



HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING INSTITUTE

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT  
2009

Vilnius  
2010

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2009

Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI) was founded in 2003 with the aim to contribute to the development of an open and democratic society in Lithuania by consolidating human rights and freedoms. The strategic goal of the Institute is to develop a culture respectful of human rights in Lithuania by:

- Raising awareness of human rights violations, their causes and consequences;
- Encouraging Lithuanians to exercise their human rights and to assist in defending those rights;
- Integrating permanent civil society monitoring of government performance in protection of human rights into political discourse;
- Stimulating public discussions and dialog between civil society and state institutions on human rights concerns;
- Motivating state institutions and officials to bring about tangible improvements in legislation, programmes and services, intended to ensure and protect human dignity and human rights;
- Increasing government accountability in policies and practices affecting human rights.

HRMI monitors the work of governmental institutions, publicly reacts to potential and actual violations of human rights, engages in research, presents findings and recommendations, initiates strategic litigation cases, and presents alternative reports to international human rights bodies.

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# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. MONITORING AND ADVOCACY</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1. OVERVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LITHUANIA 2007-2008	5
1.2. PUBLIC APPEALS AND PROPOSALS	6
1.3. REQUESTS TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTION	8
1.4. DISCUSSIONS AND SEMINARS	9
1.5. WORKING GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS	10
<b>II. STRATEGIC LITIGATION</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1. MARCH 11 RALLY CASE	10
2.2. GATAJEVS CASE	11
2.3. LITHUANIAN NATIONAL CENTRE V. HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING INSTITUTE	12
2.4. D.D. V. LITHUANIA	12
<b>III. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1. CLOSER LOOK AT MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION	13
3.2. ACTION WEEK AGAINST RACISM AND OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE	14
3.3. HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL	16
3.4. HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH: ARTISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	16
3.5. SEMINAR COUNTERACTING INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING	17
3.6. INFO-BULLETIN	18
3.7. EXPERT OPINIONS AND LEGAL AID	19
3.8. HRMI AND THE MEDIA	19
<b>IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1. LEGAL DIRECTOR – MEMBER OF ECSOL EXPERT NETWORK	20
4.2. PRESENTATION OF S.MARCINKEVIČ V. DISONA CASE AT THE EU ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW CONFERENCE	20
4.3. PLENARY PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING INSTITUTE BEFORE THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	20
4.4. PRESENTATION BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE CONFERENCE REGARDING CIA SECRET DETENTION PROGRAMME	20
4.5. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	21
<b>V. STRUCTURE</b>	<b>22</b>
5.1. BOARD	22
5.2. EMPLOYEES	22
5.3. EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS	22
5.4. VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES	23
<b>VI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>24</b>

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2009 was marked by the economic and financial crisis; therefore, the focus of the State's attention was directed at minimising negative consequences of the crisis and ensuring financial stability. Not all measures used to tackle these problems were measured and appropriate: reforms of the tax system placed an increased burden on a number of socially vulnerable groups, the business sector weakened, and unemployment rates boomed. Regrettably, by focusing on the fight against recession and threats to the financial system, governmental institutions pushed aside the keystone of public welfare – respect for human rights and their appropriate implementation.

Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, who visited Lithuania in October 2009, defined the situation aptly. In words of the Commissioner, the economic crisis that was caused by the financial crisis is under threat to grow into a social crisis, which in turn would cause a political crisis; in order to avoid that we must realise that it is crucial to talk about human rights. "Restrictions are impossible to avoid, but the keyword is "how" these restrictions are put in place – whether any decisions are made due to which the most disadvantaged, most vulnerable people will suffer the most", said the Commissioner. Additionally, he warned that rise of unemployment as a consequence of such decisions is especially dangerous since it creates a platform for the growth of radical populist forces. Their influence is very well illustrated by examples from other countries, where a number of hate crimes and ethnic killings have been recorded.

In 2009, the Human Rights Monitoring Institute continued its efforts to contribute to the development of a society that is tolerant and respectful of human dignity and rights by publicly addressing governmental institutions with proposals and expert evaluations and conducting strategic litigation cases. In cooperation with the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, HRMI implemented "Closer Look at Multiple Discrimination", a project funded by the European Commission PROGRESS programme. The project focused on fostering a culture of respect for human rights on a regional level by organising radio talk-shows, discussion with the viewers of the documentary "Vilnius Ghetto 2009" (produced by HRMI and directed by Audrius Lelkaitis, 2009) and organising a three-part training session for regional media. Media plays a very important role in shaping the public opinion, therefore cooperation with journalists is one of the key elements in deepening public knowledge of equal opportunities, as well as promoting tolerance for other people regardless of their sex, age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, beliefs, and other characteristics.

While providing journalists with information and practical knowledge, HRMI has monitored media. The results of monitoring contributed to the biannual overview of "Implementation of Human Rights in Lithuania 2007-2008". A team of human rights experts, with reference to the data collected during media monitoring, reports and other papers from national and international institutions, analysis of legislation and personal insights, produced an extensive evaluation of the human rights situation according to set criteria.

The Human Rights Monitoring Institute encourages governmental and non-governmental organisations to continue cooperation in improving the human rights situation in Lithuania. During his visit to Lithuania, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg said:

*"Human rights require continuous structured work; it is not a matter of making an occasional speech. A structured attitude is a deciding factor. A continuous dialogue must take place, with its most important aspect being a demonstrated serious attitude towards the non-governmental sector and real cooperation."*

# I. MONITORING AND ADVOCACY

## 1.1. Overview Implementation of Human Rights in Lithuania 2007-2008

In June 2009, Human Rights Monitoring Institute presented the fifth human rights overview "Implementation of Human Rights in Lithuania 2007-2008" (further – Overview), put together by the team of contracted experts on the basis of HRMI in-house research, findings of governmental institutions, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, expert consultations and media monitoring data.

The Overview noted that the tendency of a worsening human rights situation since entering the European Union in 2004 remains. Key tendencies of the years 2007-2008 were the following:

1. Rapid spread of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance
2. Significant worsening in the welfare of socially vulnerable groups, such as the women, the children, and the disabled.
3. No record of a decrease in violations of those human rights that are crucial for the functioning of an effective democracy, such as the right to political participation, the right to freedom of expression, the right to personal privacy, and the right to a fair trial.

With the human rights situation worsening, citizens' trust in governmental institutions that are charged with protection of these rights declined. A public opinion poll carried out at the end of 2008 showed that four fifths of respondents who thought their rights to have been violated did not seek any redress, with nearly 80 per cent of them arguing that they don't believe effective remedy or mechanisms exist.

In 2008, a proof of a direct link between the alarmingly high rates of emigration and the unsatisfactory human rights situation in Lithuania was presented. A survey carried out by the researchers of the Vytautas Magnus University among Lithuanians based in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Spain and Norway showed that the reason the majority of emigrants do not return to Lithuania is not better economic opportunities in these counties, but better security, more freedom and different, more respectful, relations among people.

Among areas where Lithuania should try harder to improve the business environment and to attract more foreign investment, the experts indicate the consolidation of the rule of law, a more transparent judiciary, enhancement of property protection, improvement of public administration and other areas affected by the effective implementation of human rights.



*Presentation of the Overview at BNS Press Centre*

The Overview was presented at the Baltic News Service Press Centre by Henrikas Mickevičius, Executive Director of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute, Dovilė Šakalienė, HRMI Director for Programmes, Tadas Leončikas, Head of the Centre for Ethnic Studies of the Institute for Social Research, Dovilė Juodkaitė, Executive Director of the Global Initiative on Psychiatry, and Margarita Jankauskaitė, Project Manager of the Centre for Equality Advancement.

In June of 2009, the Overview was presented to President-elect of the Republic of Lithuania Dalia

Grybauskaitė (the Overview was presented by Members of the HRMI Board Dainius Pūras and Arūnas Pemkus, and Henrikas Mickevičius). Certain information and ideas developed in the Overview were mirrored in President's inaugural speech. In response to President's request, in July, HRMI presented a list of suggestions for improving the human rights situation in Lithuania.

In July 2009, a number of ambassadors and embassy representatives from EU Member States and other countries, invited by the Swedish Ambassador to Lithuania Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg, gathered to a presentation of the Overview. During the event held at the Swedish Embassy, Dainius Pūras, Chair of HRMI Board and Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Henrikas Mickevičius, Executive Director of HRMI and Tadas Leončikas, Executive Director of the Centre of Ethnic Studies, presented findings and conclusions of the Overview and discussed with diplomats recent tendencies in the area of human rights. Active audience participation in the debate proved that the human rights situation has become a matter of concern for Western diplomats residing in Lithuania. Ambassadors expressed worries with the decline in human rights standards in Lithuania, an increase in corruption, a lack of human rights education, and a decline in youth tolerance, among other concerns. Participants agreed that political attention merely to economic matters is insufficient, and that Lithuania is in immediate need of a national human rights institution which would formulate national policies in the area of human rights protection.

## **1.2. Public Appeals and Proposals**

### ***1.2.1. Right to Peaceful Assembly***

At the beginning of 2009, a number of NGO's and trade unions informed municipal governments about their wish to organise public protests to express dissatisfaction with the government's plan to tackle the economic and financial crisis and other reform proposals but met with unjustified restrictions.

In February 2009, in reaction to queries from non-governmental organizations and journalists Human Rights Monitoring Institute published an extended comment in which it underlined fundamentals of right to peaceful assembly, clarified practical aspects of its implementation, including specific rights and obligations of organizers and participants, on the one hand, and the government, on the other. The comment evaluated restraining measures applied by the police during the peaceful protest which took place on January 16, 2009 in front of Lithuanian Parliament.

HRMI reminded that the right to peaceful assembly is one of the political rights that are of vital importance to democracy, which is why in legal practice it is interpreted broadly, and its exceptional restrictions are narrow. HRMI also noted that if social unrest is considered to be a potential side-effect to a peaceful assembly, the government is obliged to take adequate measures to ensure the safety of participants of the peaceful assembly, and identify and prosecute organisers and leaders of the unrest. The measures taken to calm the unrest must be proportionate.

In March 2009, Human Rights Monitoring Institute released a public statement "Is the right to peaceful assembly available only to radicals?" in which it expressed its position towards decisions of the Vilnius municipality. City municipality refused to issue a certificate for planned march "Against racism and xenophobia – for tolerance" organized by HRMI and the Centre for Equality Advancement on March 11 - the Re-establishment of Lithuanian Independence Day, but issued a certificate for a march organized on the same day by pro-fascist youth organisation. In the statement, HRMI stressed violations of the Assembly Act (see more in the Strategic Litigation section), and posed a rhetoric question whether the Vilnius municipal government shares constitutional values of Lithuania – democracy, pluralism, and human rights.

In March, HRMI informed Members of the European Parliament, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe, and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights about violations of the right to assembly in Lithuania.

### ***1.2.2. National Agreement on Family***

On the basis of analysis of the draft National Agreement on Family prepared by the Ministry of Social Security and Employment, in May HRMI in cooperation with a number of non-governmental organisations circulated comments and recommendations on how to improve the draft. NGOs stressed that families which were not formed through marriage should not be marginalised and discriminated. The State should avoid creation of a hierarchy of families. Recommendations included an expansion of social services that would help working age adults to accommodate their family and work obligations, introduction of more effective measures to counter domestic violence, and expansion of assistance to victims, including legal representation in cases brought against perpetrators, along with more attention to ensuring reproductive health in families.

### ***1.2.3. Law on the Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effects of Public Information***

In June, HRMI along with 32 NGOs addressed President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus with the request to veto the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effects of Public Information. The letter drew attention to the fact that the Law is poorly drafted – it includes numerous undefined and unclear words and phrases, and thus may lead to various interpretations and abuses. In particular, defining as detrimental to minors of information related to homosexuality and “family values” may open window to unjustified restrictions on freedom of expression and lead to discriminatory practices. On June 26, the State President vetoed the controversial Law and returned it to Seimas for reconsideration.

### ***1.2.4. Business Ombudsperson institution: a few questions to the Government and Parliament***

In September, in reaction to the Government’s initiative to establish State-financed Business Ombudsperson institution Human Rights Monitoring Institute released a public statement which questioned the rationale behind the initiative. The Statement was formulated in the form of a number of questions addressed to Lithuanian MPs and State officials.

HRMI drew attention to the fact that the functions which would be assigned to the new institution are already performed by the Seimas’ Ombudsperson Office. Creation of a new office during economic crisis would be an example of unjustified and irresponsible public spending. HRMI noted that increasing the number of complaint-handling, i.e. retroactively working, institutions does not solve the problem of worsening human rights situation in Lithuania. What is needed instead is a proactive expert work in monitoring implementation of international commitments on the national level, analysis of proposed legislation and practices, identification of problems related to the protection of human rights, formulation of recommendations, coordination of cooperation among national, regional and international institutions, and other analytical, educational and organisational work that would be instrumental in developing a rational and effective national human rights policy.

The legislative amendments introducing the Business Ombudsperson institution were rejected in Parliament.

### ***1.2.5. Parliamentary Resolution Calling on Government to Challenge Powers of European Parliament***

In November, Human Rights Monitoring Institute addressed Members of national Parliament with the opinion with regard to the draft Resolution “On Republic of Lithuania addressing the European

Court of Justice" (No. XIP-1215). The draft resolution conveyed dissatisfaction with the Resolution of the European Parliament expressing concern over conformity of the Law on the Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effects of Public Information with the values and human rights standards of the European Union. The draft resolution called upon the government to challenge the power of the European Parliament to question compliance of national legislation with EU standards at the European Court of Justice. HRMI prompted Members of Parliament to keep in mind the following:

- a) Resolution passed by the European Parliament is not an act of law and cannot bring legal consequences to third parties, therefore according to Article 230 of the EC Treaty it cannot be challenge at the European Court of Justice.
- b) Resolution does not claim that Lithuania has violated a particular article of the EC Treaty or a related mandatory act of law.
- c) Besides being legally pointless, passage of the Resolution would contribute to the image of Lithuania as immature democracy, unable to accept constructive criticism.

Although the Resolution was passed, the government did not take any action on it.

### **1.3. Requests to Initiate Legal Action**

#### ***1.3.1. Hateful speech: online comments***

In 2009, HRMI actively reacted to manifestations of hate and intolerance in public comments posted in online media. Numerous requests calling for pre-trial investigation of suspected hate speech in violation of criminal law were filed with the Prosecutor-General office. As in previous years, authors of comments often expressed their hate of certain ethnic, racial, religious and sexual minorities. A number of requests resulted in criminal prosecution of hate distributors.

#### ***1.3.2. Call for Pre-Trial Investigation Re: Failure of Law Enforcement Officers to Carry out Their Duties***

Responding to the article "Perverse man keeps daughter hostage" published in October in the online news portal Lrytas.lt ([www.lrytas.lt](http://www.lrytas.lt)), HRMI approached the Prosecution Service with a call to initiate a pre-trial investigation with regard to a failure of law enforcement officers to carry out their duties, which caused grave harm. Since police officers, having information about possible serious abuses, gratuitously failed to conduct a pre-trial investigation and put a stop abuses, the daughter of the rapist was sexually abused by him and was forced to have sexual relations with strangers for payment.

In November, Šiauliai regional Prosecution Service informed about opening investigation into potential violation of professional duties and of criminal law by the law enforcement officers of the Mažeikiai district police department.

#### ***1.3.3. Call for Pre-Trial Investigation Re: Illegal Detention and Abuse***

In December, HRMI requested the Prosecutor General's Office to conduct investigation into possible violations of Art. 292 (Illegal border crossing), Art. 291 (Illegal cross-border transfer of individuals), Art. 146 (Illegal imprisonment) and Art. 100 (Behaviour with individuals banned by international law) of the Criminal Code.

An article "CIA keeps terrorist suspects in secret prisons" published in 2005 by "The Washington Post" revealed that after 9/11 in eight Asian, Latin American and European states the United States of America founded a network of secret detention centres, which were designed to detain and interrogate suspected members of the "Al Qaeda" network. On August 20, 2009, in the article published by the ABC News Lithuania has been named as one of the states which in 2004-



2005 hosted a secret CIA detention centre for terrorism suspects. On the basis of this information and reports and statements by international and national institutions and officials, HRMI called for the State's fulfilment of its positive duty to investigate alleged serious violations of human rights.

At the beginning of 2010 the Prosecutor General announced about opening of a pre-trial investigation.

## **1.4. Discussions and Seminars**

### **1.4.1. Press Conference "Importance of the National Mental Health Strategy in times of Financial Crisis"**

In April, representatives of HRMI took part in a press conference organised by the Global Initiative on Psychiatry to discuss the prospects for effective implementation of the National Mental Health Strategy passed two years ago. Speakers stressed that in times of economic crisis - due to increasing tension, stress, and social inequality - government should pay special attention to issues related to individual and collective spiritual health of Lithuanians. Henrikas Mickevičius, HRMI Executive Director, overviewed recent developments in case law related to legal incapacitation and forced hospitalisation of individuals with mental health problems.

The press conference was conducted by Dainius Pūras, HRMI Chair of the Board, Dovilė Juodkaitė, Executive Director of Global Initiative on Psychiatry, Rūta Lukošaitytė, Director of the Centre for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Paulius Skruibis, Chair of Mental Health Subcommittee of the Lithuanian Association of Psychologists, and Henrikas Mickevičius.

### **1.4.2. Seminar for NGO lawyers**



*Preparation for the legal role-play*

In June, Jolanta Samuolytė, HRMI Legal Director, took part in seminar for lawyers of non-governmental organisations "Anti-discrimination law: practical implementation of equal opportunities", organized the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights. Jolanta Samuolytė made a presentation on the procedure of addressing the Ombudsperson Office for Equal Opportunities, and moderated a role-play exercise, during which participants "litigated" a hypothetical case of ethnic discrimination - they prepared procedural documents and defended their positions in moot court.

### **1.4.2. Conference "15 years of the United Nations Cairo Programme of Action: we do not plead, we demand"**

In November, Jolanta Samuolytė made a presentation at the "15 years of the United Nations Cairo Programme of Action: we do not plead, we demand" conference, organised by the Group for Reproductive Rights of the Parliament and the European Information Bureau. The conference analysed the goals of the Cairo International Conference Programme of Action and their implementation in Europe and Lithuania. Jolanta Samuolytė presented a paper entitled "Reproductive law in the Cairo action programme and in Lithuania", which stressed the gap between the call by the Cairo action programme and Lithuanian realities.



*Jolanta Samuolytė at the discussion on November 20, 2009*

The papers presented at the conference can be found in a

special issue of "15 years of the United Nations Cairo Programme of Action: we do not plead, we demand" (Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius, 2010).

### **1.4.3. Seminars for Belorussian Journalists and Human Rights Activists**

In 2009, Henrikas Mickevičius and Natalija Bitiukova, Programme Coordinator, conducted a number of seminars for Belorussian journalists and human rights activists that took place in the Human Rights House, Belarusian non-governmental organisation based in Vilnius. During seminars, representatives of HRMI discussed aspects of rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, and analysed interpretative principles and techniques developed by the European Court of Human Rights. Participants also had an opportunity to take part in a role-play to analyse case-law related to limits to freedom of expression.

## **1.5. Working Groups, Committees and Commissions**

In 2009, representatives of HRMI worked in the following national bodies:

- *Judicial Selection Committee* – Henrikas Mickevičius, Executive Director.
- *Working group on implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)* – Natalija Bitiukova, Programme Coordinator.
- *Working group to amend the Law on the Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effects of Public Information* – Dainius Pūras, Chair of the Board.
- *Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Education* – Jolanta Samuolytė, Legal Director, spoke at sittings of the committee during which new version of the Law on the Protection of Minors against Detrimental Effects of Public Information, passed in the summer of 2009, was discussed.
- *Working group to prepare a package of legislative drafts introducing the concept of endowment* – Arūnas Pemkus, Member of the Board (Chair of the working group).

The initial package of relevant legislative drafts was prepared and presented to the Ministry of Justice by the Civic Responsibility Foundation, NGO Law Institute, Integrity PR agency, and HRMI. This initiative won the competition for the Best Legislative Initiative organised by the Ministry of Justice in 2009.

- *National Committee for Selection of Socially Responsible Business* – Henrikas Mickevičius. HRMI was partner organisation for the national competition of socially responsible businesses, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme in Lithuania.

## **II. STRATEGIC LITIGATION**

In 2009, Human Rights Monitoring Institute engaged in strategic litigation, seeking systemic change in certain areas and protecting the interests and rights of individuals who belong to socially unpopular and vulnerable groups.

### **2.1. March 11 Rally Case**

At the beginning of March 4, Human Rights Monitoring Institute and Centre for Equality Advancement (further – LGPC) informed Vilnius municipality about an intention on March 11 to

run a peaceful rally "Against Racism and Xenophobia – for Tolerance". The march through the streets of Vilnius was planned for peaceful citizens of Lithuania who wish to express their support for constitutional values - freedom, democracy and tolerance. The letter said that HRMI and LGPC organise the event to commemorate the national Day of Regaining Independence (on March 11, 1990) and support free, democratic and respectful of human rights Lithuanian State.

After two sittings of the special coordination commission, attended by representatives of HRMI and LGPC, on March 10, Vilnius municipality refused to issue a certificate for the event on the ground that it may violate public order and safety, as well as "public health and morality", and "freedoms and rights of others".

HRMI and LGPC have challenged this decision in court. The challenge has been based on the fact that decision by the Vilnius municipal administration was taken violation of norms of the Law on Assembly, specifically in was passed in less than 48 hours before the planned event. It has also been submitted that formal arguments for rejection of request – that planned rally may violate public order and safety, as well as "public health and morality", and "freedoms and rights of others - were not supported by any specific evidence for such assumptions.

September, one of the Vilnius district court's has rejected HRMI and LGPC claim. The appeal hearing has been scheduled for May 2010.

## **2.2. Gatajevs Case**

In autumn of 2007, Malik and Chadizat Gatajevs, a couple of Chechen origin, were arrested in Lithuania on suspicion of physical abuse and extortion of money from their foster-children. Gatajevs, founders of a foster care home for children "Rodnaja semja" (*Native Family*) registered in Chechnya, arrived to Lithuania with a group of foster-children ten years ago.

In June, Kaunas district court declared Gatajevs guilty of unlawful use of force, threats and infliction of physical injuries, and sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment each. In August, Gatajevs had served an initial sentence of 10 months but they were not released. Instead, upon request of the prosecutor the court extended Gatajevs' detention pending an appeal on merits. This decision was annulled, Gatajevs were released but, having lost any confidence in Lithuanian system of justice, they fled the country. In September, the appeal court extended their sentences to 18 months of imprisonment.

Human Rights Monitoring Institute monitored court proceedings and recorded, in addition to obviously unlawful deprivation of liberty after Gatajevs served their initial sentence, serious violations of fair trial standards – requirements of publicity of trials, impartiality of judges, equality of arms, and presumption of innocence, among them. During 2009, HRMI addressed the following institutions:

- *Judicial Ethics and Discipline Committee* – request to initiate disciplinary procedure against a judge who publicly indicated guilt of Gatajevs in the case;
- *Commission for Journalists and Publishers Ethics* – request to evaluate an article published in the news portal Lrytas.lt on the same ground (indication of guilt of the accused);
- *Prosecutor-General* – request to initiate internal investigation into potentially illegal disclosure of pre-trial materials to the media by a responsible prosecutor;
- *Members of European Parliament* – drawing attention to violations of human rights in the case.

### **2.3. Lithuanian National Centre v. Human Rights Monitoring Institute**

In 2009, Lithuanian National Centre (LNC) sued HRMI for the loss of reputation and non-pecuniary damages caused by a public statement released in March, 2009, which, *inter alia*, said "(...) LNC, which displays intolerance toward other races, ethnic and religious groups, claims that human rights and antifascism are examples of extremism and open sympathy by the LNC for the United Lithuanian National Workers Movement (open neo-Nazis) and other radicals".

In its reply, HRMI reminded that freedom to expression is guaranteed by the Constitution and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Limitations of this freedom must be sanctioned by law, necessary in a democratic society, proportionate to the aims sought, and their extent depends on whether an impugned expression is a statement of fact or it is a value judgment.

HRMI drew court's attention to the extensive practice of the European Court for Human Rights in cases of freedom of expression, with particular on well-developed jurisprudence related to public speech about public figures and events in the context of a political discussion. In cases, like in the case at stake, freedom of expression is particularly broad.

The Court agreed with HRMI's arguments, and in February, 2010 rejected LNC's claim.

### **2.4. D.D. v. Lithuania**

In the case D.D. v. Lithuania at the European Court for Human Rights, HRMI represents legally incapacitated person placed at the mental healthcare institution. The case challenges the numerous flaws of the procedure for legal incapacitation, in particular failure to guarantee the right to a fair trial, as well as disproportionate restriction of the rights and freedoms of mentally disabled individuals. It raises concern over the lack of possibility for limited incapacitation. D.D. claims breach of Articles 5, 6, 8, 13 and 14 of the European Convention for Human Rights.

The US Harvard Project on Disability and the European Group of National Human Rights Institutions have both submitted *amicus curiae* in the case.

A decision by the European Court for Human Rights is pending.

## III. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

### 3.1. Closer Look at Multiple Discrimination

In 2009, Human Rights Monitoring Institute together with the Ombudsperson for Equal Opportunities and Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR) implemented the project "Closer Look at Multiple Discrimination". The project, funded by the European Commission's PROGRESS Programme, aimed at introducing the Lithuanian society to the concept of multiple discrimination and different forms of manifestation of discrimination, and improving relevant knowledge and professional skills of journalists and civic activists. Within the project, Human Rights Monitoring Institute organised a series of seminars for regional media, prepared a series of radio shows and produced a documentary "Vilnius Ghetto 2009".

#### 3.1.1. Seminars for regional media

Media plays a very important role in shaping the public opinion, therefore cooperation with journalists is one of the key elements in deepening public knowledge about policies of equal opportunities, as well as promoting tolerance for other people regardless of their sex, age, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, beliefs, and other characteristics. Research shows that In Lithuania local media is more popular than national. That is why seminars about multiple discrimination targeted journalists working for regional and local rather than national media outlets.

**First seminar** held in Druskininkai and attended by 30 journalists from Kaunas, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Kupiškis, Prienai,

Ignalina, Rokiškis and other corners of Lithuania, introduced the concept of human rights, in particular non-discrimination. Participants learnt how to identify cases of prohibited discrimination, discussed mechanisms for reproduction of discrimination, and analysed the latest HRMI strategic litigation cases.



*Participants of the first seminar practice session*



*Visit to the Mother and Child Pension during the seminar*

**Second seminar**, attended by the same group of journalists, was held in Vilnius. Participants visited three organisations – Shelter for Mothers and Children, Roma Community Centre and Child Line, where they were introduced to problems of certain vulnerable groups and ways of providing help to them. On day two, a group of experts delivered a number of lectures, related to the rights of LGBT people, disabled, and other vulnerable groups. Experts stressed the role of media in countering racial, ethnic and age discrimination, homophobia and intolerance towards "others".

**Third seminar** in Palanga sought to help journalists get a clear understanding of the link between effective implementation of human rights and the media. Representatives of Journalists and Publishers Ethics Commission, Journalist Ethics Ombudsperson, Centre for Equality Advancement and the Lithuanian Journalists' Union worked with the participants through interactive sessions. The discussions covered respect for human rights by the media, aspects of professional ethics, violations of human rights in the media, and visual discrimination in the media from a gender perspective.



*A lecture by Edita Žiobienė during the third seminar*



### 3.1.2. Documentary "Vilnius Ghetto 2009"



Documentary „Vilnius Ghetto 2009“ (Audrius Lelkaitis, 2009)

In October, during the traditional film festival *Ad Hoc: Inconvenient Cinema* HRMI, as a producer, and Audrius Lelkaitis, director, presented a documentary "Vilnius Ghetto 2009". The premiere was followed by a number of screenings as part of the **Human Rights Month 2009**. All screenings were free of charge, followed by a discussion with the director Lelkaitis and human rights experts. The documentary will be recorded on DVD and widely distributed in 2010. It is planned that the film will be

included in the film festival "Kino Pavasaris 2010" programme.

description: *They are often called the "Vilnius gypsy tabor", but a tabor is a community of Roma who gathered voluntarily and who travel freely. 50 years ago, the Soviet government "imprisoned" the Roma who used to stay in Kirtimai near Vilnius: they were registered in one building and abandoned in-between the heaven and the earth – today nothing belongs to them here, not the territory, not the poor houses which are about to be demolished by the city government. Their lifestyle was taken away from them, with nothing given in return. Today, they are imprisoned, not by the strict soviet regime, but by the invisible wall of isolation, which is difficult to cross from both sides.*

### 3.1.3. Series of radio shows

In November and December of 2009, a series of interactive radio shows "Closer Look at Multiple Discrimination" was broadcast in major Lithuanian cities. A team of experts - Tadas Leončikas, Executive Director of Centre for Ethnic Studies of the Institute for Social Research, Audrius Lelkaitis, director of "Vilniaus Ghetto 2009", Laima Vengalė, Legal Advisor to the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, and Dovilė Šakalienė, Programme Director of HRMI - introduced listeners to the phenomenon of multiple



Experts before the radio show

discrimination, discussed different forms of discrimination and possible responses to discriminatory practices. During radio shows, the team introduced the documentary "Vilnius Ghetto 2009", inviting listeners to free screenings after each show. The programme included 11 radio shows broadcast by "Radijas Kelyje" (November 5 and 11, Klaipėda); "Kauno fonas" (November 12 and 19, Kaunas), "Saulės radijas" and "Antroji radijo stotis" (November 19, Šiauliai); "Pulsas" (November 26 and December 8, Panevėžys); "Znad Wili" (November 27, Vilnius); "Opus 3" (November 30 and December 6, Vilnius); "Lietuvos radijas" (December 3, Vilnius).

## 3.2. Action Week against Racism and other Forms of Intolerance

On March 20-26 2009, Human Rights Monitoring Institute together with partners held the traditional *Action Week against Racism and Other Forms of Intolerance*, the events of which are a part of the pan-European Action Week Against Racism, coordinated by the NGO network UNITED. During the Week against Racism, which carried the slogan "Value Diversity", the following events were held:

*Special seminars in schools* to commemorate the International Day against Racial Discrimination (March 21st). The seminars based on methodology and materials prepared by HRMI discussed the history of racism, modern manifestations of racism and other forms of intolerance, and how

to identify and counteract racism and other forms of intolerance. Altogether, seminars were held in 19 schools across Lithuania.

*Discussion Racism in Lithuania: hidden or non-existent?* with participation of a public prosecutor, advisor to the Journalist Ethics Ombudsperson, advisor to the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, researcher of the Social Research Institute. Discussion was focused on modern forms and venues of racism, including electronic media.

*Exhibition Ni hao / Labas* A photography exhibition of the photographer Giedrė Valtaitė was held in a non-traditional space – the Transylvania Pub in the Old Town. It offered an introduction to the people and culture of one of China's provinces. According to the artist "<...> people everywhere are the same, the rules - simplicity, humanity are the same, the only thing different is the eye and hair colour. But the hearts are the same."

*Debate Commentaries in Cyberspace: limits to freedom of expression and liability issues.* Representatives of the Prosecutorial office, the Office of Journalist Ethics Ombudsperson and other participants discussed legal standards and legal practice regarding manifestations of racial hatred in cyberspace.

*Student debate.* In cooperation with the Mykolas Romeris University Debates Club, HRMI organized a public debate on the topic of racism. The team of students competed with the guest team, consisting of Margarita Jankauskaitė (Centre for Equality Advancement), Rūta Ruolytė (Lithuanian Students' Union) and Dovilė Šakalienė (Human Rights Monitoring Institute).



*Debate at Mykolas Romeris University.  
Guest team (photo by  
V.Gelumbauskas)*

*Film screening followed by discussion.* A Marc Isaacs film "All White in Barking" was presented to Transylvania Pub guests followed by a discussion moderated by Marius Rindinas, President of Law Students association of Mykolas Romeris University.

*Discussion Should We, and Why, Call Gypsies Roma?* Representatives of a numbers of state institutions and non-governmental organisations analysed issues related to verbal description of Roma community. Discussion was based on the series of interviews conducted beforehand. Although interviews indicated that the term "gypsy" does not necessarily have a negative connotation in Lithuanian language, the generic term "roma" is preferable as it is neutral and any stigma.

*Tolerance campaign Glasses.* In collaboration with HRMI, the International Filmmakers' Association *Freimas* and Kaunas Regional Public Health Development Centre organised in Kaunas a Living Library, screening of a series of documentaries, and a lecture on the situation of ethnic groups in the Lithuanian society.

Among partners and sponsors of the *Week Against Racism and Other Forms of Intolerance 2009*: United Nations Development Programme, Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, ELSA Vilnius (European Law Students' Associations - Lithuanian National Group, Vilnius branch), ELSA Lithuania, Centre for Equality Advancement, Transylvania Pub, Debates club of Mykolas Romeris University, Debates club of Vilnius University, Student Corporation "RePublica" and Scientific Student Society of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Youth Campaign "All Different - All Equal", the International Filmmakers Association *Freimas*, Roma Community Centre.

### 3.3. Human Rights Summer School

The second international Human Rights Summer School, organized jointly by Mykolas Romeris University, Elon University (USA), European Humanities University, NGO Bring Human Rights Home (USA) and HRMI, took place on June 25 – July 4 2009.

Before the start of the Summer School, HRMI held an introductory seminar for all foreign participants.

Thirty participants from Belarus, the United States, Lithuania, France and Italy had the opportunity to hear a series of lectures, participate in interactive seminars and workshops, experiential visits to relevant institutions and role play in the moot court exercise.



*Moot Court exercise (photo by V. Gelumauskas).*

Henrikas Mickevičius conducted seminar *What are human rights?*, while Jolanta Samuolytė introduced the concept of strategic litigation and discussed with students specific human rights cases.

### 3.4. Human Rights Awareness Month: Artists for Human Rights

For the fifth consecutive year, in December HRMI and partners organised the Human Rights Month. The theme of the *Human Rights Month 2009* was the art and human rights. HRMI and partners organised the following events as part of the *Human Rights Month 2009*:

*Life Space "Can I dream?"* On November 30 - December 21, visitors of the shopping mall *Gedimino 9* were invited to share their dreams - to write about them, paint them and display them on the walls and ceiling of the centre.

*Screenings of the Documentary "Vilnius Ghetto 2009"*. Two public and free of charge screenings of „Vilnius Ghetto 2009“ were hosted by the popular cinema-theatre *Pasaka*, followed by informal discussions.

*Screening of the Feature Film "Vilnius Ghetto"*. The Audrius Juzėnas film which came out in 2006 presents the story of a Jewish theatre based in a 1942 Jewish ghetto in Vilnius, as well as a love story of a young actress and a Nazi officer happening amidst the atrocious events of the time. During discussion, which followed the film screening, viewers were invited to draw comparisons between Jewish Ghetto of 1942 and the situation of Roma in our times.



*Presentation of the Living Space participants' works*



*Discussion „Amendments to the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information“*

*Discussion Amendments to the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information: protection or a curb on art?* The discussion was held in cooperation with the Vilnius branch of the European Law Students' Association's Lithuanian National Group. During the discussion a multidisciplinary team of experts and public figures presented their positions on the new version of the controversial *Law on the Protection of Minors against the*

*Detrimental Effect of Public Information..*



Exhibition *Artists for Human Rights*. International Day of Human Rights on December 10 was commemorated at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by opening of the exhibition *Artists for Human Rights*. The exhibition displayed works of art dedicated to the topic of human rights. Each piece of art was shortly introduced by the artist in writing in the context of human rights.



*First Human Rights Ambassador –  
Nomeda Marčėnaitė*

*Human Rights Ambassadors Programme*. At the opening of the exhibition *Artists for Human Rights*, HRMI launched a Goodwill Human Rights Ambassadors Programme, which will involve public figures of the arts, politics, business and entertainment world in human rights advocacy and raising public awareness. Nomeda Marčėnaitė, a well-known artist and popular TV star was announced the first Goodwill Human Rights Ambassador.

*Human Rights Champion Award*. The annual award for the most distinguished human rights activist of the year was presented to Rimantė Šalašėvičiūtė, the Children's Rights Ombudsperson, for uncompromising and consistent protection of children human rights.

*Screening of the documentary "Women in Shroud"* In cooperation with HRMI, the Dutch ambassador in Lithuania hosted a screening of the documentary "Women in Shroud", (directed by Farid Haerinejad, Mohammad Reza Kazemi, 2009), which introduces to the work of human rights activists in Iran.

*National Student and Teacher Essay Contest*. HRMI organised the national essay contests, in which students wrote about the link between art and human rights, and teachers proposed ideas on ways of effective integration of human rights education into the curriculum. Specifically, students were offered two essay topics ("*Human rights in works of art*", and "*Does art bring people together?*"). More than 50 schools from across the country submitted entries. The teacher essay competition offered the topic "*Integration of human rights education in the school curricula*". In their works, teachers analysed the current curricula and shared good practices and offered ideas on how to enrich school curricula with elements of human rights education.

A part of the Human Rights Month 2009 events were moved to the Week Against Racism and Other Forms of Intolerance 2010 due to the flu pandemic.

Organisers and partners of the Human Rights month 2009: Lithuanian National UNESCO Commission (the main partner and sponsor), NORDEN Lithuanian Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Norwegian Embassy, the Swedish Embassy, the Danish Embassy, the Finnish Embassy, the Dutch Embassy, Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University, United Nations Development Programme, Vilnius branch of the National Group of the European Law Students' Association, Centre of Ethnic Studies of Social Research Institute, Roma Community Centre, „Vartai“ Gallery, Lithuanian Sakaliukai Union, ECO Banga (PI „Community Relations Consultants“), Minčių Sodas.

### ***3.5. Seminar *Countering Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding****

In November, HRMI in cooperation with the Swedish, Norwegian and Slovenian embassies in Lithuania organised the seminar to discuss the ways to counteract raising intolerance and related discrimination, and to encourage mutual understanding between individuals belonging to different racial, ethnic and other groups. In his presentation at the seminar, Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed that the economic crisis that was caused by the financial crisis is under threat to grow into a social crisis, which in turn would cause a political crisis; in order to avoid that we must realise that counteracting violations of human rights is crucial. The Human Rights Commissioner warned that rise of unemployment is especially worrisome as it creates a platform for the rise of radical populist forces. The point is well

illustrated by examples from other European countries, where a number of serious hate crimes and ethnic murders had been registered.

Presentations at the seminar, moderated by Henrikas Mickevičius, were also made by Šarūnas Liekis, Professor of Mykolas Riomeris University, Tadas Leončikas, Head of the Centre of Ethnic Studies of the Institute for Social Research, and Margarita Jankauskaitė, Project Manager of the Centre for Equality Advancement.



*CoE Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg spoke at the seminar*

Before the seminar, the Commissioner for Human Rights met Henrikas Mickevičius to discuss the human rights situation in Lithuania.

### **3.6. Info-Bulletin**

The online bulletin continued to reach over 2000 registered customers. In 2009, the Info-bulletin introduced:

*World Human Rights Report prepared by the Human Rights Watch.* The report by one of the most reliable international non-governmental organisations reviewed the human rights situation on a global, European and national levels, highlighted global and regional human rights problems and trends.

*Legal Brief on the Right to Peaceful Assembly.* In response to a number of obstacles experienced by organisers in obtaining licenses for public meetings, demonstrations, marches and other forms of assembly and responding to inquiries from NGOs and media, HRMI published a legal brief explaining the international standards for guaranteeing the freedom of assembly and analysing the actions of public authorities in specific instances.

*Global Human Rights Report by Amnesty International.* The report informed about the most significant human rights violations in various countries around the world, including Lithuania.

*Annual Report of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.* Agency's report reviewed recent trends within EU and in Members States, including increasing racial intolerance and discrimination in various fields, problems related to guaranteeing the rights of children, vulnerability of crime of victims and refugees. The report repeatedly referred to Lithuania.

*Report on Lithuania by the Council of Europe's Committee against Torture.* The Committee's report on its third visit to Lithuania presented findings on situation of individuals held in various closed institutions (police stations, temporary detention facilities, prisons, psychiatric institutions, pensions, etc.), offered conclusions and recommendations to the government.

*The General Comment on Prohibition of Discrimination by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.* The most recent interpretation of the concept of non-discrimination by one of the authoritative bodies of the UN supervision system underlines that the content of the right to equality and non-discrimination depends on specific context and changes with time; therefore in order to cover all forms of discrimination, a list of prohibited grounds for discrimination should be open at all times.

*Report on Implementation of the EC Directive on the Right to Free Movement of citizens, residents and their family members within the EU prepared by the European Institute of the University of Edinburgh in cooperation with Milieu Ltd.* Report concludes that not all provisions of the Directive were transformed into Lithuanian legal system, either totally or in part.

## **3.7. Expert Opinions and Legal Aid**

### ***3.7.1. Regarding the TELE2 commercial advertisement***

In January in response to the request by the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, HRMI issued its opinion on telephone service provider's Tele2 commercial advertisement *Talking Strengthens Friendship*. The advertisement included a reference to a feminine body part expressed by a male. HRMI stated that the expression is disrespectful of human dignity and violates the provision of the Equal Opportunities Act which states that a service provider must ensure that no gender-based contempt or humiliation is expressed in advertising of the service.

The Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson addressed Tele2 and proposed to terminate the advertisement.

### ***3.7.2. Regarding effective implementation of the pre-trial arrest merits in Lithuania***

In April in response to the inquiry of the Ministry of Justice, HRMI conducted an analysis of the current legal regulation of pre-trial detention and proposed introduction of amendments. HRMI stressed that frequent and in many cases unjustified detention of suspects contradicts the purpose of pre-trial detention – to ensure unhindered pre-trial investigation.

### ***3.7.3. Legal Aid***

HRMI received a large number of inquiries and requests for legal aid from individuals and entities. HRMI treats received information as a means of more precise identification of human rights issues relevant to daily life of Lithuanian residents.

Despite the fact that provision of legal aid was not within the mandate of the Institute, and limited human and financial resources do not allow to concentrate on this work, HRMI endeavoured to reply to requests and inquiries with at least elementary information and advise for further action. In 2009, HRMI prepared 64 in-depth replies to requests and inquiries, a number of letters were transferred to the law enforcement agencies for a legal investigation.

## **3.8. HRMI and the Media**

Throughout the year, HRMI staff members appeared in over 60 radio and TV broadcasts, and were quoted in over 100 articles by online news portals and the press.

Among the media, which called for contributions from HRMI representatives were: the National Radio and Television, LNK TV, TV3 TV, Lietuvos Rytas TV, Baltijos TV, TV Polonia, Pervyj baltijskij kanal TV, Žinių radio, M-1 radio, Znad Wili radio, European Radio Network, Deutsche Welle radio, Deutschland Funk radio, Radiocentras radio, national, regional and foreign agencies and daily publications: BNS, ELTA, Reuters, „Lietuvos Rytas“, „Kauno diena“, „Lietuvos Žinios“, „Vakarų ekspresas“, „Klaipėda“, „Sekundė“, „Dienraštis L.T.“, „Berliner Zeitung“, „Baltic Times“, „Litnews“, weekly papers: „Veidas“, „Atgimimas“, „Laikas“, „Kontrastai“, online news portals: Delfi.lt, Balsas.lt, Lrytas.lt, Bernardinai.lt, LRT.lt, Infolex.lt, Alfa.lt, 15min.lt, taz.de, Spiegel Online, on24.ee, zebra.lt, diena.lt.

## IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### 4.1. Legal Director – Member of ECSOL Expert Network

Jolanta Samuolytė was invited to join the European Commission's expert network on Sexual Orientation Law (ECSOL). The network includes 26 experts, including academics, lawyers, judges, and representatives of NGOs, from 24 countries. The network aims to promote exchange of information, preparation of studies and reports, and project-based mutual cooperation.

### 4.2. Presentation of *S.Marcinkevič v. Disona* Case at the EU Anti-discrimination Law Conference

In June 2008, the Vilnius District Court recognised the fact of direct discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origins in labor relations. It was proved that S. Marcinkevič was not accepted for employment because of her Roma origin. In this case, HRMI for the first time in Lithuania applied a testing for discrimination method, used in a number of European countries.



Presentation by Jolanta Samuolytė at the EU Anti-discrimination law conference

In June 2009, Jolanta Samuolytė made a presentation about the preparation of the case, litigation process and the outcome at the 6th International European Union Anti-discrimination Law conference, which took place in Budapest. The presentation was included in the publication *Role of NGOs and Trade Unions in the Fight against Discrimination* (online access: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=427&langId=en>).

### 4.3. Plenary Presentation of the Chair of the Board of Human Rights Monitoring Institute before the UN Human Rights Council

In March at the 10th United Nations Human Rights Council session, Dainius Pūras, HRMI Board Chair, in his capacity of the members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made a presentation before the Council about the situation of children in UN Member States. In his presentation Dainius Pūras called for investments in the development and strengthening of healthy relationships between children and parents. He noted that the protection of children's rights is an effective way to overcome the cycle of violence, social exclusion, poverty, institutionalisation and powerlessness, as is the case in a number of states around the world.

### 4.4. Presentation by the Executive Director at the Conference regarding CIA Secret Detention Programme

In December, Henrikas Mickevičius took part in the International Conference *The War on Terrorism and Human Rights* in Warsaw. During the conference, international and national non-governmental organisations, including INTERIGHTS, Amnesty International, OSIJ, and the Polish Helsinki Foundation, representatives of governmental institutions and the academia discussed the political and legal implications of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Secret Detention Programme. Henrikas Mickevičius shared information about developments related to possible participation of Lithuania in the Programme.

## **4.5. Cooperation with International Organisations**

In 2009, Parliament of Lithuania passed amendments to the Law on Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effects of Public Information. Because of their homophobic undertones legislative process which led to the adoption of the amendments was closely observed by international community.

The adoption of the amendments received a strong negative reaction from a number of international institutions, foreign governments and Lithuanian NGOs. Concerted efforts by international NGOs, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and Lithuanian NGO community, including HRMI, led to a veto of the law by the President of Lithuania.

## **4.6. Expert Work Abroad**

In 2009, Dainius Pūras was involved in the project aiming at developing children's mental health care system in Georgia.

Henrikas Mickevičius, a long-standing Council of Europe's expert, conducted a number of seminars on the application of the European Convention on Human Rights for lawyers – judges, private attorneys and prosecutors - in Russia, Belarus and Georgia.

Henrikas Mickevičius served as an expert in the Trial Monitoring project, conducted by the OSCE Mission in Moldova. He contributed conclusions and recommendations to the project report and presented them at a conference held in Chisinau in December.

## V. STRUCTURE

### 5.1. Board

Dainius Pūras (Chair)  
Associate Professor, Vilnius University, and Member, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Henrikas Mickevičius  
Executive Director, HRMI,

Arūnas Pemkus  
Chair of the Board, Public Relations company *Integrity*

Tadas Vizgirda  
Vice-President, *AirBaltic* company, and Chair of the Council, *Save the Children*

### 5.2. Employees

Henrikas Mickevičius, Executive Director

Jolanta Samuolytė, Legal Director

Dovilė Šakalienė, Programme Director

Natalija Bitiukova, Programme Coordinator

### 5.3. Experts and Consultants

Daiva Brogienė, Doctoral student, Vilnius University

Deividas Velkas, Advisor to the *Journalist Ethics Inspector*

Dovilė Juodkaitė, Director of the *Global Initiative on Psychiatry*

Raimonda Vengrytė, Expert of the *Global Initiative on Psychiatry*

Eglė Šumskienė, Project Manager of the *Global Initiative on Psychiatry*

Gintautas Sakalauskas, Fellow at the *Institute of Law*

Inga Abromavičiūtė, Private Lawyer

Laura Ūselė, Fellow at the *Institute of Law*

Margarita Jankauskaitė, Project Manager at the *Centre for Equality Advancement*

Otilija Gabrėnaitė, Researcher at the *Legal Research Centre*

Petras Ragauskas, Director of the *Institute of Law*

Tadas Leončikas, Executive Director of the *Centre of Ethnic Studies of the Institute for Social Research*

Vita Petrušauskaitė, Researcher at the *Centre of Ethnic Studies of the Institute for Social Research*

Laima Vengalė, Advisor to the *Ombudsperson for Equal Opportunities*

Romas Sakadolskis, Lecturer at the *Journalism Institute*, and Member of the *Lithuanian Radio and Television Board*

Nijolė Diršienė, Director of the *Mother and Child Shelter*

Valerija Reikertienė, Assistant Director of the *Mother and Child Shelter*

Svetlana Novopolskaja, Director of the *Roma Community Centre*

Ivona Suchodolska, Project coordinator/supervisor of the psychological help Center *Vaikų Linija* (Child Line)

Vladimiras Simonko, President of the *Lithuanian Gay League*

Jolanta Reingardė, Lecturer at the Vytautas Magnus University

Vilma Kazlauskaitė, Lawyer of the *Lithuanian Disabled Association*

Dainius Radzevičius, Chair of the *Lithuanian Journalists Union*

Sarmitė Mikulionienė, Assistant Professor at the *Mykolas Romeris University*

Edita Žiobienė, Assistant Professor at the *Mykolas Romeris University*, and Chair of the *Ethics Commission of Lithuanian Journalists and Publishers*

Jolanta Aleknevičienė, Project manager at the *Transparency International Lithuanian chapter*

Regina Valutytė, Lecturer at the *Mykolas Romeris University*

## 5.4. Volunteers and Trainees

In September along with 18 other organisations, HRMI took part in the *Volunteers Fair* organised by the Institute for International Relations and Political Science of the Vilnius University.

HRMI trainees and volunteers in 2009:

Deividas Žiūra

Anastasija Paperno

Marija Nemero

Jekaterina Kliujko

Anastasija Matchenko

Vaida Rudėnaitė

Asta Paulavičiūtė

Kristina Piskarskaitė

Enrika Janušonienė

Lukas Ramonas

Sandra Vitkauskaitė

Žavinta Burokaitė

Anastasija Miniajeva

Giedrė Valiūtė

Ieva Jurgaitytė

Morgane Dussud

Stanislava Skuodytė



*HRMI volunteers and employees, 2009m.*

## VI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

