



## PRESS-RELEASE

### **New project aimed at torture prevention and support for human rights initiatives to be implemented by the Coalition against Torture**

**5 May 2020, Dushanbe** – The Civil Society Coalition against Torture and Impunity together with the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights has launched a new project aimed at combating torture and supporting human rights groups in Tajikistan.

Within the project, the Coalition's Legal Aid Group will continue to provide legal assistance to victims of torture and their family members, monitor court hearings, as well as conduct strategic litigation in torture case. [In its concluding recommendations](#) to the Tajikistan's third periodic report, the UN Committee against Torture notes that torture continues to be used by law enforcement officers and the perpetrators frequently remain unpunished. In such circumstances, it is crucial to ensure legal assistance to victims of torture, strive to restore justice and change the system for the better.

In the next two years, the project partners will also hold a series of educational events for young lawyers and activists working with vulnerable groups. Educational programs will include theoretical knowledge about the basic concepts of human rights, domestic and international mechanisms for their protection, as well as practical knowledge and skills in the field of monitoring, legal assistance and cooperation with the media.

All project activities will be reflected on the website and social media of the Coalition, national and international media. Within the framework of the project, four media campaigns dedicated to the International Day of Support for Victims of Torture (June 26) and Human Rights Day (December 10) will be held. The media group, in collaboration with all members of the Coalition, has already begun preparations for the first campaign, which is scheduled for June. As part of the communication component of the project, the Coalition will also cooperate with press centres at state and law enforcement agencies.

The project "Support for anti-torture agenda and human rights groups in Tajikistan" is funded by the European Union under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

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A project implemented by:

1. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland)
2. Independent Center for Human Rights Protection (Tajikistan)
3. Right and Prosperity (Tajikistan)
4. Office of Civil Freedoms (Tajikistan)



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