

### HUNGARIAN OCFR NEWS

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### **STATISTICS**

Number of people have fled from Ukrain to Hungary: 438 000

20.03.2022.

Border traffic between Ukraine and Hungary, number of bordercrossings on 20 March 2022: **6602** 

Number of Applications for Temporary Protected Status all together: **4010** (18.03.2022)

#### BORDER TRAFFIC BETWEEN UKRAINE AND HUNGARY, NUMBER OF BORDERCROSSINGS on daily basis



#### DR. ÁKOS KOZMA RECEIVES IOI EUROPEAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT AND SLOVENIAN OMBUDSMAN



On March 16 2022, Greek Ombudsman and European Regional President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Andreas Pottakis, *Slovenian Ombudsman Peter Svetina and his Deputy were* received by Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary Dr. Ákos Kozma in his office.

During the meeting, Dr. Ákos Kozma provided information about the current situation on the Hungarian-Ukrainian border, the conditions of the reception of refugees from Ukraine, the measures taken to help them, and the operation and experience of the temporary regional office of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary at the Záhony railway station.

# IOI EUROPEAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT AND SLOVENIAN OMBUDSMAN ACCOMPANIED BY DR. ÁKOS KOZMA VISITED THE HUNGARIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Accompanied by Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary Dr. Ákos Kozma, Greek Ombudsman, European Regional President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Andreas Pottakis and Slovenian Ombudsman Peter Svetina and his Deputy visited the Hungarian-Ukrainian border personally to be informed about the circumstances of receiving the persons fleeing from the war in Ukraine and the further possibilities of providing more efficient help to them. At the same time the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary, which is a National Human Rights Institution accredited by the UN is providing direct support to refugees from today at its information point at the collection point in Beregsurány.

Andreas Pottakis, Peter Svetina and Dr. Ákos Kozma visited the temporary regional office of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary (OCFR) at the railway station of Záhony, the border crossing point between Záhony and Čop, and the collection point in Beregsurány, where the Hungarian Ombudsman opened another temporary regional office of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary (OCFR).

Dr. Ákos Kozma gave information on the measures taken to help refugees arriving in Hungary from Ukraine to escape the war, the operation of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights



of Hungary temporary regional office in Záhony and his experiences so far. "Since the outbreak of the crisis, our colleagues have been working continuously at the location helping with administration and legal advice to refugees who have fled to Hungary through Záhony. No complaints have been received so far, but many refugees have asked for help with travel documents and employment in Hungary.

Many people also ask help apart from legal counselling. Our staff have also helped volunteers organise transport to Budapest and helped refugees to find accommodation. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, more than 438,000 refugees have arrived in our country. To provide direct support to as many people as possible, we are opening a temporary field office in Beregsurány today."







"It is always very moving and difficult to visit a place where we are facing a humanitarian crisis, where we meet many people fleeing war. I expressed my appreciation to Dr. Ákos Kozma, Ombudsman, for all the efforts and work that the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary is doing to directly assist refugees arriving in Hungary from Ukraine. I have assured the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of the continued support of the IOI and, as Ombudsman of Greece, I would like to provide all possible legal, material and humanitarian assistance to the Hungarian Ombudsman Institution", emphasized Mr. Andreas Pottakis, who, on the basis of the information sent to him by Dr. Ákos Kozma in recent weeks, has been keeping the member organisations of the IOI informed on issues concerning refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.



# THE IOI EUROPEAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT AND THE SLOVENIAN OMBUDSMAN VISITED BEREGSURÁNY AND FEHÉRGYARMAT



On 17 March 2022, accompanied by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary Dr. Ákos Kozma, the Greek Ombudsman and European Regional President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Andreas Pottakis, Slovenian Ombudsman Peter Svetina and his Deputy visited the collection points of Beregsurány and Fehérgyarmat.

The ombudsmen were informed about the functioning of the collection points in Beregsurány and Fehérgyarmat, the experiences of the volunteers working at one of the places, including the health team members and the volunteers of the Catholic Caritas Hungary.

At the collection point in Fehérgyarmat, the delegation was received by Colonel dr. József Seres, Deputy Director General of the National Directorate General for Aliens Policing and was informed about the activities of the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing on the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

# COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF HUNGARY PAYS VISIT TO DEBRECEN FIELD OFFICE

On 16 March 2022, accompanied by Dr. Ákos Kozma the Greek and the Slovenian Ombudsman visited the Debrecen Field Office of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (OCFR). Greek Ombudsman, European Regional President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Andreas Pottakis, Slovenian Ombudsman Peter Svetina and his Deputy, were briefed on the functions of the regional offices. Earlier this year, the OCFR established regional offices in Debrecen, Szeged and Győr, and will soon open others in Pécs, Miskolc and Székesfehérvár which is unique achievement at international level of the ombudsman practices.



# OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF HUNGARY OPENS TEMPORARY REGIONAL OFFICE



On 17 March 2022, Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary Dr. Ákos Kozma opened a new temporary regional office at the Beregsurány's collection point.

With a view to providing direct support to people fleeing the war in Ukraine the staff members of the OCFR will be there to offer personal help to the persons turning to them, for instance, in administrative matters and legal counselling in addition they will also assist in the humanitarian relief efforts.



# OMBUDSMAN MEETS UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

On 16 March 2022, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary Dr. Ákos Kozma received in his office UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Ms. Afshan Khan.

During the meeting the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary provided information about the circumstances of the reception of the refugees, especially children, arriving in our country fleeing the war in Ukraine, and the measures taken to provide help to them. Since the beginning of the war, 1.4 million children have fled Ukraine.



## ONLINE DISCUSSION WITH VICTORIAN OMBUDSMAN



On 16 March 2022, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary Dr. Ákos Kozma conducted an online consultation with Victorian Ombudsman Ms. Deborah Glass on the issue of the refugees arriving in Hungary, fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, almost 264,000 refugees have arrived in our country. During the consultation, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights provided

information about the current situation at the Hungarian–Ukrainian border section, the circumstances of the reception of the refugees arriving in Hungary fleeing the war in Ukraine, and the measures taken to provide help to them.

Furthermore, Dr. Ákos Kozma informed Victorian Ombudsman Ms. Deborah Glass about the functioning and the experiences regarding the temporary regional office at the Záhony railway station.

#### **MORE INFORMATION:**

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