

Table of contents

Foreword	1
Our mission	2
Our association	3
Members	4
Activities	5
Education and sensitisation	9
Freedom.....	12
Flight, migration and integration	12
Equality and inclusion	14
Children's rights	16
Health	19
Poverty.....	19
Networking.....	20
Outlook	21
Finances.....	23
At a glance.....	26
Thanks to	28
Imprint	28

Foreword

Dear members,

Dear supporters



The wars in Ukraine and Gaza are leading to massive human rights violations, war crimes and humanitarian suffering. Around the world, political polarisation, populism and authoritarian tendencies are threatening basic democratic values and therefore also the protection of human rights. The global environmental crisis is forcing millions of people to flee their homes and into poverty, posing immense challenges to the human rights to food, water and a safe life.

At the same time, acceptance of the international order is declining. International law and its institutions such as the UN and the International Criminal Court are under pressure. In Europe, too, democracy and freedom are under greater threat than we ever thought possible.

In this context, national human rights institutions are more important than ever. They protect the fundamental rights of all people, uncover abuses and ensure that governments do not forget their responsibilities.

Information and education are an essential cornerstone for the protection of human rights. It creates knowledge and awareness in order to recognise discrimination, oppression and injustice and to actively stand up for a just, free and humane society. Since August, we have been offering tolerance workshops at schools in addition to our tried-and-tested human rights workshops. We are proud to have received a government funding award for this. Many thanks to our partner organisations Amnesty International Liechtenstein and aha - tips and information for young people, for this long-standing collaboration!

In 2024, we offered counselling and support to 58 people who contacted the Ombudsman with human rights concerns. With our current project "Pro Menschenrechte - Prozessieren mit Wirkung" (Pro Human Rights - Litigation with Impact), we want to ensure that more human rights cases are heard in Liechtenstein and that those affected receive free legal protection. Many thanks to all donors and to the legal experts who support us in this endeavour.

We want to achieve further milestones from 2025. One focal point is our project study for the creation of a "child-friendly justice system". Children and young people should be able to fully exercise their right to be heard and have a say in all legal proceedings. Their interests should be taken into account in legal decisions. To achieve this, we need new structures such as children's advocates

and inter-agency cooperation.

Another focus is the establishment of a mechanism to review disability rights. These have been placed on a completely new footing with the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Liechtenstein in 2024. We look forward to working with experts and people with disabilities to establish our new function as a monitoring centre for disability rights.

We are staying on top of these and many other issues and are counting on you. Our joint commitment is the backbone of human rights in Liechtenstein and ensures that humanity and justice do not fall by the wayside.

Thank you very much for your support!



Wilfried Marxer, President

Our mission

Now more than ever!

Human rights are the basis for a life in dignity, freedom and security. But they cannot be taken for granted. The global situation shows that we need to protect them even more! Because without human rights, discrimination, oppression and violence threaten to destroy the lives of countless people. If we do not actively defend human rights, we will not only lose protection for the weakest, but also the foundations and values that make our society free and our world worth living in.

We stand up for human rights in Liechtenstein. We advise and support victims of human rights violations. We give vulnerable people a voice and stand up for their rights at all levels. We investigate, monitor and provide information on the human rights situation in Liechtenstein. We strengthen the legal foundations, raise public and political awareness and advise the authorities in their practice - so that human rights in Liechtenstein become effective.

Our association

One organisation - three mandates

VMR Association for Human Rights		
NMRI National human rights institution	OSKJ Ombudsman's office for children and young people	MOBE Disability monitoring centre
<p>The association for Human rights in Liechtenstein (VMR) was on 10 December 2016 was founded. It is the national Human rights institution Liechtenstein after the "Paris Principles" of the Uno. Its tasks are in the law on the association for human rights in Liechtenstein, VMRG (LGBI. 2016 No. 504). It is an independent Contact point for Injuries from Human rights.</p>	<p>The OSKJ has been in existence since 2010. It is the national organisation of the Authorities independent body and works in accordance with Article 96-98 of the Liechtenstein Children and Youth Act for children's rights. The OSKJ has the task of Rights and interests of children and young people protect their concerns to listen, mediating with authorities and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child check.</p>	<p>The independent Monitoring centre according to Art. 33 of the UN Disability rights convention was 2024 created. It represents sure that the state effective Measures for Realisation of the Human rights with disabilities takes hold. She is a independent Contact point for Injuries from Disability rights.</p>

The VHR is a member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). In 2024, it applied for membership of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

Members

The VMR currently has 37 member organisations and 57 individual members. All eleven municipalities in Liechtenstein are advisory members. The municipalities and member organisations are our partners in assessing and monitoring the human rights situation. They are counselling and contact points and are familiar with many human rights problems from their daily work. They are aware of abuses and support us in setting the right priorities in our work and recommending the necessary measures.

The private members are people who identify with the objectives of the VMR and help to ensure that human rights are firmly anchored in society and are lived in everyday life. Through their attention, their commitment and their membership fees, they support the VMR's mission.

Become a member!

Your knowledge helps us move forward, your membership fee strengthens our impact. With your commitment, you help us to stand up for human rights, equal opportunities and inclusion in Liechtenstein!

Click here to apply for membership:



The General Assembly is the supreme body of the VMR. It ensures that the association stays on course and fulfils its legal mandate to protect human rights. The Assembly takes important decisions to strengthen the organisation: in 2024, it established a procedure for the election of the Board of Directors that will ensure the independence and competence of the VHR in the future. The Board of Directors, consisting of five to seven independent experts, manages the strategic destiny and advises the head office. It is balanced in terms of expertise, age, gender and origin. The office is staffed by four people (totalling 2.1 full-time positions).



The Board of Directors and the office of the Association for Human Rights

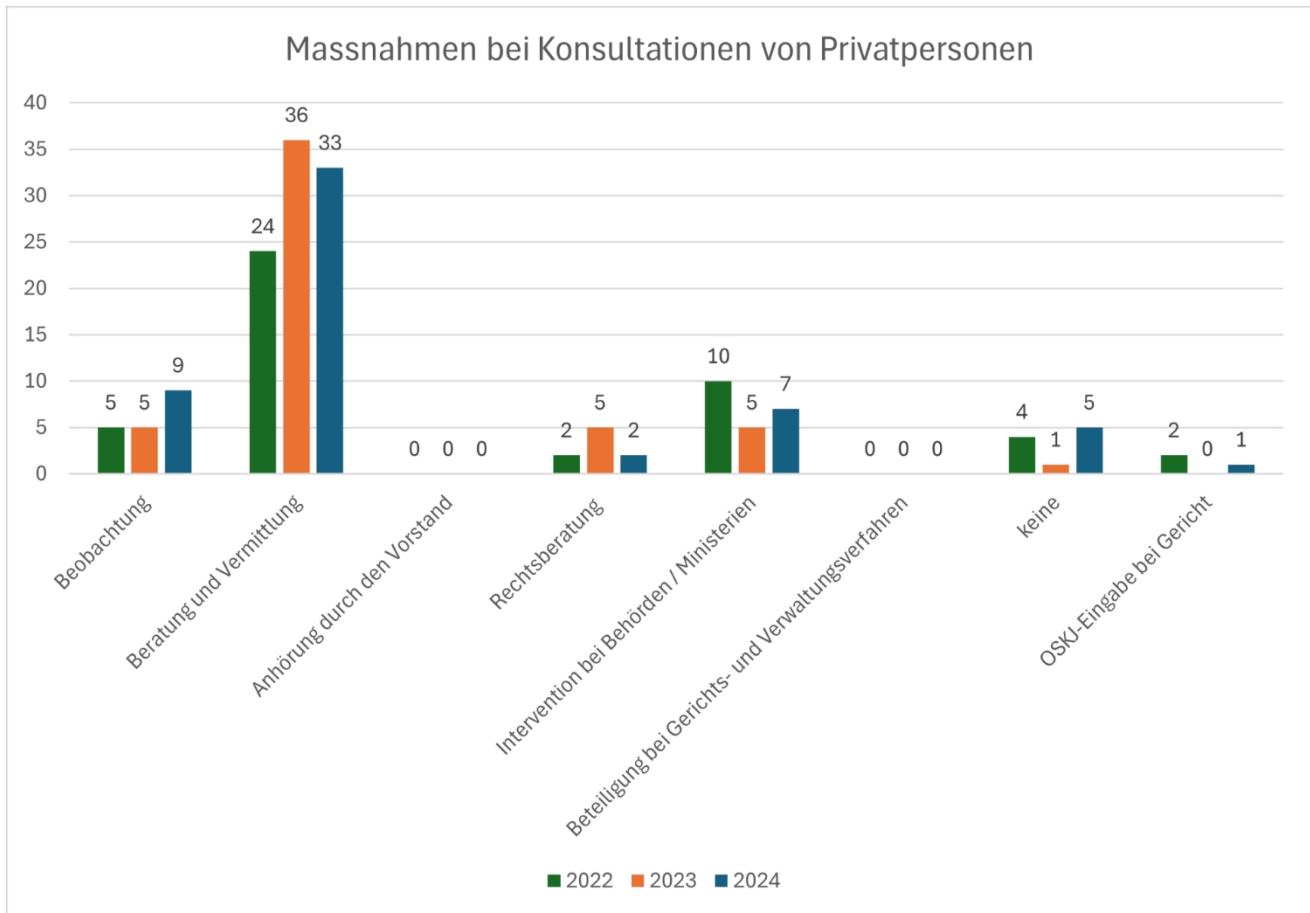


Activities

Access to justice - free advice

Everyone, regardless of origin, social status or financial means, must be able to assert their rights and protect themselves against injustice. This requires low-threshold and free access to social and legal counselling. Without this, many rights only exist on paper and do not become effective in practice. The VMR offers free counselling and initial legal advice for everyone.

In 2024, the Ombudsman was consulted by a total of 57 people. Of these, 24 people were referred to the Ombudsman's Office for Children and Young People (OSKJ). One consultation was processed by the Disability Monitoring Centre (MOBE). All contacts are checked for human rights violations. Counselling and mediation was offered in 32 cases. In 7 cases, the MOBE and the OSKJ intervened with the competent authorities. In 3 cases, initial legal counselling was offered free of charge. In 10 cases, the situation was monitored further. In 5 cases, no action was desired or necessary. The OSKJ also filed a petition with the court.



In 2024, 58 people approached the Advisory Council on Human Rights with human rights concerns.

People come to the VMR with concerns to the VMR. The following three examples from our counselling practice show what the problems are and how the VMR can provide support:

Case study 1:

Unequal pay despite equal qualifications - the fight for equality in working life

Mrs Meier* reports to the VMR because, as a teacher, she earns less than her colleague who has the same qualifications but has been employed for less time. This is contrary to the Gender Equality Act. The VMR encourages her to discuss the issue with her line manager and, if no solution is found, to contact the staff association of the state administration or the employees' association. If no solution is found, a complaint can be made to the government.

Family between borders - when residence law separates families

Mrs Milovic* from Croatia* lives in Liechtenstein with her two children. Her husband and the father of her children live in Buchs. She turns to the Ombudsman because her husband has not been granted a residence permit in Liechtenstein and is therefore violating her right to a family. The VMR clarifies the legal basis and the decisions of the authorities. It shows that the passport office has made a decision in accordance with the law. Nonetheless, the Advisory Council sees a human rights problem here: the Foreign Nationals Act is restrictive when it comes to family reunification. There is also no hardship rule when children are involved. Unfortunately, Liechtenstein made a reservation in this regard when it acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In its monitoring report, the VMR has therefore been calling for a hardship rule in the Foreign Nationals Act and a withdrawal of the reservation for years. Because only if the law is changed can the right to family be enforced for the Milovic family.

An apprenticeship for Nadja - when family problems jeopardise her career start

Mr Beck* turns to the OSKJ. He is worried about his niece Nadja*. Nadja is in 3rd secondary school and would soon like to do an apprenticeship. As Nadja has a learning disability, she needs support when starting her career. Nadja's parents live apart. Her mother is ill and can't help her. Her father lives abroad. He is not well informed about Nadja's situation. Nadja would like to lead an independent life, but she cannot manage the search for an apprenticeship on her own. The OSKJ makes contact with the school and Nadja's father. She manages to get the father to work with the school to find an apprenticeship. In the meantime, Nadja has already been able to do various taster apprenticeships and take her first steps on the road to working life.

**Names and indications of origin changed*

Litigation with impact - more case law on human rights

There is very little case law on human rights in Liechtenstein. This is due to the fact that the country has roughly the same number of legal norms as other European countries, but far fewer inhabitants who can enforce them. In addition, particularly vulnerable people in Liechtenstein are reluctant to file a lawsuit. This is sometimes for financial reasons. However, there is often a lack of courage or energy to see a legal case through. The fear of attention or possible disadvantages also prevents those affected from doing so. As a result, many human rights cannot be realised. This is because a court judgement not only helps the individual, but also helps to ensure that the legal provisions are interpreted and construed by the court. This benefits everyone who is struggling with similar problems.

This is why the VMR launched the "Pro Human Rights - Litigation with Impact" project in 2024. The VMR conducts the legal process together or on behalf of those affected. It bears the legal costs, organises the legal process, advocates for the human rights concerns of those affected and protects them from possible disadvantages. In this way, it strengthens their access to justice and helps to ensure that

more case law on human rights is created. Even if a human rights issue is not brought before a court, the VMR's initial legal advice is free of charge.

Your donation counts!

Help us to make human rights more effective. Support our legal advice and our strategic litigation project. So that more human rights violations end up in court and there is more case law on human rights.



Bank details

LLB Vaduz

LI81 0880 0551 4633 6200 1

Purpose: "Legal advice and legal costs"

Education and sensitisation

Knowledge about human rights forms the basis for all human rights protection. Information on human rights and human rights education must be accessible to all. Access to justice must be possible for everyone.

Since 2019, the VMR has been offering human rights workshops at secondary schools together with partner organisations. Pupils should learn about human rights and understand how they are protected and can be demanded in Liechtenstein and worldwide. Collaboration with the Commission for the Protection against Violence in recent years has shown that discrimination and bullying among young people is on the rise - especially via social media. The pupils affected suffer massively from the consequences of these forms of marginalisation. New tolerance workshops were therefore set up in the last school year. These aim to prevent discrimination and bullying and promote respect, equality and tolerance among young people. In the first four months, 39 school classes with 641 pupils have already taken advantage of the programme. The great interest in the workshops and the positive feedback from the participants are a great motivation for everyone involved. The importance of this programme was acknowledged and appreciated by the VMR through the state's sponsorship award, which made the development of the workshops possible in the first place.

Association for Human
Rights in
Liechtenstein VMR



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

6I

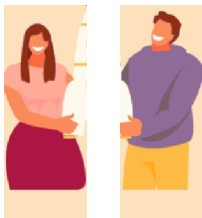


"How dangerous is populism for human rights?"

Now more than ever!
Human rights for everyone,
everywhere aha.li/workshop-human-rights



"How do we deal with differing opinions?"



Stand up - Speak Out!
Stand up for tolerance
aha.li/workshop-toleranz

Workshop offers:

☐ **Date & location: by arrangement**
Duration: min. 2 lessons
nathalie@aha.li

from 12 years (Sek I/Sek II)
Registration:



On International Human Rights Day, the VMR and Amnesty International Liechtenstein organise an annual public event on a specific human rights topic. This year, the focus was on artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights. Nina Laukenmann from the University of Basel and Liechtenstein Data Protection Officer Marie-Louise Gächter spoke about regulation and the opportunities and risks of AI for human rights. It became clear that AI as an instrument can both jeopardise and strengthen human rights. Regulation is needed above all where the use of AI jeopardises human rights. The EU and the Council of Europe have created an initial legal basis for this. Afterwards, visitors were able to try out artificial intelligence for themselves at various stands. The evening was framed by an AI improvisation theatre by the Kreativ Akademie, AI music and art on AI by Satellites of Art.



Artificial intelligence offers many opportunities to strengthen human rights. However, it also harbours risks. These must be regulated globally.

Freedom

The restriction of personal freedom must be weighed up very carefully. This applies in the case of imprisonment, involuntary detention or institutionalised forms of accommodation. Those affected need transparent procedures, opportunities to lodge complaints and appropriate support and counselling.

During the annual exchange with the Prison Service Commission, the conditions of detention in prisons were once again discussed this year. The IMC has long recommended measures to improve employment and visiting opportunities for families with children. The detention of juvenile offenders in accordance with children's rights is a challenge. The state prison does not offer the necessary framework conditions - it remains a case-by-case approach. The neighbouring countries themselves have too little space in juvenile detention centres. Either a political decision is needed to expand the state prison or corresponding agreements with neighbouring prisons.

Between 2002 and 2022, the number of welfare placements quadrupled - and the number continues to rise every year. In 2024, 94 placements were made. 90 per cent due to mental illness or abnormalities. The VMR analyses the district court's statistics every year. What is behind the sharp increase in this trend is largely unclear among specialist authorities and the judiciary - and that worries us.

Flight, migration and integration

Asylum seekers and refugees have a right to accommodation, medical care and legal support. People with a migration background or people of different religions must be protected from violence, discrimination and exploitation. They should be given opportunities to participate in society and politics.

People from 114 nations live in Liechtenstein. Foreigners make up 35 per cent of the permanent population. They cannot vote. Yet the political participation of all is very important for a democratic society. As part of the "Diversity in politics" project, the VMR looked for opportunities for political participation by foreigners in Liechtenstein. To this end, it conducted a comprehensive analysis, gathered the opinions of those affected and discussed proposals from experts and political parties. The results of the study were published in a report with specific recommendations at the beginning of 2025. The report can be downloaded at www.menschenrechte.li/integration.

Over 85 per cent of Liechtenstein's population belong to a religious community. In addition to the Catholic Church, which is anchored in the constitution as the national church, there are other active religious communities in Liechtenstein. Unfortunately, there is still no legal basis for these religious communities, which means that they have to organise themselves as private associations and are not entitled to public recognition or state funding. The VMR is committed to the equality of all religious communities and to interreligious dialogue in Liechtenstein. This strengthens mutual understanding, helps to break down prejudices and promotes social cohesion so that peaceful and tolerant coexistence is guaranteed. Together with Haus Gutenberg, the VMR organises the annual Round Table of Religions. In addition to fostering relationships, various interfaith activities are organised, e.g. mutual visits, events, etc. At the film festival

"Religion in the cinema", five films on various religious themes were shown in the Old Cinema during the Week of Religions.

The number of asylum seekers in Liechtenstein has never been as high as in the last two years since the Second World War. As of 31 December 2024, there were 727 asylum seekers from Ukraine in Liechtenstein. Many of them are women and children. There are also other regular asylum seekers and temporarily admitted persons. At the "Asylum Round Table", the Advisory Council discusses with all responsible authorities and organisations how the challenge of accommodation and care as well as efficient procedures can be overcome in view of the large numbers and how those seeking protection can be protected from human rights violations. In addition, the ASA trains the independent representatives of aid organisations who monitor asylum interviews. They ensure that asylum procedures in Liechtenstein are conducted correctly. The employees of the refugee aid organisation also regularly take part in the training courses and can thus refresh their knowledge of asylum procedures.



The "political participation" project was presented by the VMR and Diversity in Politics at the government's integration dialogue. Foreigners would like to have more say and co-determination.

Equality and inclusion

Gender equality, equal rights for queer people and inclusion of people with disabilities: The three goals have one thing in common - all people are entitled to equal rights and opportunities. They must not be discriminated against or prevented from personal fulfilment because of their gender, sexual orientation or a personal characteristic. We are called upon to recognise the rights and needs of these groups and to implement measures for equality and inclusion.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities came into force in Liechtenstein on 17 January 2024 - an important step towards greater inclusion and equal opportunities. The VMR has thus taken on a new mandate: It is now also the independent Monitoring Office on Disability (MOBE), which ensures that the Convention is implemented. As a first step, the VMR launched an inventory of disability rights together with the Department for Equal Opportunities and the Liechtenstein Disability Association. Initial consultations were held under the Convention. We also prepared the establishment of a committee that will involve those affected and keep an eye on progress in disability rights. This will


an important milestone on the way to a more inclusive society!

Domestic violence in families or partnerships is also an issue in Liechtenstein, as reported by specialised agencies or the national police. It includes physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence. Many victims are afraid to seek help because they are dependent, ashamed or have no support. The Istanbul Convention, which has been in force in Liechtenstein since 2021, obliges the state to provide information, protection and prevention. The latest figures from 2023 show that the national police documented 251 reports of domestic violence. The number of unreported cases in Liechtenstein, as in neighbouring countries, is likely to be correspondingly high. However, only a few cases lead to convictions because some of the forms of violence mentioned are difficult to prove or are not reported. The VMR therefore drew up specific recommendations on victim protection for the coordination group for the Istanbul Convention and wrote to the government on the introduction of a "silent and barrier-free emergency call" in Liechtenstein, which would allow people affected by violence - as well as people with disabilities - to call for help via an app. This would mean they would not have to make a phone call.

In spring 2024, marriage for all was approved by parliament. Since then, same-sex couples have been able to marry. This is a major step towards equal rights and recognition of people with different sexual orientations and will give all couples the same rights from 1 January 2025. In its statement, the VMR campaigned in favour of this decision so that equal treatment in relation to marriage is possible regardless of sexual orientation. At the same time, the VMR supported the implementation of a guide to gender changes at the civil registry office, which now provides a clear procedure for those affected.

Unpaid care work such as childcare, nursing or household tasks are often carried out by women. This unequal distribution puts women at an economic disadvantage, as care work is often compatible with career breaks or only part-time work. In order to better distribute and value the numerous tasks, equal pay for men and women, better social benefits, family-friendly working models and a fair division of labour in households are needed. The Round Table on Gender Equality, which is coordinated by the VMR, focussed on this topic this year. In a media campaign, 16 organisations campaigned for the appreciation of care work with their advertisements on various channels.



Sorgearbeit macht Kinder stark  Helen Konzett Ombudsstelle für Kinder und Jugendliche	Vorsorgelücken schließen  Michael Winkler Generalsekretär Vaterländische Union	Sorgearbeit ist unverzichtbar  Désirée Wanner-Walch Frauennetz Liechtenstein	Sorgearbeit fair gestalten  Lisa Hermann Verein für Menschenrechte	Sorgearbeit stärkt die Gesellschaft  Christine Schädler Geschäftsführerin Liechtensteiner Behinderten-Verband
Sorgearbeit für alle wichtig  Christian Blank Verein für Menschenrechte	Sorgearbeit ist auch Männersache  Markus Büchel Stiftung SOVORT Liechtenstein Offene Jugendarbeit und Streetwork	Sorgearbeit ist lebensrettend  Annemarie Grünig Geschäftsleitung Frauenhaus Liechtenstein	Sorgearbeit ist unverzichtbar  Jasmin Beck Vorstandsfrau infra, Informations- und Beratungsstelle für Frauen	Sorgearbeit braucht Sorgearbeit  Beatrice Derungs Demenz Liechtenstein
Sorgearbeit ist unverzichtbar  Eva Wohlwend SHG unandern für Familien von Kindern mit Behinderung	Sorgearbeit verdient Bezahlung  Tatjana As'Ad Co-Geschäftsstellenleiterin Freie Liste	Sorgearbeit stärkt Familien  Barbara Ospelt-Geiger Eltern Kind Forum	Sorgearbeit ist auch Männersache  Claudia Heeb-Fleck Frauen in guter Verfassung	Sorgearbeit verdient Bezahlung  Nicole Jäger Gewerkschaftssekretärin LAHV Liechtensteinscher ArbeitnehmerInnenverband

The 16 participants in the campaign agree: care work needs to be more socially and financially recognised. If equality is to be realised, it must be better distributed between the genders.

Children's rights

Children and young people have comprehensive rights and special protection needs. They must know their rights and be able to have a say in their concerns and be heard. Children and young people with disabilities or from a refugee or migrant background are particularly vulnerable. The increase in mental health problems is worrying. It is essential that the rights of children and young people are recognised, promoted and protected.

In 2024, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child assessed the situation of children's rights in Liechtenstein for the first time in 17 years. It essentially pointed out the problems that the OSKJ and the UN Children's Fund UNICEF had reported to the Committee: mental health, the lack of a voice in society and the legal system, bullying, domestic violence and divorce or custody conflicts. Social framework conditions such as family-friendly working models and childcare outside the home were also addressed by the committee - all topics that the OSKJ has been pursuing for years.

Municipalities are key players in the protection and promotion of children's rights, as this is where children and young people live and develop. This is the aim of the "child-friendly municipality" label, which

the UN Children's Fund UNICEF awards to Swiss and Liechtenstein municipalities. For this, the municipalities must undergo a comprehensive audit: for example, safe play and contact spaces, opportunities for participation and child-friendly services are analysed. And an assessment is made of how the municipalities are developing the rights of children and young people. The OSKJ is a member of the UNICEF expert commission and helps to assess the Liechtenstein municipalities. In 2024, the municipalities of Vaduz and Triesen were named "child-friendly municipalities" for the first time. Eschen - a "child-friendly municipality" since 2018 - was certified again. Congratulations to these three municipalities and to the other three municipalities that have already been awarded the label - Ruggell, Mauren and Schaan - for their child-friendly endeavours!



Vaduz and Triesen have now been awarded the UNICEF "child-friendly community" label. The OSKJ is a member of the expert committee for the certification.

All children have the right to be heard and to participate in accordance with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This also applies to court proceedings, e.g. in the case of divorce or custody disputes. Children and young people are often overwhelmed and frightened in court proceedings. They feel that they are not taken seriously and often do not have the best conditions to express their opinions freely. The creation of a child-friendly justice system is therefore the vision of the OSKJ for the coming years. This requires child- and youth-friendly conditions at all procedural levels to ensure that children and young people are heard in legal proceedings and that their rights are protected. They should feel safe, be provided with age-appropriate information and receive support. In the reporting year

Information on the topic was collected, preparations were made for a project study and co-operation partnerships were sought.

As every year, the OSKJ used International Children's Rights Day on 20 November to raise awareness of children's rights, network and amplify voices for children's rights. One highlight was the meeting between young people and the "Youth Minister" Manuel Frick on the right to respect the opinions of children and young people. During the exchange of experiences, the young people and the minister discussed their experiences with racist slogans, for example. They agreed that this violates human rights and that civil courage and the support of adults are needed to stand up to it effectively.

The two-year children's lobby campaign "Zemma Handla" came to an end in 2024. Together with various partner organisations, children and young people addressed their right to a clean and safe environment in a variety of ways, increased their knowledge and raised awareness in their environment and society.



The children's lobby, coordinated by the OSKJ, continued to campaign for the environment and sustainability in the second year of the "Zemma Handla" campaign and demonstrated the variety of projects implemented, for example on Children's Rights Day.

Health

All people have the right to appropriate healthcare and equal access to healthcare and social services - including people with a migrant background, disability or chronic illnesses. Healthcare must be barrier-free, and cultural and language barriers must be taken into account. The freeze on health insurance benefits must not affect those who are economically unable to pay for their healthcare costs.

Foreign-language patients often have problems finding their way around the healthcare system. However, understanding diagnoses, treatments and medical procedures is important for successful treatment. This is why the VMR, together with the Office of Public Health, provided free intercultural interpreters for medical practices in Liechtenstein for two years. The response was very good: the service was used intensively (2022: 82 assignments, 2023: 142), so the Office of Public Health decided to take over and fund the service for the longer term from 2024 - a great success! However, when funding was temporarily suspended in the middle of the year for budget reasons, the VMR intervened and was able to ensure that the service was resumed in September, hopefully on a long-term basis this time.

The freeze on health insurance benefits has been a thorn in the side of the VMR for years. It must be ensured that this does not affect people who are unable to pay the insurance costs due to their vulnerability. There also needs to be a definition of what constitutes emergency treatment that will still be provided if benefits are cancelled. The VMR is in favour of clarifying these issues and introducing regulations.

Poverty

Poverty is not just a lack of money, but a violation of basic human rights: access to adequate food, education, healthcare, housing and social participation is restricted. In Liechtenstein, older people, children and young people as well as single parents and singles are particularly at risk of poverty. More information is needed about the causes of poverty and targeted measures to combat it.

There is poverty in Liechtenstein. This is stated in the new 2023 Poverty Report. The VMR and other organisations had been calling for this report for years. It provides important statistical findings on the risk of poverty and those affected by it. However, it lacks detailed qualitative analyses that shed light on which groups of people are particularly at risk of poverty and the reasons that lead them into poverty.

To close these gaps, the Office for Social Services initiated the "Together against poverty" project in January 2024. This involved interviewing those affected and specialists in order to gain additional insights. The VMR took part in the project as a specialised authority and advocated for the human rights dimension of poverty to be given greater consideration - including discrimination and social exclusion. The report published in November 2024 contains various approaches in the areas of information, awareness-raising and networking. However, it lacks concrete measures to combat the causes. The VMR wants to continue to work towards this.

Networking

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, visited Liechtenstein on 22 January. A rare opportunity to discuss with the global protector of human rights. At the meeting, which was organised by the VMR, the High Commissioner spoke with 16 non-governmental organisations about the current challenges in the area of human rights. He emphasised how important human rights, democracy and the rule of law are for our freedom and equality. He called on all organisations to continue their important work and make it visible. This open and inspiring exchange motivated everyone involved to continue to stand up for important issues and find solutions together. It shows how much we can achieve when we work together!



The visit by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, was a highlight. He encouraged all non-governmental organisations to continue to stand up for the rights of vulnerable groups.

In order to be able to assess the human rights situation in the country and make appropriate recommendations, a close exchange with various contact and advice centres, authorities and specialist agencies as well as with

international human rights experts. In 2024, the Advisory Council met with 19 international and supra-regional specialist organisations. At national level, it exchanged views with the Ministry for Society, 9 authorities and 19 non-governmental organisations. It organises round tables at which authorities and non-governmental organisations exchange information. The OSKJ coordinates the Liechtenstein Children's Lobby, a lively and competent network of various children's and family organisations comprising over 30 organisations. This multifaceted exchange serves to address human rights problems, develop a common understanding of them and initiate concrete measures for improvement.

At the annual meeting of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, the Advisory Council gathers valuable experience from the European human rights work of its partners and suggestions on how common human rights challenges can be tackled.

Outlook

The independent monitoring mechanism for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is to be established in 2025. The monitoring centre at the VMR, persons with disabilities and experts in the field want to work together to jointly monitor the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Liechtenstein in the long term. However, this requires additional financial resources, which must be provided by the state.

The OSKJ will dedicate a project study to the development of a child-friendly justice system in Liechtenstein. It will determine which organisational or legal foundations need to be created so that the rights and needs of children and young people are sufficiently taken into account in legal proceedings and their right to participation and co-decision can be better implemented.

Another focus is on legal counselling and strategic litigation in human rights matters. These are to be further expanded in order to improve access to justice for all people, strengthen the administration of justice and effectively enforce human rights in Liechtenstein. In this context, the VMR remains committed to a comprehensive anti-discrimination law in Liechtenstein.

At the centre of efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality is participation in the national gender equality strategy and the national violence protection strategy in the course of implementing the Istanbul Convention against domestic violence and violence against women.

An institutional milestone in 2025 will be the accreditation of the Advisory Council on Human Rights with the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). In order to be accredited, the VHR must prove that it fulfils the minimum standards for national human rights institutions as set out in the UN Paris Principles. The VMR hopes that accreditation will provide important insights into its independence, legal basis, mandate, resources and staffing.

composition of the organisation and a fundamental strengthening of the institution.

Finally, from 2025, human rights are to be brought closer and more directly to the people of Liechtenstein with a new, accessible website and stronger communication on social media. On Human Rights Day, the focus will be on a human right that has always been considered the cornerstone of democracy and freedom, but is unfortunately coming under increasing pressure worldwide: freedom of expression.



Finances

As a national human rights institution of the UN, the VHR must receive sufficient state funding from the country in order to fulfil its mandate. The 2024 national contribution to the organisation amounted to CHF 410,000. The OHR is free to use the funds within the legal framework. Not all activities can be covered by the state contribution. The association relies on contributions from third parties for pilot projects or project studies.

BALANCE SHEET

SHARES in CHF	2024	2023
Fixed assets		
Property, plant and equipment	24'220.00	34'541.05
Rental deposit	0.00	0.00
Total fixed assets	24'220.00	34'541.05
Current assets		
Receivables	1'705.08	10'167.90
Bank balances and cash in hand	186'735.45	111'608.53
Total current assets	188'440.53	121'776.43
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	2'900.00	3'250.00
TOTALLY ACTIVE	215'560.53	159'567.48

LIABILITIES in CHF	2024	2023
Association assets		
Profit carried forward	2'948.21	2'915.33
Profit for the year	190.25	32.88
Total association assets	3'138.46	2'948.21
Provision for strategic litigation	42'182.00	0.00
Provision for future projects	87'602.85	87'602.85
Provisions careforum.li	14'962.30	15'210.30
Provision for children's rights	21'015.80	21'015.80
Liabilities	46'609.12	32'040.65
Total debt capital	212'372.07	155'869.60
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	50.00	749.67
TOTALLY PASSIVE	215'560.53	159'567.48

INCOME STATEMENT

Income (in CHF)	2024	2023
State contribution	410'000.00	350'000.00
Membership fees (private individuals and organisations)	6'300.00	6'150.00
Donations	6'650.00	24'755.20
Earmarked donations (strategic litigation)	45'000.00	0.00
Earmarked donations (Careforum.li)	0.002'500.00	
Earmarked donations (gender equality)	5'967.790.00	
Earmarked donations (anti-discrimination)	0.00	30'000.00
Other income	462.50	683.43
Total income	474'380.29	414'088.63

Expenses (in CHF)	2024	2023
Project expenditure (project expenditure in the financial year)	-32'035.56	-88'667.23
Net change in provision for future projects	0.00	52'900.00
Net change in provision careforum.li	248.00	-1'381.35
Net change in provision for anti-discrimination	0.00	677.70
Net change in provision for children's rights	0.00	3'984.20
Net change in provision for strategic litigation	-42'182.00	0.00
Public relations and representation	-37'482.63	-16'371.05
Personnel expenses		
Wages and salaries Office	-232'959.00	-237'211.30
Social security contributions and pension expenses	-36'055.20	-36'208.85
Management Board expenses	-17'596.85	-19'061.60
Further training	-147.94	-172.09
Other personnel expenses	-581.40	-2'630.60
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	-10'321.05	-4'210.00
Space requirements	-41'497.00	-30'312.70
Administrative expenses	-21'837.88	-25'622.71
Other operating expenses	-1'741.53	-9'768.17
Total expense	-474'190.04	-414'055.75
Profit for the year	190.25	32.88



Te: +423 238 20 10
Fax: +423 238 20 05
audita@audita.li
www.audita.li

Audita Revisjons-Atiengesellschaft
Wuhrstrasse 14
P.O. Box 119
L-9490 Vaduz
HR No.: FL-0001.087.363-6 VAT
No.: 50 102

Report of the Statutory Auditors to the General Meeting of the

Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (V/är),
Vaduz (FL-0002.539.448-5)

As statutory auditor, we have reviewed the financial statements of the Verein für Menschenrechte in Liechtenstein (VMR), which were prepared in accordance with Liechtenstein law, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Our responsibility is to **issue** a report **on these financial statements** based on **our** review. **We confirm that we fulfil the legal requirements regarding professional qualification and independence.**

Our review was conducted in accordance with the Standard on Review of Financial Statements (ReView) issued by the Liechtenstein Association of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the review to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. A review consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures applied to the data underlying the financial statements. We have conducted a review, but not an audit, of the financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Based on our review, **nothing has** come to our attention **that** causes **us** to believe that the financial statements are not in **accordance** with the law and the company's articles of incorporation.

Based on our review, we recommend that the accompanying financial statements be approved. authorise.

Vaduz, 27 February 2025

AUDITA isio s-AxTIECH SOCIETY


Nedim Hafilovic
Auditor Auditor in
charge


Thomas D. Hasler
Swiss certified public accountant

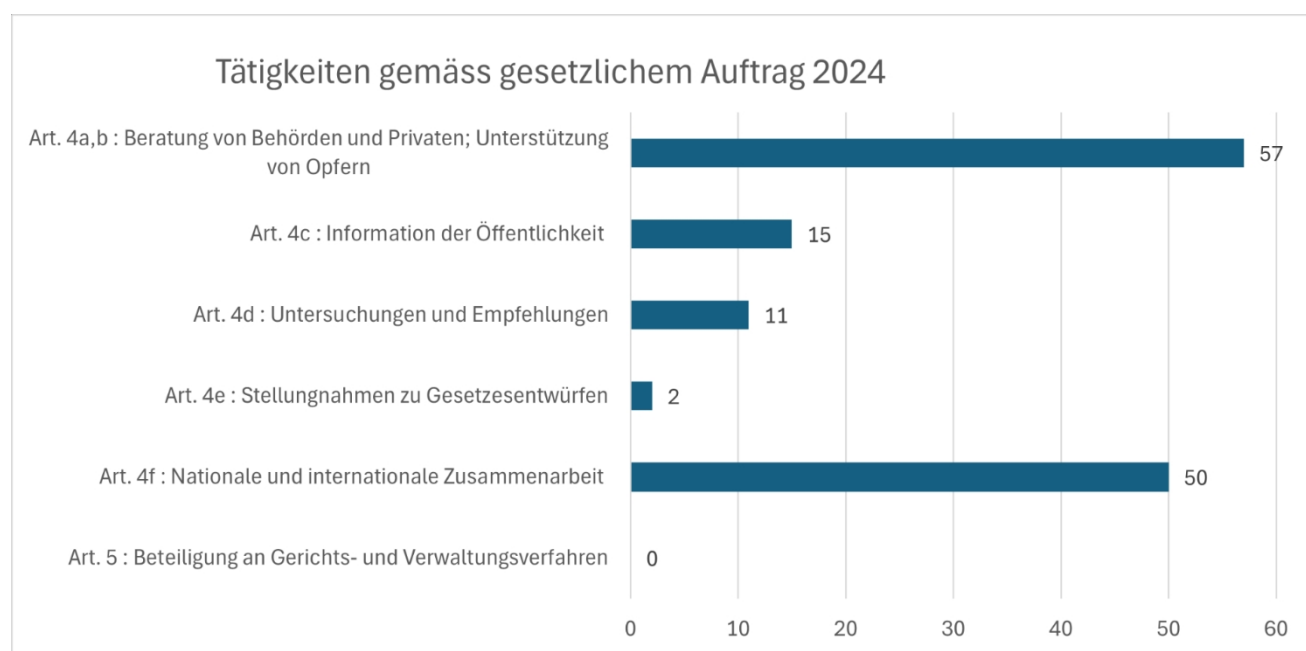
Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet and income statement)

At a glance

Implementation of the legal mandate in accordance with Art. 4 and 5 VMRG

The Law on the Association for Human Rights lays the foundation for a broad commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. The VMR makes every effort to implement this mandate and support all people in Liechtenstein in leading a life of dignity and equality. Our commitment 2024 at a glance:



At a glance - the VMR's commitment in 2024.

Counselling for private individuals and authorities, support for victims (Art. 4a and b) 58 counselling sessions for private individuals, 24 of which were conducted by the OSKJ and 1 by the MOBE.

Information to the public (Art. 4c)

1. Human rights workshops at secondary schools
2. Media article on the NGO meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
3. Press article Presentation of new OSKJ Ombudsperson
4. "Human rights taken seriously" award ceremony
5. Film Festival of Religions with the Round Table of Religions and moderation of the children's film "Pünktchen und Anton" with reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 2, Protection against Discrimination, and Article 32, Protection against Child Labour
6. Media campaign "Care Work" with the Round Table on Gender Equality
7. Public meeting in front of the state parliament to lobby for "fair parental leave" with the children's lobby and the Equal Opportunities Round Table, as well as a newspaper interview
8. Participation in the opening of the exhibition on 40 years of voting rights at the National Museum
9. Media interviews on the importance of "care work" on International Care and Support Day
10. Media article on the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to Liechtenstein
11. Interview by the OSKJ on the school film "Hoi Council of Europe" about children's rights
12. Table moderation JUBEL Forum Youth Participation Liechtenstein on the topic "Know your Rights!"

13. Coordination and realisation of "Young Voices Count", a discussion between young people and the Minister of Society, Unicef, Open Youth Work and OSKJ on Children's Rights Day
14. Radio interview series on Children's Rights Day, its importance and the Liechtenstein Children's Lobby
15. "AI and human rights" event on Human Rights Day

Investigations and recommendations (Art 4d)

1. Documentation of precautionary placements in cooperation with the district court
2. Documentation of charges and judgements under Section 283 of the criminal code in cooperation with the public prosecutor's office and the district court
3. NGO Shadow Report under the Istanbul Convention on Domestic Violence and Violence against Women
4. Project study "Political participation of foreigners in Liechtenstein"
5. Assessment of disability rights UNCRPD together with the Disabled Persons' Association and the Equal Opportunities Department
6. Rule of Law Report to the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
7. Recommendation to the tax administration to improve equality in the context of tax returns
8. Recommendation to the government to implement a silent and barrier-free emergency call system
9. Recommendation to the government to examine the rehabilitation of homosexuals prosecuted under criminal law
10. Recommendation to the government to outsource parental leave from the health insurance funds to the family equalisation fund
11. Statement with recommendations on the state psychiatry concept of 7 May 2024 with regard to closing gaps in outpatient, day-care and inpatient care for children and adolescents

Opinions on draft legislation (Art 4e)

1. Consultation on the amendment of the General Civil Code and other laws (revision of guardianship law)
2. Consultation on the amendment of the Persons and Companies Act (PGR) and the Gender Equality Act (GLG) (implementation of Directive (EU) 2022/2381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on ensuring a more balanced representation of women and men on the boards of directors of listed companies and related measures)

National and international cooperation (Art. 4f)

- Ministry of Society
- 9 Authorities and commissions
- 19 national non-governmental organisations and networks - should we still mention the children's lobby coordination task here
- 21 international organisations, specialist agencies and experts, including
 - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - Experts from the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva ("Mountains Group")
 - President of the European Court of Human Rights
 - Liechtenstein judge at the European Court of Human Rights
 - Experts of the Council of Europe against Corruption (GRECO)
 - Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)
 - UNICEF Commission for Child Friendly Communities
 - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
 - Swiss Institute for Human Rights (isdh)
 - Disability Monitoring Committee Vorarlberg
 - Ombudsman Vorarlberg
 - Embassies USA, UK and Canada
 - National Child Protection Commission Portugal
 - UN Disability Rights Monitoring Committee in Tyrol and Vorarlberg

Participation in legal and administrative proceedings (Art. 5)

There was no participation in proceedings.

Thanks to

The VMR would like to thank its members, patrons, partner organisations and trusted lawyers for their support and excellent cooperation. In 2024, special thanks go to the H.E.M. Foundation and the RHW Foundation for co-financing the "Pro Menschenrechte - Prozessieren mit Wirkung" project and to the Landesbank for its institutional support. Our sincere thanks go to all individuals, organisations and authorities who are committed to the promotion and protection of human rights in Liechtenstein!

Imprint

Publisher:

Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein

[info\(at\)vmr.li](mailto:info(at)vmr.li)

www.menschenrechte.li



LI81 0880 0551 4633 6200 1

Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (VMR)

Poststrasse 14

LI - 9494 Schaan

Editing and text:

VMR office

Illustrations:

VMR, OSKJ, Liechtensteiner Vaterland

March 2025

))))))

www.menschenrechte.li



— www.oskj.li