

Letter of recommendation for Ms. Palina Kozarava

Dear European Humanities University,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Ms. Palina Kozarava for a Master's programme "International Law and Security Studies" at your esteemed university.

My name is Pavel Sapelko. I am a lawyer and a member of the governing body of the Human Right Centre "Viasna". I temporarily serve as one of the vice-presidents of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and represent "Viasna" in the International Accountability Platform for Belarus (IAPB). I am an expert in various fields of law, a laureate of The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe – CCBE Human Rights Award. I graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University in 1993. I have known Ms. Palina Kozarava since July 2022 when she started her work as a interviewer of survivors of torture and ill-treatment (In 2020-2022 she was a volunteer in the "Viasna" Human Rights Centre).

During her work at Human Rights Centre "Viasna" Ms. Palina Kozarava has demonstrated a high level of responsibility, involvement in her work and conscientious approach to doing her job. I can confidently state that Ms. Palina Kozarava is motivated, hardworking and resourceful. In a short period of time she is able to fulfill her work tasks scrupulously and shows excellent results.

Ms. Palina Kozarava is actively working on documenting survivors of torture and ill-treatment in Belarus, collecting detailed information about what happened in Belarus, investigating cases of concern to her. She is able to work with open sources and is critical of the results of her work. Ms. Palina Kozarava has shown herself as a professional who is always ready to learn new information. She has leadership skills and knows how to work with a team and organize teamwork. Ms. Palina Kozarava is always open to new knowledge and experience.

These qualities of Ms. Palina Kozarava allows her to be assigned not only routine work, but also particularly important tasks including representing the Human Rights Centre "Viasna" at various public events, such as "Investigation and Prosecution of Crimes in Belarus" – Seminar at the 34th Meeting of the Genocide Network (The Netherlands, Hague), represented the Human Rights Centre "Viasna" at the award ceremony at the University of Graz for documenting human rights violations.

Ms. Palina Kozarava has excellent personal qualities. She is honest, communicative and inquisitive. Ms. Palina Kozarava's strengths are ambitiousness and discipline. The distinctive feature of Ms. Palina Kozarava is humanity and a strong sense of justice, which reveals her personality quite vividly.

Ms. Palina Kozarava studied at the Belarusian State University (graduated in 2021) at the Faculty of Philosophy. Ms. Palina Kozarava's studies were conducted in the absence of academic freedom: students were expelled because of their political position, a lot of students were arrested for administrative and criminal cases, and the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy is a propagandist and actively supports the current regime in Belarus. In such an atmosphere it was difficult to do philosophy and work on the topics that Ms. Palina Kozarava is interested in.

Ms Palina Kozarava has a deep interest in world politics, the study of law and shows a high level of involvement in the topic of international law. In her personal interests, Ms Palina Kozarava focuses on the consequences in society, politics and the world at large after the Second World War. She is interested in various trials, Tribunals and the development of law. She is very immersed in the current agenda of the situation in international law and what processes are in existence now. She has a clear vision of what topics she is interested in and what contributions and innovations she could bring to them. Her personal interests actively correlate with her academic and career ambitions. Palina Kozarava can succeed in the academic field given her engagement with the topics she is interested in, her personal qualities and the results she demonstrates during her work at the Viasna Human Rights Centre.

I am strongly convinced that Ms. Palina Kozarava has all the necessary qualities, skills and potential to pursue a Master's programme "International Law and Security Studies". I fully support her candidature for admission to your university and I am confident that she will succeed in this area.

Please feel free to contact me with further questions concerning Ms. Palina Kozarava.

Sincerely,

Mr. Pavel Sapelko,
Board member of the Human right center "Viasna".
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