

My name is Kristina Rikhter. One of my important professional achievements is 3 years of work as Advisor on legal affairs to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya - president-elect and leader of the Belarusian democratic movement.

In my grant portfolio, I present to you several priority areas of my work as part of Sviatlana's team and as a Belarusian lawyer and human rights activist.

Migration and human rights: Belarusians in exile.

Since 2022, I have been working with the topic of migration in the research and practice field. I am a member of the working group of the Polish Ministry of Interior on migration of Belarusians and have had successes in the form of amendments to Polish legislation (introduction of humanitarian grounds for residence permits, Belarusians receiving travel documents instead of passports they cannot exchange due to the passport decree). Here is one example of an achievement - a new draft document for foreigners - [From June, Belarusians in Poland will be eligible to receive travel documents for free](#)

In addition, I [participated](#) in the [preparation](#) and promotion of the report "Addressing the specific challenges faced by the Belarusians in exile" and the adoption of the Council of Europe resolution. I universally promote the narrative about the special situation of Belarusians in exile due to the fact that they have no support from their state, but on the contrary, they are persecuted both in Belarus and abroad. In this sense, who but EHU, with its long history of activity in exile, does not know about the special difficulties faced by those persecuted for striving for democratic values in Belarus.

Since advocacy of any issue is impossible without in-depth research of the issue, I often write background papers and dissections of legislation of various countries. I have attached my last two papers to my portfolio, and I also attach links to their publications:

[Belarusian Activists Abroad: Overcoming Integration Challenges in Exile](#)

[The situation and challenges of the Belarusian diaspora in different countries](#)

Transitional justice, rehabilitation of victims of political repression.

In the autumn of 2023 the legal team of the Tsikhanouskaya Office made a release of the [Concept of Reparations for Repressed Persons](#). I was the lead of the process and one of the authors. This document establishes the basis for democratic approaches to restoring justice for those who faced repression and human rights violations by Lukashenka's regime.

For the next six months I was engaged in research on the development of this Concept in terms of rehabilitation of groups with special needs (LGBTQ+, youth, large families, people with disabilities and serious illnesses, etc.). This document is currently unpublished, so I am attaching it to my portfolio.

Both of the presented directions of my professional and research activities in my opinion fully correspond to the mission of EHU, which first of all consists of commitment to democratic views and values that do not just remain in the heads of students, but have a real realization in various civic initiatives, that respond to contemporary challenges (such as the migration processes of Belarusians) and create a strong basis for the future (creation of a framework for transitional justice and in particular consideration of the issue of compensation for injuries to victims of political repressions).