
MARTA GÓRCZYŃSKA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER & RESEARCHER 2012 – NOW

As a human rights lawyer and researcher, I:

- provide legal assistance to people on the move (asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants, and victims of human trafficking),
- carry out strategic litigation in the precedent cases before national and international courts,
- conduct monitoring missions, collecting evidence on human rights violations and reporting them,
- undertake advocacy activities.

I cooperate with various national NGOs, incl. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, La Strada Foundation, Grupa Granica, etc. as well as international bodies, such as UNHCR and EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

OBJECTIVE

Professional and academic development in the field of human rights protection with particular interest in the asylum and migration law.

ONE-YEAR CAREER GAP 2017 – 2018

For over a year, I was traveling the world and volunteering in different places: I was teaching English to children in the rural areas of Vietnam, fundraising for a local school in Cambodia and working with Tibetan refugees in India. Since then, I combine working and traveling.

SKILLS

Strong writing and analytical skills, creative thinking, excellent knowledge of international human rights law, experience in managing monitoring missions, experience in working as a part of international research teams, ability to work independently and proactively, computer literacy, English fluency.

LANGUAGES

Polish: native
English: fluent
Russian: good command
French: basic

NATIONAL EXPERT UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) 2015 – 2016

In 2015, I was contracted by the UNHCR Bureau for Europe to conduct a research on the application of Dublin III Regulation in Poland. My tasks included conducting desk-based study, analysing legislation and case-law, auditing case files and conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders.

EDUCATION

2019 – 2024 Doctoral School of Social Sciences (University of Warsaw)
2014 – 2015 Foreign Policy Studies (Polish Institute of International Affairs)
2012 – 2013 Postgraduate Studies on Public International Law (University of Warsaw)
2007 – 2012 Master Studies in Law (Lazarski University)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

In 2020, I participated in the **20th Summer School on Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy** organised by Odysseus Academic Network. I was awarded one of the four PhD seminar grants which allowed me to present my research project in front of the panel of experts.

In 2020, I spent a month as a **volunteer in Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos**. Upon my return to Poland, I published an article on my experience: <https://bit.ly/3wIBPul>

In 2019, I was selected to participate in the **5th edition of the "EuropeLab", a platform for young professionals from EU and Russia**. The overall topic of the 2019 edition was "Borderlands: Movements, migration, cooperation".

FIELD MISSIONS

Monitoring of the Polish-Belarusian border (2016, 2019, 2021)

The purpose of the field missions to the Polish-Belarusian border was to investigate the situation of asylum-seekers seeking entry to Poland and being unlawfully pushed-back to Belarus by Polish border guards. The reports are available at: <http://goo.gl/uAW5WK> and <https://bit.ly/3uDHvEh>

Monitoring of the detention centres for migrants in Poland (2013 and 2014)

The purpose of the monitoring missions was to investigate the conditions in the detention centres for migrants and asylum-seekers in Poland. The reports are available at: <http://goo.gl/C8U9gV> and <http://goo.gl/dNRFuM>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Journey Interrupted: Access to Asylum at the Borders of Poland in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic [in:] Refugee Review Volume 5 (1), 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3Jlw3os> (EN)

Why EU should urgently review its cooperation with Turkey on migration? [in:] Connecting the European Union of shared aims, freedoms, values and responsibilities. European Union and its values: freedom, solidarity, democracy, eds. Agnieszka Kłós, Jan Misiuna, Marta Pachocka, Aleksandra Szczurba-Zawada, CEDEWU, Warsaw 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/2ZGXWDJ> (EN)

We should protect people, not borders, article in the leading Polish left-wing journal "Krytyka Polityczna", 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/3fYdJWQ> (PL)

They flee because they are poor, they are poor because we are rich, article in "Krytyka Polityczna", 2019, available at: <https://bit.ly/3t7Ye29> (PL)

Access to asylum procedure at the external borders of Poland (co-author), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, 2019, available at: <https://bit.ly/2vN3obf> (EN)

Pushed back at the Door: Denial of Access to Asylum in Eastern EU Member States (author of the chapter on Poland), Hungarian Helsinki Committee, 2017, available at: <http://goo.gl/OqFqdY> (EN)

Trials for the detention of refugees, article in one of the leading Polish daily newspapers "Rzeczpospolita", 2016, available at: <http://goo.gl/LDKIMb> (PL)

European Union policy and Poland's position towards refugee crisis, Quarterly Journal for Human Rights, 2015, available at: <http://goo.gl/tTuz7w> (PL)

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