



To: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

From: Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), headquarters at str. Donbas no. 14/1 6, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, e-mail: contact@myla.org.mk

Subject: Feedback on the human rights adviser programme in North Macedonia

SHORT INFORMATION ABOUT THE MACEDONIAN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) is a professional organization of lawyers founded in 2003. Its vision is to see North Macedonia as a just, fair, and equitable society where the law ensures the dignity of the people, serves the public interest and secures a sustainable and safe environment. MYLA defends and promotes the fundamental principles and values enshrined in the Constitution. By utilizing the power of the law, it protects and empowers the disempowered, and advocates for improvements in laws and policies where individual liberties, the rule of law, and the environment are fully protected. MYLA aims to ensure that the law in North Macedonia works for everyone, serves the public interest, and is aligned with international and EU standards.

MYLA has five key strategic goals for the period 2023 – 2026, identified in a participatory process of strategic planning. They respond to the burning needs of society and are operationalization of our mission and core values. They are:

1. Support legal empowerment of the disempowered;
2. Protect the rights of refugees and migrants;
3. Advance rule of law and democracy;
4. Enhance society resilient to crime and extremism;
5. Increase the use of legal means in environmental protection.

The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) has actively participated in numerous processes before the United Nations related to human rights mechanisms and instruments, during which the role of the Human Rights Adviser – Tatijana Temelkovska has been of considerable importance. Throughout these engagements, the human rights adviser has consistently demonstrated strong support and commitment to advancing the protection and promotion of human rights in the Republic of North Macedonia.

From the outset, particularly during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes and the submission of reports in each review cycle, MYLA has benefitted from the invaluable guidance and expertise provided by the human rights adviser. This collaboration has extended to a broad range of communications and submissions to various UN bodies and special procedures, wherein MYLA has contributed recommendations and insights drawn from its work on the ground. In all of these instances, the Human Rights Adviser has played a pivotal role in facilitating the preparation and submission of materials, ensuring their alignment with international standards and expectations. Their availability, responsiveness, and knowledge have been instrumental in strengthening MYLA's contributions and maximizing the impact of its advocacy efforts.

Notably, during the fourth cycle of the UPR for North Macedonia, the cooperation between MYLA and the human rights adviser was especially significant. As MYLA participated in the UPR pre-session for NGOs held in Geneva, the human rights adviser provided comprehensive preparatory support. This included several coordination meetings prior to the session, in which MYLA was advised on the key content and format of materials to be submitted, with a focus on articulating existing human rights challenges and proposing



structured, actionable recommendations. The adviser's strategic input helped refine MYLA's presentation and communication with international stakeholders. Furthermore, following the pre-session in Geneva, MYLA continued its close collaboration with the Human Rights Adviser through a series of follow-up meetings aimed at further developing the next steps in the UPR process and other related advocacy activities.

Additionally, MYLA was part of the "Human Rights 75 initiative" and provided several pledges, all encouraged and supported by the advisor. In 2025, MYLA will also contribute to the HRC related to the fourth report for North Macedonia on the implementation of the ICCPR. This engagement is an ongoing activity for which MYLA obtains significant guidance from the advisor in North Macedonia.

In sum, the continued collaboration with the human rights adviser has significantly strengthened MYLA's institutional capacities and enhanced its ability to engage meaningfully with both international and national human rights frameworks. The adviser's consistent encouragement and support have motivated MYLA to fully utilize all available mechanisms to address human rights challenges and contribute to a more just and equitable society.

MYLA's President,

Bojana Bozhinovska Siljanovska