivity, unlawful detention, and torture, as well as to their families and families of missing persons. Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, demand for our services increased sharply, exceeding our initial capacity despite existing expertise and commitment.

To meet this challenge, we expanded our work by training volunteers, civil society organizations, charities, and state institutions. Today, more than 3,500 people apply our approach, based on a "single window" model that integrates:

Advisory support through an information center

Trauma-focused psychological assistance

Legal aid

Medical treatment and rehabilitation

Social services

Protection of rights and representation before authorities

In addition, Blue Bird developed practical methodological tools, including:

Recommendations for the Rehabilitation of Men and Boys who experienced conflict-related sexual violence.

Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals working with patients affected by captivity and torture, prepared with the Center for Mental Health and Rehabilitation of Veterans Lisova Poliana (Ministry of Health of Ukraine).

By combining direct assistance, training, and knowledge-sharing, Blue Bird has scaled its impact beyond immediate service delivery, empowering institutions and civil society actors to respond effectively. This approach not only addresses urgent needs but also strengthens civic resilience in the face of ongoing war and repression.

### IFH Integrated Model of CARE

Founded in 1986, the Institute for Family Health (IFH) began as a model center to improve maternal and child health in Jordan. Today, IFH provides comprehensive, rights-based health and psychosocial services across Jordan and the region, with a strong focus on women, children, and marginalized communities.

Guided by the principle of “Leave no one behind” and the WHO definition of health, IFH delivers an integrated model that supports individuals and families throughout their lifecycle. Services combine prevention, treatment, protection, rehabilitation, and resilience building. Areas of expertise include primary health care, disability rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), child protection, youth empowerment, and community outreach.

Sustainability is ensured through IFH’s training department, a regional hub for building the capacity of civil society, governmental, and international organizations. Training covers GBV, SRHR, Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in crisis, clinical management of rape (CMR), child protection, psychological first aid (PFA), Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET), human rights, and community mobilization.

Key components of IFH’s model:

Trauma- and rights-based care

Comprehensive, lifecycle approach

Specialized services in GBV, SRHR, and disability rehabilitation

Regional training hub to strengthen partners’ capacity

Through this integrated approach, IFH advances resilience, wellbeing, and protection for vulnerable populations in Jordan and beyond.



**BasicNeeds**



[www.basicneedsghana.org](http://www.basicneedsghana.org)

[www.facebook.com/BasicNeedsGhana](https://www.facebook.com/BasicNeedsGhana)

## Trauma-informed Rehabilitation for Survivors of Torture and Organized Violence in Ghana

**Author: Peter Badimak Yaro**

BasicNeeds-Ghana (BNGh) is a mental health and development NGO with over 20 years of experience advancing community-based mental health care, socio-economic rehabilitation, and rights-based advocacy in Ghana.

In partnership with DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture, BNGh implemented a four-year, three-phase project, Strengthening Access to Timely and Quality Rehabilitation for Survivors of Torture and Organized Violence in Ghana. The initiative supported people with mental health conditions held in spiritual camps and homes of traditional healers, ensuring humane treatment and protection of their rights.

The project introduced trauma-informed therapy, peer support for service users, and collaboration between community health providers and informal practitioners, while building capacity in trauma-informed care. As a result:

702 survivors (317 men, 385 women) accessed rehabilitation services

1,160 family and community members reported improved coping despite COVID-19's negative impact on relationships

120 faith-based healers and 100 health workers enhanced their knowledge and practices in trauma-informed care.

The project also strengthened partner organizations' expertise in delivering trauma-informed approaches, creating more inclusive and rights-based mental health services in Ghana.

Key components of our model:

Trauma-informed therapy and rehabilitation

Service-user peer support

Collaboration between health providers and traditional/spiritual healers

Capacity building for health workers and partner organizations.



## Resilience in the Face of Repression: Sustaining Civil Society in Egypt

The Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF) works at the intersection of advocacy, legal aid, and documentation to defend fundamental rights amid one of the most restrictive civic spaces in the region. Despite constant surveillance, harassment, and security pressures, ECRF continues to serve as a platform for victims of violations and a voice for marginalized groups.

ECRF addresses a wide range of human rights issues, with particular focus on:

Civil and political rights: enforced disappearance, torture, fair trial guarantees, freedom of expression, minority and refugee rights, opposition to the death penalty.



Economic and social rights: housing, health, education, and environmental justice.

For ECRF, resilience means more than endurance. It involves adapting strategies to shifting risks, building safe channels for victims and families, and reinforcing solidarity with allies at home and abroad. Through litigation, campaigning, and community engagement, ECRF has developed mechanisms to confront repression while upholding justice and dignity.

By documenting violations and amplifying them globally, ECRF resists efforts to erase truth and silence communities. Our experience shows that resilience is not only survival but also the transformation of vulnerability into collective strength. Even under the harshest conditions, civil society remains a vital driver of accountability and human rights.



## Balay Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

 [www.balayph.net](http://www.balayph.net)  
 [www.facebook.com/balayrehab](https://www.facebook.com/balayrehab)

### Resilience in Action: Four Decades of Balay’s Journey in Human Rights, Psychosocial Work and Solidarity

**Author: Josephine A. Lascano**

Marking its 40th year, Balay Rehabilitation Center continues to uphold human rights and accompany survivors of torture, persons deprived of liberty, displaced families, and communities torn by conflict toward healing, empowerment, and development. Founded during Martial Law, Balay has sustained psychosocial services and advocacy even amid shrinking democratic space, climate crises, and threats to defenders.

Balay measures resilience not only in sustaining programs under pressure but in strengthening civil society collectively. Recognizing that systemic violence and repression cannot be addressed alone, Balay works through networks of solidarity—coalitions on human rights, anti-torture campaigns, transitional justice, and peacebuilding. Together with partners, Balay helped advance the Anti-Torture Law, supported the case against former President Duterte at the International Criminal Court, and mobilized responses to civic threats, while continuing survivor-centered and trauma-informed care.

At the global level, Balay has contributed to knowledge on torture rehabilitation and advocacy strategies, while promoting localization and equal footing for local NGOs within international aid frameworks. Amid today’s contraction of development support, which has forced some NGOs to close, Balay affirms that resilience means safeguarding institutional integrity and reinforcing alliances that protect rights.

Civil society endures through solidarity – transforming adversity into collective courage and sustaining hope for justice and peace.



## Humanity Institute



[www.hikachin.org](http://www.hikachin.org)

[www.facebook.com/humanityinstitutekachinland](https://www.facebook.com/humanityinstitutekachinland)

## Challenges and Opportunities for Women and Girls in Village Businesses in Kachin State

**Author: Zau Doi**

This participatory research explored the challenges and opportunities women and girls face in small-scale business across village communities in Myitkyina, Sumprabum, Putao, Waimaw, Chihpwi, Mohnyin, and Tanai townships of Kachin State. Seventy-four key informants, including 12 women and 4 men, contributed insights on local business practices and barriers.

Findings indicate that cultural norms and traditional gender roles limit women's decision-making, access to technology, and time availability due to household responsibilities. Political instability, armed conflict, weak rule of law, rising commodity prices, and transportation difficulties further constrain small and medium enterprise growth. Over-reliance on natural resource-based activities also restricts economic diversification.

Despite these challenges, some women successfully generate family income through small businesses, covering daily needs, healthcare, and children's education. These efforts demonstrate resilience and highlight the potential of women and girls as economic actors in their communities.

The study underscores the importance of addressing structural and cultural barriers, improving security, expanding training and technology access, and fostering community support to enhance women's participation in local economies.

Key components:

Participatory research highlighting local voices

Identification of cultural, economic, and political barriers

Evidence of resilience and income-generation among women and girls

Recommendations for capacity building and community support

## From Trauma to Transformation: Building Resilience amid Crises in Uganda

**Author: Muwairwa Michael**

TPO Uganda has delivered community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) since 1994 in conflict-affected, refugee-hosting, and marginalized districts. The organization integrates MHPSS with child protection, livelihoods, and peacebuilding programs, fostering resilience amid crises.

Guided by IASC MHPSS Guidelines and Uganda's national mental health priorities, TPO applies a layered pyramid of care:

Foundational level: psychosocial support within health, WASH, and livelihood programs

Community level: strengthening family and peer networks through parenting sessions, peace dialogues, and youth-led initiatives

Focused care: non-specialized interventions like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Psychological First Aid

Specialized care: outreach psychiatric clinics and individualized sessions for highly traumatized individuals

This integrated model promotes equity, empowers households, and helps trauma-affected individuals rebuild hope and agency. Linking mental health with livelihood programs enables beneficiaries to utilize economic opportunities, support self-reliance, and strengthen community capacities.

TPO Uganda's experience demonstrates the importance of rights-based, participatory, and locally-led approaches in fostering resilience under systemic constraints and crises.

Key components:

Integrated MHPSS with child protection, livelihoods, and peacebuilding

Layered pyramid of care: foundational, community, focused, specialized

Community empowerment and household resilience

Rights-based, participatory approaches for sustainable recovery.



## Association Citoyen De Rue



[www.citoyendesrues.com](http://www.citoyendesrues.com)

[www.facebook.com/citoyenderue](https://www.facebook.com/citoyenderue)

### The Echo of Resilience: Strengthening Civil Society in Fez Through Art, Digital Media, Mental Health, and Collective Action in Times of Urban Crisis

Fez, Morocco's spiritual capital, is also a city where many young people face unemployment, exclusion, and growing urban tensions. In this fragile context, resilience is more than survival - it is a pathway to dignity. Since March 2023, Association Citoyen De Rue Maroc has been working with youth to transform pain into power, using art, digital media, mental health support, and civic action to strengthen both individuals and communities.

Through urban art, public spaces become arenas of healing and dialogue. Forum theater allows young people to act out their realities and imagine alternatives; graffiti transforms walls into voices of hope and resistance; public performances break silences and foster solidarity. Our community radio SADA - "the echo of your voices"—has become the first of its kind in Fez, creating a digital safe space where young people share their stories, engage thousands of listeners, and connect directly with decision-makers.

Equally essential is our focus on mental health and psychosocial support. By offering safelisting spaces, peer support, and guidance, we help youth cope with trauma, rebuild self-confidence, and cultivate emotional resilience. This ensures that empowerment is not only collective but deeply personal.

At the structural level, the coalition "oFo9 contre la violence urbaine" brings together institutions, associations, and experts to design lasting, coordinated responses to urban violence.

Together, these initiatives shift young people from passive recipients to active agents of change, equipped with creativity, voice, and resilience to shape a safer and more inclusive city.



محامون من أجل العدالة في ليبيا  
Lawyers for Justice in Libya

## Lawyers for Justice in Libya



[www.libyanjustice.org](http://www.libyanjustice.org)

[www.facebook.com/LibyanJustice](https://www.facebook.com/LibyanJustice)

### Lawyers for Justice in Libya

Founded during the uprising against Gaddafi in 2011, Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL) is among the leading human rights non-governmental organisations supporting victims of human rights violations and serious international crimes committed in Libya. Over time, our expertise substantially expanded from an initial focus on documentation of violations and crimes, and encouraging constitutional reform to support transition processes. Today, we are the forefront of building a human rights movement and strong civil society sector in Libya, through a range of capacity building, mentorship and other support programmes. Recognising a changing landscape and a retreat away from multilateralism, we have re-structured the organisation in 2024 to focus on the following priority areas:

Movement building to ensure a strong and resilient civil society working towards transformative justice;

Justice and accountability for serious international crimes and human rights violations, to provide redress to survivors and end impunity;

Equality and non-discrimination as a cornerstone of a just society; and

Tackling daily injustices and institutional change to uphold peoples' dignity.

LFJL is also in the process of diversifying its income and funding stream to include, for example, a profit generating branch of the organisation that would make it less dependent on government and other funding sources.



## Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LTDH)



[ltdh.tn/gaza-call-en/](https://ltdh.tn/gaza-call-en/)

[www.facebook.com/ltdh.tn](https://www.facebook.com/ltdh.tn)

### Resilience Through Solidarity: Civil Society Action in Tunisia's Democratic Backslide

Author: Bassem Trifi

Founded in 1976, the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LTDH) is the first independent human rights organization in the Arab world. With a nationwide network of over 30 regional branches, LTDH has long played a central role in defending fundamental freedoms, promoting the rule of law, and advancing human rights in Tunisia. As a founding member of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet — which was awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize — LTDH played a decisive role in safeguarding the country's democratic transition.

In recent years, Tunisia has witnessed an accelerating erosion of democratic governance, characterized by the concentration of power, the weakening of independent institutions, and increasing repression of civil society and dissenting voices. In this deteriorating context, LTDH has remained a key pillar of resilience. Through its legal expertise, grassroots presence, and volunteer-driven action, the organization continues to document violations, support victims, engage in national and international advocacy, and foster a culture of rights through public education and community outreach.

Despite increasing political pressure and shrinking civic space, LTDH draws strength from its historical legitimacy, local engagement, the unwavering dedication of its members, and strategic partnerships — including with international actors like DIGNITY. This experience illustrates how, in an era of rising authoritarianism, the resilience of civil society depends on sustained civic commitment, solidarity among rights defenders, and strategic collaboration to resist repression and ensure no one is left behind.

## SUMMARY

This abstract book accompanies the annual Global Partnership Exchange workshop “Power of Partnerships: Resilience in Action – Strengthening Civil Society in an Age of Crisis and Constraint.”

It presents concise contributions from partner organizations, reflecting their experiences, challenges, and practices in diverse contexts.

The collection highlights common themes of resilience, solidarity, and the importance of partnerships in defending human rights and supporting communities.

It is intended as both a record of this year’s exchange and a resource for continued dialogue and collaboration.

We sincerely thank all organizations and contributors for their valuable work and commitment!



## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

### Workshop agenda

#### AGENDA

# POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Strengthening Civil Society in an Age of Crisis and Constraint

**Day 1 - 23 September 2025** Moderator: Tine Vestergaard Jacobsen, Programme Adviso,  
DIGNITY

**Theme: Adapting to the Shrinking Civic Space and Challenging Conditions**

**Keynotes, panels, case studies, participant dialogue.** Participants will explore how human rights organisations can continue their work in repressive or dangerous environments. This includes strategies for maintaining visibility, building trust, and flexible planning in uncertain conditions.

**(TIME EAT)**

2.00 – 2.15 pm	Welcome address: Director of NGO Forpost Olena Podolian
2.15 – 2.45 pm	Opening speech: CEO of DIGNITY Rasmus Grue Christensen & Q&A
2.45 – 3.45 pm	Keynote & Q&A: Tamila Bepalaia, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG): Trust and Strategic Communication in Times of Crisis
3.45 – 4.00 pm	Break
4.00 – 5.30 pm	Panel in plenary with moderated discussion: Adapting Anti-Torture Work to a Changing World. <b>1. Kostiantyn Avtukhov, director of NGO Ukraine Without Torture:</b> Adapting Anti-Torture Work to a Changing World: Lessons from Ukraine's NPM and the Need for a "Plan B" <b>2. Ahmed Mefreh, Executive Director at Committee for Justice (CFJ):</b> The Role of NGOs in Raising the Bar of Expectations in Autocratic Societies (eg police, electoral commission, judiciary) in post-conflict contexts, the case of Kenya. <b>3. Hend Khechine, Dignity country director in Tunisia:</b> Adapting methods and approaches to the changing Tunisian context <b>4. Lika Toloraiia, NGO Sich:</b> Visibility Strategies for Building Trust and Resilience in Times of Crisis
5.30 – 6.0 pm	Closing of the day

## AGENDA - THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: RESILIENCE IN ACTION

**Day 2 – 24 September 2025** Moderator: Oxana Bayer, Associate Professor at Alfred Nobel University in Ukraine; Crisis Psychologist

**Theme: Psychosocial Protection and Self-Help**

**Wellbeing practices, experience sharing, tools.**

*This day is dedicated to preventing professional burnout and supporting mental health among workers and affected communities.*

**(TIME EAT)**

2.00 – 2.15 pm	Summary from the graphic facilitator Robert Dersley
2.15 – 3.15 pm	Keynote & Q&A: <b>Jana D. Javakhishvili, Ilia State University of Georgia:</b> Caring for the Carers: Mental Health Support for Professionals Amid Ongoing Threat. Presentation and exercises: best practices in Collective Support and Coaching.
3.15 – 3.30 pm	Break
3.30 – 4.45 pm	Panel in Plenary with moderated discussion: Mental Health Strategies in Crisis Conditions <b>1. Taline Toubassi, Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture(TRC):</b> Approaches to delivering MHPSS in conflict zones <b>2. Seidu Swaray, Liberian Association of Psychosocial Services (LAPS):</b> Implementing Staff care and protection interventions in a changing world <b>3. Halyna Skipalska, Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health:</b> “Resilient Teams, Resilient Communities: Civil Society’s Role in Safeguarding Health and Rights under Pressure”
4.45 – 5.15 pm	Closing of the day



## AGENDA - THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS: RESILIENCE IN ACTION

**Day 3 – 25 September 2025** Moderator: Yuliia Honchar, Head of Mental Health and Trauma-therapy Center in NGO Forpost

**Theme: Civil Society as an Agent of Change**

**Advocacy, influence, systemic transformations.**

*This day focuses on the systemic impact of civil society – from grassroots advocacy to legislative changes and survivor-led movements.*

**(TIME EAT)**

2.00 – 2.15 pm	Summary from the graphic facilitator Robert Dersley
2.15 – 3.30 pm	Panel in plenary with moderated discussion: From Advocacy to Systemic Impact <b>1. Ko Ko Aung, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP):</b> Approaches and methods in advocacy for the release of political prisoners <b>2. Paul K. Mukalere, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator at African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV):</b> Transformational and Non-Confrontational Approaches with the State in Torture Prevention <b>3. Joseph Omondi, Executive Director at Midrift Human Rights Network (MIDRIFT HURINET):</b> A Multisectoral Approach to Violence Prevention: Influencing Policy and Practice in Government
3.30 – 3.45 pm	Break
3.45 – 4.30 pm	<b>Oleh Pokalchuk, Chair of the Board in NGO Forpost:</b> “Challenges for Non-Governmental Organizations in Times of Global Societal Transformation” & Q&A
4.30 – 5.30 pm	Group work in breakout rooms: Key Learnings, Shared Challenges and Coalition Solutions Plenary sharing
5.30 – 5.40 pm	Sharing of Final reflections – NGO Forpost
5.40 – 6.00 pm	Closing statement by DIGNITY COO



## ABOUT THE PARTNERS

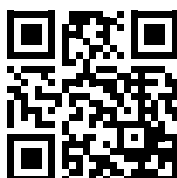
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### Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) – Myanmar

*Founded by former political prisoners, AAPP documents detention conditions, supports survivors and families, and provides human rights training. It combines advocacy with community-based psychosocial support to strengthen resilience under repression.*



 Website



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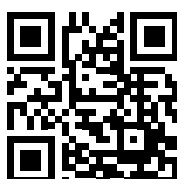
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### African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) – Uganda

*ACTV delivers medical, psychosocial, and legal support to survivors of torture in Uganda. It also advocates for violence-free elections and builds coalitions to safeguard civic space.*



 Website



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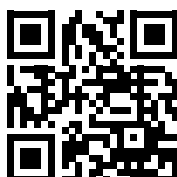
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### Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (TRC) – Palestine

*TRC provides integrated mental health and psychosocial support, including mobile clinics and hotlines, to conflict-affected communities. It develops trauma-informed models for women, children, and incarcerated populations.*



 Website



 Facebook



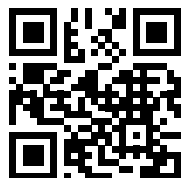
## Human Rights Protection Group SICH – Ukraine

*SICH uses storytelling and visibility strategies to strengthen trust in civil society organizations. It highlights survivors' voices and connects local struggles to global audiences.*

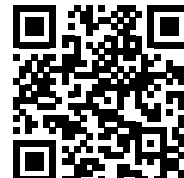


"Human Rights  
Protection Group  
"SICH"  
Civic Organization

 Website



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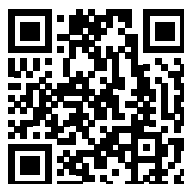
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## Ukraine Without Torture – Ukraine

*This NGO sustains the civic component of Ukraine's National Preventive Mechanism against torture. It develops flexible monitoring tools and promotes crisis-resilient oversight frameworks.*



 Website



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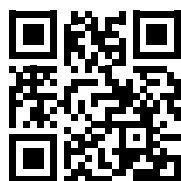
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## NGO Forpost – Ukraine

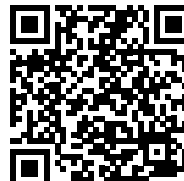
*Forpost works at the intersection of trauma therapy, human rights, and documentation for international justice. It supports survivors of war, teenagers, and professionals at risk of burnout.*



 Website



 Facebook



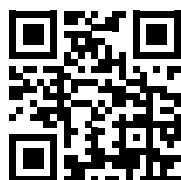
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## Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG) – Ukraine

*KHPG combines legal aid and psychological support for victims of war crimes, enforced disappearances, and torture. It represents survivors at national and international levels.*



 Website



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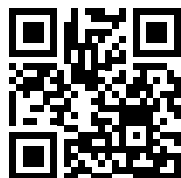


## Mae Tao Clinic – Thailand/Myanmar Border

*Mae Tao Clinic delivers essential healthcare and mental health services for displaced and refugee populations. Its Counseling Center provides counseling and psychiatric care for women and children.*



 Website



 Facebook



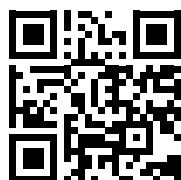
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## Suwannimit Foundation (SNF) – Thailand

*SNF supports displaced Myanmar populations with culturally adapted psychosocial support. It trains lay counselors in Psychological First Aid and builds peer support networks.*



 Website



 Facebook



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## Nebras Institute – Tunisia

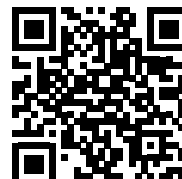
*Nebras is Tunisia's first rehabilitation center for torture survivors. It provides holistic care, professional training, and advocacy linking rehabilitation to transitional justice.*



 Website



 Facebook



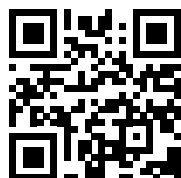
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## RCTV Memoria – Moldova

*Memoria offers medical, psychological, legal, and social support to torture survivors. It also assists refugees from Ukraine and advances regional trauma prevention.*



 Website



 Facebook

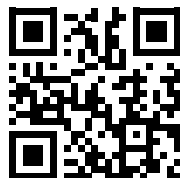


## Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT) – Kosovo

KRCT pioneered rehabilitation for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. It integrates medical, legal, and psychosocial care while advancing stigma reduction and survivor rights.



 Website



 Facebook



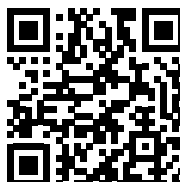
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## Liwan Youth Space – Jordan

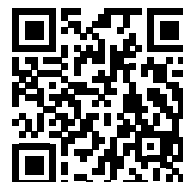
Liwan is a youth-led civic hub that provides space, tools, and skills for collective action. It empowers young people to engage in cultural, civic, and mental health initiatives.



 Website



 Facebook



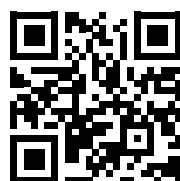
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## CIPREVICA – Guatemala

The Research Centre for Violence Prevention in Central America develops evidence-based programs on violence prevention, gender equality, and community resilience. It works with both civil society and government institutions.



 Website



 Facebook



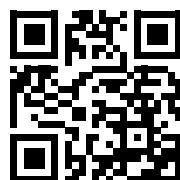
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## Human Rights Center Viasna – Belarus

Viasna documents repression, supports survivors of political imprisonment, and advocates internationally. Despite exile and persecution, it sustains Belarusian civil society voices.



 Website



 Facebook

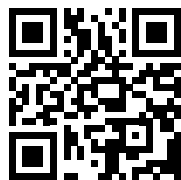


## Committee for Justice (CFJ) – MENA Region

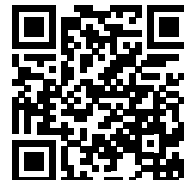
CFJ monitors torture, enforced disappearances, and unfair trials in Egypt, Sudan, and North Africa. It combines documentation, advocacy, and direct support to defenders.



 Website



 Facebook



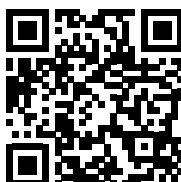
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## MIDRIFT HURINET – Kenya

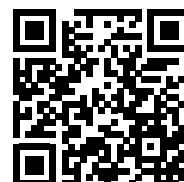
MIDRIFT builds multisectoral peace forums that link civil society, government, and communities. Its model strengthens accountability and prevents election-related violence.



 Website



 Facebook



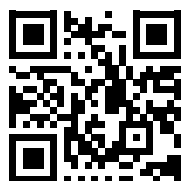
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## Organisation Contre la Torture en Tunisie (OCTT) – Tunisia

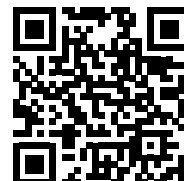
OCTT provides legal and psychological support for torture survivors. It sustains resilience by adapting to shrinking civic space and promoting victim protection.



 Website



 Facebook



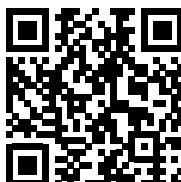
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## Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health – Ukraine

This foundation and HealthRight International deliver psychosocial care for torture survivors. Their “Caring for Carers” program strengthens professionals’ resilience.



 Website



 Facebook



## NGO Blue Bird – Ukraine

Blue Bird supports survivors of captivity and their families. It trains volunteers and professionals, develops rehabilitation guidelines, and promotes rights protection.



Blue Bird

 Website



 Facebook

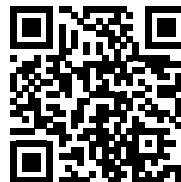


## Institute for Family Health (IFH) – Jordan

IFH provides integrated health, psychosocial, and protection services across Jordan. It is also a regional training hub for GBV, SRHR, and trauma care.



 Website



 Facebook



## BasicNeeds – Ghana

BasicNeeds advances community-based mental health care and socio-economic rehabilitation. It partners with local healers and health workers to ensure trauma-informed support.



 Website



 Facebook

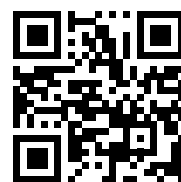


## Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF) – Egypt

ECRF documents violations, litigates cases, and advocates for civil and social rights. It sustains resilience under one of the most restrictive civic spaces.



 Website



 Facebook

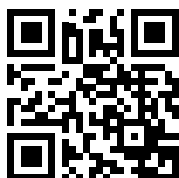


## Balay Rehabilitation Center – Philippines

*Balay delivers survivor-centered psychosocial support and advocacy. It promotes solidarity networks and contributes to international anti-torture efforts.*



 Website



 Facebook



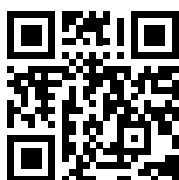
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## Humanity Institute — Myanmar

*Humanity Institute works on human rights, social cohesion, environment, and economic justice, supporting women's and farmers' businesses and promoting democracy in Kachin State, Myanmar.*



 Website



 Facebook



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## Association Citoyen De Rue – Morocco

*This community association supports vulnerable children and families in Fès through school assistance, literacy classes for mothers, psychosocial support, and youth participation initiatives.*



 Facebook



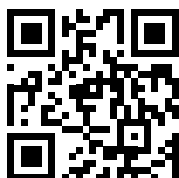
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## TPO Uganda – Uganda

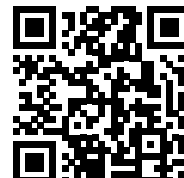
*TPO Uganda integrates mental health, child protection, livelihoods, and peacebuilding. Its layered pyramid of care empowers trauma-affected communities.*



 Website



 Facebook



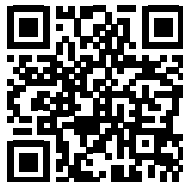
## Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL) – Libya

LFJL documents violations, advances justice and accountability, and strengthens civil society. It also works on equality, non-discrimination, and movement building.



محامون من أجل العدالة في ليبيا  
Lawyers for Justice in Libya

 Website



 Facebook



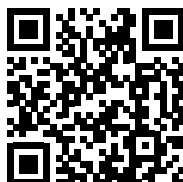
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## Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LTDH)

Human rights organization in Tunisia. Leads the Gaza Call initiative to raise awareness and mobilize solidarity.



 Website



 Facebook



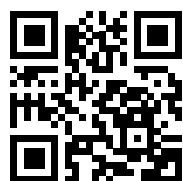
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## DIGNITY – Denmark

The Danish Institute Against Torture is the global partner behind this network. It leads international research, advocacy, and capacity building to combat torture and support survivors worldwide.



 Website



 Facebook



