

International Scientific  
and Professional Conference

「  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
IN FOCUS  
」

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**



November 27, 2024  
Novi Sad, Serbia







Парајнисе заштител грађана

**Омбудсман**

Republic of Serbia  
Autonomous Province of Vojvodina  
Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman



University of Novi Sad  
Faculty of Law



University of Kragujevac  
Faculty of Law

ISBN  
[Provincial Protector of  
Citizens - Ombudsman]



9 788689 417241

International Scientific and Professional Conference  
**“HUMAN RIGHTS IN FOCUS”**

**Book of Abstracts**

November 27, 2024  
The building of the Rectorate of  
the University of Novi Sad  
Novi Sad

Organizers of the Conference:  
Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman  
Faculty of Law of the University of Novi Sad  
Faculty of Law of the University of Kragujevac

Novi Sad, 2024

International Scientific and Professional Conference  
“HUMAN RIGHTS IN FOCUS”

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

Digital Edition

ISBN: 978-86-89417-24-1

**PUBLISHERS:**

Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman

**ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLISHERS:**

Dragana Ćorić, PhD, Assistant professor, Faculty of Law, Novi Sad and the  
Provincial protector of Citizens - Ombudsman

**GENERAL EDITOR:**

Dragana Ćorić, PhD, Assistant professor, Faculty of Law, Novi Sad and the  
Provincial protector of Citizens - Ombudsman

**PROCESSING AND PREPARATION:**

Alen Šajfar

**YEAR:** 2024

## **SCIENTIFIC BOARD:**

Srdan Đorđević, PhD, Full Professor at University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

Prof. Adrián Fábíán, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Pécs, Hungary  
Miodrag Simović

Dragana Ćorić, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law in Novi Sad and the Provincial protector of Citizens - Ombudsman

Laura Maria Stanila, PhD, Faculty of Law, Western University in Timisoara, Romania

Luka Petrović, Assistant at the University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

Academician Vlado Kambovski, PhD, full professor of University

Prof. Elena Tilovska - Kechedji, PhD, Faculty of Law, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Bitola, North Macedonia

Academician Tibor Varadi, PhD, full professor of University

Prof. Goran Ilik, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Bitola, North Macedonia



# CONTENT

Dragana Ćorić THE EMPATHY - OBLIGATION, HUMAN RIGHT OR - NEW WAY OF LIVING.....	13
Adnan Bačićanin, Lejla Hubić Nurković RIGHT OF THE INJURED PARTY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.....	14
Margarita Berček PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH STUDENT ACTIVISM.....	15
Snežana Brkić GUILT, REPENTANCE, AND FORGIVENESS AT THE CROSSROADS OF RELIGION, PSYCHOLOGY AND CRIMINAL LAW .....	17
Dževad Drino, Maja Drino Škandro HUMAN RIGHTS AND REVOLUTION: DECLARATION OF ZAVNOBIH FROM 1944.....	18
Velibor Džomić THE LAW ON ELIMINATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF PROPERTY CONFISCATION OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS WHO HAVE NO LIVING LEGAL HEIRS IN THE LEGAL ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA...	19
Srđan Đorđević, Dejan Matić THE CONCEPT AND ROLE OF HYBRID HUMAN RIGHTS .....	20
Dajana Erceg, Tamara Musić UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL HEALTH CONCEPT AMONG THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA) .....	21
Miloš Ilić, Dajana Erceg QUALITY OF LIFE OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA) .....	23
Dušan Ilić, Milica Ilić ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN PREDOMINANTLY ORTHODOX COUNTRIES – THE EXAMPLE OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.....	25
Nikola Ivković, Luka Petrović ANIMAL WELFARE LEGAL ANALYSIS: CAN A PARALLEL BE CREATED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS .....	26
Andrej Jeftić, Stefan Zeljković THE ROLE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ADDRESSING RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN KOSOVO AND METOCHIA .....	27
Ajna Jodanović, Marina M. Simović THE EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT AND HUMAN RIGHTS: BALANCING SECURITY AND LIBERTY.....	28
Zoran Jovanović, Dejan Vučinić, Andrija Popović INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ACTION OF THE OMBUDSMAN.....	29

Jelka Lagundžin, Miloš Ilić PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA) .....	31
Jelka Lagundžin, Anja Žujović TIME PERSPECTIVE AMONG THE ELDERLY IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA) .....	33
Iskra Akimovska Maletić, Marko Vidachek PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THROUGH THE OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION: CASE OF REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA AND REPUBLIC OF SERBIA .....	35
Jelena Matijašević, Milena Galetin ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ATTITUDES ON THE IMPACT OF THE APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.....	37
Jelena Milivojević DATA PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN AS AN INSTRUMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION.....	38
Marko Milović, Ratomir Antonović "EASY" DETERMINATION OF DETENTION – LONG-TERM PRACTICE OF THE COURTS IN SERBIA .....	39
Tamara Musić, Dajana Erceg DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS AMONG ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA) .....	40
Željka Nikolašević, Vojislava Bugarski Ignjatović THE PHENOMENON OF TWINS FROM A MENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE.....	42
Gordana Nikolić PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE INCRIMINATION OF STALKING IN THE CRIMINAL CODE OF SERBIA .....	43
Ana Ogrizović PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR PROTECTION FROM HOMOPHOBIA .....	44
Enis Omerović ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES: INVISIBLE VICTIMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW?.....	46
Alexios P. Panagopoulos HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THROUGH THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE NEW GREEK STATE AND TODAY.....	48
Ivan Petrović, Aleksandar R. Ivanović VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.....	49
Milana Pisarić DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE OF PROTESTS IN SERBIA.....	50
Stefan Radojčić THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND LAWYERS .....	51
Milan Rapajić ON MILITARY OMBUDSMAN.....	52

Miodrag N. Simović, Vladimir M. Simović CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR MONEY LAUNDERING IN FUNCTION OF CRIME SUPPRESSION POLICY: INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE LAW OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.....	53
Lazar Stefanović DECENTRALISATION AND NEOLIBERALISM: CHALLENGES IN SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES .....	55
Nenad Stefanović, Tamara Crevar THE ROMAN CONCEPT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MAN OBSERVED THROUGH THE PRISM OF CONTEMPORARY HUMAN RIGHTS.....	56
Zorica L. Šipovac INSURANCE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA .....	57
Marko Tmušić ECONOMIC FREEDOMS AND THEIR IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA: ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE PRISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS.....	59
Lorena Velasco Guerrero FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, HATE CRIMES AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION: BETWEEN PROPORTIONALITY AND ABUSE .....	60
Jagoda Vještica THE RESEARCH ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF ELDERS IN INSTITUTIONS OF SOCIAL CARE IN APV .....	63
Jelena Vučković, Anika Kovačević, Ružica Kijevčanin FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH AS A PRESUMPTION OF DEMOCRACY.....	64
Simona Zorić Ristova CONTROL BY INDEPENDENT BODIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OVER THE STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA .....	65
Anja Žujović, Tamara Musić RESILIENCE OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA) .....	67



**THE EMPATHY - OBLIGATION,  
HUMAN RIGHT OR - NEW WAY OF LIVING**

**Dragana Ćorić**

PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law in Novi Sad  
and the Provincial protector of Citizens - Ombudsman

*Abstract:* Since the COVID19 pandemics( the end of 2019- 2021) empathy was one of often mentioned words, with its deeper meaning. The need for understanding other's point of view, having in mind his/her specific emotional status and private and social circumstances, become very important.

In this paper the author is thinking aloud on possibility to constitute the right to be empathised or maybe obligation to have empathy for our fellow inhabitants, in order to make living more comfortable, easier and more satisfying.

*Keywords:* empathy, human right, obligation.

**RIGHT OF THE INJURED PARTY IN  
CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**Adnan Bačićanin**

Higher Public Prosecutor’s Office in Novi Pazar, Public Prosecutor,  
adnan.bacicanin@yahoo.com

**Lejla Hubić Nurković**

Basic Public Prosecutor’s Office in Novi Pazar, Chief Public Prosecutor,  
hubic.lejla@gmail.com

*Abstract:* This paper provides a brief overview of the concept of the injured party in the criminal proceedings of the Republic of Serbia and analyzes their position with a particular emphasis on their rights during various stages of the criminal process. Special attention is given to the injured party’s right to access justice, participation in the evidentiary process, and the right to compensation for damages. Additionally, a critical review is provided of some existing legal solutions, comparing these solutions with relevant international standards, all aimed at identifying the key challenges faced by injured parties in practice and offering recommendations for improving their position in criminal proceedings.

*Keywords:* injured party, criminal proceedings, rights, international standards.

## **PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION THROUGH STUDENT ACTIVISM**

**Margarita Berček**

School's psychologist

*Abstract:* Primary school „Zdravko Gložanski“ from Bečej has been involved for 7 years in two major projects: “Together towards high school - support for children from vulnerable groups in the transition to high school” through the Center for Educational Policies with the support of the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation and “Quality education for all” - program of the Ministry of Education of the RS with the support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. School became a mentor school in the area of transition and support for children from vulnerable groups, as well as in the area of development of competence for democratic culture, several examples of good practice have been published, the psychologist is an advisor, external associate of the Ministry of Education of the RS for democratic culture. We provide support to students in their overall development, providing a stimulating environment for learning and progress, inclusion is present in the true sense of the word, which achieves equality and provides equal opportunities for everyone. We achieved an increase in the quality of education by encouraging a democratic culture in the formal education system through the application of anti-discriminatory approaches based on the standards and practices of the Council of Europe, through work on key topics such as interculturalism, gender equality, prevention of violence and discrimination, resilience. It is particularly important that we do all this respecting the principle of the 3 pillars of the school, so that topics related to human rights, sustainable development goals and competence for democratic culture are embedded in the teaching itself, and are worked on during extracurricular activities and within the local community. These two projects have helped us to be open to every child, to improve their socio-emotional skills and build a school culture where everyone feels comfortable.

What makes the school special is the existence of an educated and empowered team of students who have been working intensively for 4 years on the prevention of violence and discrimination under the guidance of the school

psychologist, and with the highest levels of participation are making changes in their environment. In 2021, a team of students underwent training on the prevention of discrimination, after research on the presence of discrimination in our environment, TiPiDi (team for the prevention of discrimination) was founded and, through a psychologist, the school team joined the Design for Change 2022 challenge. In the “felt” phase, we chose discrimination as the topic, and a handful of activities on the prevention of violence and discrimination were realized, of which the forum theater, the Living Library, the Paralympic Day, and TEDx talks on the topic of children's rights stand out. The school's project “We are All Equal Under the Sun” represented Serbia at the Be the Change global conference in Malaysia in 2022., one student of the school is a member and mentor of the Student Council Global and together with the school's psychologist attended the Be the Change 2023 celebration in India in December 2023.

The school is one of the few that has been working so dedicatedly and systematically for years to build a democratic culture, practice and policy in the entire local community. Through building a culture of acceptance, cooperation, empathy, through lifelong learning and the approach of the whole school, which is dedicated to restorative practice and continuously works on prevention, with trained peer educators, a positive change is evident: the level of violence in the school has been reduced to a minimum.

The developed model of planned and consistent work on these important topics of Elementary School “Zdravko Gložanski” from Bečej can serve educational institutions in Serbia and beyond to create a more beautiful world together with children.

*Keywords:* elementary school, children's participation, activism.

**GUILT, REPENTANCE, AND FORGIVENESS  
AT THE CROSSROADS OF RELIGION,  
PSYCHOLOGY AND CRIMINAL LAW**

**Snežana Brkić**

PhD, Full Professor at the Faculty of Law,  
University of Novi Sad

*Abstract:* This paper focuses on three key concepts: guilt, repentance and forgiveness. The author’s intention is to draw parallels between these categories in three areas: religious, psychological and criminal law. The paper is based on the hypothesis that these three categories, viewed through the lens of these different fields, may or may not be interconnected and may or may not influence each other. The author will examine the differences regarding their conceptual definitions, the determination of their meaning and significance, their manifestations, modes of expression, and possible consequences. On the other hand, the author will also attempt to identify cohesive points that link these categories across all three areas.

The broad scope of this research, however, imposes certain limitations. The discussion in the religious field will be limited to presenting the basic principles of Christianity, with a particular focus on the Orthodox faith. The legal aspects will cover relevant institutes of substantive and procedural criminal law, but not criminal enforcement law.

*Keywords:* guilt, repentance, forgiveness, religion, criminal law.

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND REVOLUTION:  
DECLARATION OF ZAVNOBIH FROM 1944.**

**Dževad Drino**

PhD, Professor at the University of Zenica, Faculty of Law

**Maja Drino Škandro**

Master's student at the University of Zenica, Faculty of Law

*Abstract:* In 1944, at its second session in Sanski Most, the State Anti-fascist Council for the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the document titled Declaration on the Rights of Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was not adopted by other assemblies of the future projected “federal units”.

Apparently modeled on the French Declaration on the Rights of Man and Citizen, this Declaration practically represents the first modern document on human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, that was adopted before the UN declaration of thirty points. In addition to the already proclaimed equality of peoples and citizens, the equality of women is emphasized for the first time, followed by the principles of social justice, human dignity, the fight against illiteracy and the protection of the population’s health.

Who are the authors of the Declaration, what is its content and what is its significance in the future development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially from the aspect of the application of human rights in the future federal unit of the socialist Yugoslavia?

*Keywords:* AVNOJ, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Declaration, human rights, war.

**THE LAW ON ELIMINATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF  
PROPERTY CONFISCATION OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS  
WHO HAVE NO LIVING LEGAL HEIRS IN THE LEGAL  
ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**Velibor Džomić**

Archpriest-stavrophor, PhD, Faculty of State and European Studies  
Podgorica, Montenegro

*Abstract:* On February 12, 2016, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on eliminating the consequences of property confiscation of Holocaust victims who have no living legal heirs. The law entered into force on February 27, 2016. The law regulates the conditions, method and procedure for returning confiscated property to members of the Jewish community who have no legal heirs and returning confiscated property to organizations that at the time of confiscation were in the function of the Jewish community on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. In terms of legal provisions, the Holocaust represents the time from April 6, 1941 to May 9, 1945, in which the occupiers and their collaborators systematically persecuted and killed members of the Jewish community, destroyed and confiscated Jewish property, regardless on their citizenship, and Jewish organizations, based on the racist provisions, regulations and acts of the Nazi regime. The paper analyzes the provisions of this law in relation to the legal order of the Republic of Serbia.

## **THE CONCEPT AND ROLE OF HYBRID HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Srdan Đorđević**

PhD, Full Professor at University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

**Dejan Matić**

PhD, Associate Professor at University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

*Abstract:* The paper discusses the conceptual definition and future development of hybrid human rights. Human rights, in one form or another, have been a constant subject of lively interest in legal theory almost since the beginning of the first ideas about the state and law. Created within the boundaries of state-legal systems, human rights represent not only one of the most important aspects of regulating the relationship between the state and the individual, but also the development constant of the relationship between states as subjects of international law, as well as the axiological basis of the international community as a whole. The continuous evolution of both individual human rights and the human rights system as a whole in recent times has been significantly marked by the emergence of the so-called second wave of third-generation rights, that is, the emergence of hybrid human rights. Since these rights do not represent an immediate response to colonialism, like the human rights that arose in the first wave of the third generation of rights, the concept of hybridity enables a better and more complete understanding of both the axiological foundations and the process of creation, as well as the rights themselves. This concept of human rights has, conditionally speaking, been treated relatively little in theoretical and legal literature. Precisely for this reason, and due to the undoubted importance of the problem in question, this work is dedicated to a detailed analysis of both the conceptual definition itself, and a better understanding of the current and future role and influence of hybrid human rights in the continuous changes of the human rights system in modern society.

*Keywords:* human rights, hybrid rights, colonialism, international law, internal law.

**UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL HEALTH  
CONCEPT AMONG THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS  
IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS  
PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA)**

**Dajana Erceg**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; dajana.erceg97@gmail.com

**Tamara Musić**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; tamaramusic25@gmail.com

*Abstract:* Risk for developing mental health problems is increased in older age. Research shows that approximately 15% of individuals over 60 experience problems with mental health. Nevertheless, elderly frequently develop different problems with physical health, which can complicate the accurate diagnosis of mental health disorders. Understanding the concept of mental health in elderly residents can be complex and is influenced by various factors, including individual experiences, social support, cultural norms, and physical health. **Aim:** The aim of this research was to evaluate the perception and understanding of mental health concept among elderly residing in gerontological centers in AP Vojvodina. **Methods:** This research is conducted in the form of cross-sectional study, initiated in May 2024 and presents findings based on data collected until September 2024. The sample includes 249 participants from 10 nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Data were gathered through an online questionnaire administered by trained interviewers during face-to-face interviews with residents. Participants were asked open-ended questions and qualitative data analysis was used for processing the responses. **Results:** Findings reveal a varied understanding of mental health among elderly, emphasizing themes such as independence, cognitive functioning, emotional stability and social connectivity. Most of the participants report a positive self-assessment of their mental health, despite experiencing memory issues and occasional emotional distress. Critical factors contributing to their well-being include social support, acceptance of aging and engagement in daily activities. Participants highlight the significance of

preventive measures for good mental health, including physical and social activities, as well as regular medical check-ups. Commonly stated risk factors for developing mental health problems are personal losses, loneliness and trauma, whereas family support and stable relationships are seen as protective factors for mental health. Although adequate support systems are in place, there is a consensus among nursing home residents that improvements are needed, particularly regarding the access to mental health professionals and awareness of mental health problems. **Conclusion:** The majority of respondents recognize the importance of mental health, articulating it through various dimensions of life - psychological, emotional, social and physical. While nursing home residents may not be directly informed about the diagnoses of other residents, they are often observant of symptoms indicative of dementia and depression and express concerns regarding the potential loss of social contact and cognitive decline. Enhanced education on mental health issues among elderly could help mitigate stigma. Although professionals provide valuable assistance, residents of nursing homes often state there is a need for additional specialists and clearer strategies to improve support. While nursing homes provide various activities designed to promote mental health, it is crucial to address the residents' motivational barriers and ensure that they have adequate information about the benefits and importance of these activities. Introducing educational content can enrich and improve the lives of elderly residents in nursing homes, while focusing on their specific needs is crucial for achieving better mental health.

*Keywords:* mental health, dementia, loneliness, elderly, nursing homes, public health, Vojvodina, Serbia.

## QUALITY OF LIFE OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA)

**Miloš Ilić**

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; milos.ilic@mf.uns.ac.rs

**Dajana Erceg**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; dajana.erceg97@gmail.com

*Abstract:* The quality of life (QoL) for elderly is characterized by positive psychological outlook, emotional well-being, good physical and mental health, satisfactory relationships with friends and family, ability to participate in social activities, as well as the possession of sufficient material resources to meet personal needs. For elderly in nursing homes, QoL is also influenced by the level of care provided, social engagement opportunities and the sense of autonomy within the facility. **Aim:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the QoL of elderly residents living in nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Serbia). **Methods:** This study is designed as a cross-sectional study initiated in May 2024. The results presented, provide a snapshot of analyzed data collected up to September 2024, while the research remains ongoing. The current sample consists of 249 participants from 10 nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Data were collected using an online questionnaire, administered by trained interviewers during face-to-face interviews with the residents in nursing homes. WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire was used to measure individually six domains of QoL: self-assessed QoL, health quality, physical, mental, social and environmental health. **Results:** So far, sample consisted of 67.9% female and 32.1% male participants, with an average age of  $77.77 \pm 9.465$ . Results indicate that highest average score of individual domains of QoL was in the domain environmental health (79.5), followed by mental health (76.8), physical health (76.8), self-assessed QoL (73.0), health quality (65.2), while the lowest average score was found in the domain social health (61.0). Participants with an average

score of  $\geq 75$  were considered to have good QoL across the six domains. The percentage of elderly who had good QoL, by individual QoL domains, according to frequency is as follows: good self-assessed QoL (76.3%), good environmental health (69.5%), good mental health (66.7%), good health quality (58.2%), good physical health (55.0%), while the lowest percentage of elderly had good social health (25.3%). **Conclusions:** Obtained results can be used to plan various action plans in order to enhance the QoL of elderly residents in nursing homes in Vojvodina and Serbia. Further activities should focus gathering additional participants and analyzing the relationship between different examined variables in order to identify specific risk factors that affect the decrease of QoL in elderly.

*Keywords:* quality of life; health; mental health; elderly; nursing homes; public health; Vojvodina; Serbia.

**ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN  
PREDOMINANTLY ORTHODOX COUNTRIES**

—

**THE EXAMPLE OF SOUTHEASTERN  
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

**Dušan Ilić**

Research Associate at the Institute of European studies, Belgrade,  
dusan.ilic@ies.rs

**Milica Ilić**

Research Trainee at the Institute of European studies, Belgrade,  
milica.ilic@ies.rs

*Abstract:* Several countries in Southeastern Europe have a predominantly Orthodox population. Although, with the exception of Greece, these are secular states, all of which have signed the most important international charters and conventions, including ECHR, and are also members of the Council of Europe, the position of certain minorities varies from case to case. In this regard, the paper will analyze the status of Orthodox believers who, by their ethnic and historical traditions, do not belong to the majority Orthodox Church, who represent minority groups within specific local national churches. Special attention will be given to the position of the Serbian Church in Romania and the Romanian Church in Serbia, as well as the religious rights of other minorities within the Serbian Church. Additionally, the degree of religious rights for Serbian Orthodox believers in North Macedonia and Bulgaria will be examined, as well as the position of non-Greek minorities in Greece.

*Keywords:* minority, religion, Orthodoxy, Southeastern Europe.

**ANIMAL WELFARE LEGAL ANALYSIS:  
CAN A PARALLEL BE CREATED  
WITH HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Nikola Ivković**

PhD, Assistant Professor/Docent at the University of Kragujevac,  
Faculty of Law

**Luka Petrović**

Assistant at the University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

*Abstract:* In the paper, the authors analyze the normative and institutional framework for the protection of animal welfare, as well as the understanding of the legal status of this category of living beings in legal theory. We are led to the need for a reasoned discussion about the rights of animals by numerous social events that inevitably impose the need to reexamine the traditional legal concept according to which all animals are treated only as living movable things. Increasingly frequent cases of abuse and neglect of animals, as well as disturbing scenes of unacceptable treatment of animals in public shelters, represent a realistic basis for legal theory to engage in legal warfare in order to find adequate solutions that will favor the proper protection of all animal species. The mentioned issue leads us to a discussion on the topic: can the concept of “animal rights” be accepted in the future? The highlighted question represents a mental provocation for the authors to deal with the parallel that often appears in the relationship between human rights and animal welfare. The work is therefore devoted to the analysis of decades of discussions on animal rights and is an attempt to unravel the connection between animal welfare and human rights.

*Keywords:* animal rights, animal welfare, right to life, environment, human rights.

**THE ROLE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
AND THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN  
ADDRESSING RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND RELIGIOUS  
DISCRIMINATION IN KOSOVO AND METOCHIA**

**Andrej Jeftić**

PhD, Director, Faith and Order Commission  
World Council of Churches

**Stefan Zeljković**

PhD, Faculty of Orthodox Theology University of Belgrade

*Abstract:* The World Council of Churches (WCC), as an important international ecumenical organization, brings together Christian communities worldwide, including the Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC). Since joining the WCC, the SOC has actively participated in discussions on human rights, with a particular focus on protecting religious freedoms and eliminating discrimination. One of the key topics the SOC has addressed within the WCC framework is the situation in Kosovo and Metochia, where the rights of Orthodox believers are gravely endangered.

In this paper, the authors investigate the WCC's initiatives to raise international awareness of religious discrimination and violations of religious freedoms in Kosovo and Metochia. Special attention is given to the SOC's contribution in presenting specific cases of attacks on Serbian Orthodox churches, monasteries, and believers, as well as legal initiatives aimed at protecting the cultural-historical heritage and the rights of Serbs in Kosovo. The paper will also explore the political and diplomatic efforts of the WCC, in collaboration with the SOC, over the past two and a half decades. These activities include issuing official statements, organizing conferences and meetings with international bodies, and peace-building initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of religious minorities in Kosovo and Metochia. The emphasis will be on how these initiatives have contributed to the development of a consistent policy of international pressure to safeguard the Serbian community and its religious rights.

*Keywords:* World Council of Churches, Serbian Orthodox Church, Kosovo and Metochia, religious freedoms, religious discrimination.

**THE EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS:  
BALANCING SECURITY AND LIBERTY**

**Ajna Jodanović**

PhD, Associate Professor at University of Bihać, Faculty of Law

**Marina M. Simović**

PhD, Associate Professor and Secretary in the Ombudsman for  
Children of the Republic of Srpska, Faculty of Legal Sciences,  
Aperion University in Banja Luka

*Abstract:* The European Arrest Warrant (EAW) has emerged as a cornerstone of judicial cooperation within the European Union, facilitating the swift and efficient surrender of individuals between member states to face prosecution or serve sentences. While the EAW system significantly enhances cross-border security, it raises complex human rights concerns, particularly with regard to the balance between security and individual liberty. This research investigates the impact of the EAW on fundamental rights, focusing on the right to a fair trial, the right to liberty, and protection against inhumane or degrading treatment as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The study examines key cases from the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), analyzing how these courts have navigated the tension between mutual trust among EU member states and the need to protect individual rights. By analyzing both the strengths and shortcomings of the EAW, this research provides a comprehensive assessment of how the EU legal system strives to balance the imperatives of security with the protection of civil liberties. The findings suggest that while the EAW is a crucial tool for combating cross-border crime, its future success depends on ensuring robust human rights safeguards and addressing disparities in judicial standards across member states. The study concludes with recommendations for enhancing the human rights protections within the EAW framework, ensuring that security measures do not come at the cost of fundamental rights.

*Keywords:* European Arrest Warrant (EAW), human rights, security, liberty, Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

**INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE  
ACTION OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

**Zoran Jovanović**

Full-time professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac,  
zjovanovic@jura.kg.ac.rs

**Dejan Vučinić**

Assistant at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac,  
dvucinic@jura.kg.ac.rs

**Andrija Popović**

Associate in higher education at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac,  
apopovic@jura.kg.ac.rs

*Abstract:* The protection of human and minority rights and freedoms is an ever-present topic, especially in the XXI century, when the development of human society brings, on the one hand, numerous social changes of a global scale, and on the other, scientific and technological innovations that penetrate into a number of different social areas. As a result, new risks are created in the functioning of the social community, so it is inevitable that they also change the position that the individual occupies within those frameworks. The particularly sensitive position of the individual can be seen in the way in which he can realize and protect human and minority rights and freedoms, as facts of primary importance for his existence within the framework of the social community.

Scope and protection of human rights, ie the so-called “the circle of legitimate interests of individuals” is closely related to the state’s level of development at a given historical moment. What used to be in the sphere of the “grace of the ruler” over time becomes regulated by legal norms. The tendency to reduce the arbitrariness of the rulers leads to the establishment of administrative control by independent state bodies - special administrative courts, tribunals, commissions, etc., and later various independent control bodies (ombudsmen,

trustees), with the main goal of protecting objective legality and ensuring the realization and protection of human rights and freedoms.

Institutional protection of human rights becomes completer and more diverse over time and is accompanied by awareness of the necessity of developing numerous legal mechanisms aimed at the realization and protection of recognized human and civil rights and freedoms.

The subject of the research will be the development of the institutional protection of human rights and freedoms, with a special focus on the protection of human rights before the institution of the ombudsman, as an independent and independent institution, which, from its inception until today, has proven itself as a very effective mechanism for the realization and protection of human rights. rights and freedom. The subject of the work will be the analysis of other, most important, mechanisms, both international and domestic, through which the protection of very complex and sensitive human and minority rights and freedoms is carried out.

*Keywords:* human rights and freedoms, state administration, judicial protection, ombudsman, citizen.

**PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT OF ELDERLY  
RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE  
AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA)**

**Jelka Lagundžin**

Faculty of Law and Business Studies Dr. Lazar Vrkatić, Union University,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; jelka4@gmail.com

**Miloš Ilić**

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; milos.ilic@mf.uns.ac.rs

*Abstract:* Perceived social support refers to people’s beliefs about the potential availability of support from their relationships and social contacts, as well as the quality of that support. It reflects an individual’s sense of being accepted, loved, and valued by others within their social network. It also serves as a protective factor for the emotional well-being of and is a key contributor to their overall well-being. As people age, social support becomes increasingly necessary for the elderly as they face various challenges, shielding them from the harmful effects of stressful events such as moving into a nursing home or illness. **Aim:** The aim of this research was to assess the perception of social support among elderly residents living in nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Serbia).

**Methods:** This study is designed as a cross-sectional study initiated in May 2024. The presented results provide a snapshot of the data analyzed collected up to September 2024, while the research is ongoing. The current sample consists of 249 participants from 10 nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Data were collected using an online questionnaire administered by trained interviewers during face-to-face interviews with the residents in nursing homes. The Oslo Social Support Scale (OSSS-3) questionnaire was used to measure the level of social support, including three questions related to the support respondents receive from their immediate surroundings, the interest and concern shown by others towards the respondent and their ability to receive practical help when needed. **Results:** So far, the sample consisted of 67.9% female and 32.1% male participants, with an average age of  $77.77 \pm 9.465$ . The results show that the

highest average score in individual domains of social support was in the domain of the ability to receive practical help when needed. In this domain, 57.4% of respondents believe they can receive this type of support, while 5.2% claim they will not receive help from people around them if requested. In the domain measuring interest and concern shown by others, 54.6% believe that others show care and interest in them, while 3.6% feel that no one cares about them. The lowest average score was in the domain of support from the respondent's closest surroundings, where 24.5% have 3-5 people they perceive as trustworthy in case of need, while 29.7% have up to 2 people, and only 6% have no one to confide in. Encouragingly, 34.9% of elderly state to have more than 5 people in their surroundings that they perceive as close and trustworthy individuals whom they can turn to for help when in need. **Conclusions:** Social support plays an important role in the quality of life of the elderly. To facilitate adjustment and the daily challenges that aging brings, social support can ease the difficulties that the elderly face and is associated with many benefits to physical and mental health. The obtained results can be used to plan various action plans aimed at improving social support and thus quality of life of elderly residents in nursing homes in Vojvodina and Serbia. Further activities should focus on collecting additional participants and analyzing the relationships between different examined variables to identify specific risk factors affecting the quality of social support for the elderly.

*Keywords:* social support; mental health; elderly; nursing homes; public health; Vojvodina; Serbia.

**TIME PERSPECTIVE AMONG THE ELDERLY IN  
NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS  
PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA)**

**Jelka Lagundžin**

Faculty of Law and Business Studies Dr. Lazar Vrkatić, Union University,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; jelka4@gmail.com

**Anja Žujović**

Centre for Political Research and Public Opinion, Institute of Social Sciences,  
Belgrade, Serbia; azujovic@idn.org.rs

*Abstract:* Time perspective represents a cognitive framework through which individuals organize, evaluate and experience past, present and future events. This orientation toward time significantly influences decision-making, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life. For the elderly, time perspective becomes particularly important as aging brings challenges such as health problems, loss of independence and social changes, as well as adaptation to these life changes. **Aim:** The aim of this research is to examine how elderly individuals in nursing homes perceive their past, present, and future. The study seeks to identify dominant patterns of time perspective (e.g., positive past, fatalistic present, future orientation) and that can impact on the quality of life of nursing home residents. **Methods:** This study is designed as a cross-sectional study initiated in May 2024. The results presented provide a snapshot of analyzed data collected up to September 2024, while the research remains ongoing. The current sample consists of 249 participants from 10 nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Data were collected using an online questionnaire, administered by trained interviewers during face-to-face interviews with the residents in nursing homes. The TP-18 time perspective assessment scale (shortened adapted version) developed by Nedeljković and Kostić (2017) is based on Zimbardo’s Time Perspective Inventory (ZTPI) with a focus on five main time dimensions (Positive Past, Negative Past, Hedonistic Present, Fatalistic Present, and Future). **Results:** The sample consisted of 67.9% female and 32.1% male participants, with an average age of  $77.77 \pm 9.465$ . Results of this study show that

elderly often tend to rely more on memories and reflections about the past (30.3%). This past can be viewed through either positive or negative perspective. Elderly who recall their lives with satisfaction often demonstrate a higher level of psychological well-being. These individuals are prone to feelings of gratitude for their experiences and achievements, which helps them face the challenges of aging (41.4%). On the other hand, elderly who focus on negative past experiences (18%) may experience feelings of regret, sadness, or guilt, which can lead to depression and anxiety. For elderly, the future can be perceived as time-limited and uncertain (12.7%), leading to a decreased emphasis on long-term planning. Many elderly focus less on the distant future and more on short-term goals or current activities (15.4%). This reduced focus on the future may encourage elderly to concentrate more on the present moment and appreciate small pleasures in life, which is often associated with greater life satisfaction. However, the sense that the future is limited (29%) can provoke fear of death or feelings of loss of control over one's own life among some elderly. **Conclusions:** Time perspective plays a key role in the lives of elderly nursing home residents, influencing their outlook on life, mental health and overall well-being. Better understanding how older adults perceive the past, present and future can aid in tailoring support strategies that allow them to cope with the challenges of aging in a way that promotes a positive relationship with time and their life experiences.

*Keywords:* time perspective, mental health, elderly, nursing homes, public health, Vojvodina, Serbia.

**PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS  
THROUGH THE OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION:  
CASE OF REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA  
AND REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**Iskra Akimovska Maletić**

PhD, Full Professor at the Faculty of Security - Skopje,  
University “St. Kliment Ohridski” - Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia,  
iskra.maletic@gmail.com

**Marko Vidacek**

LLM, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Security - Skopje,  
University “St. Kliment Ohridski” - Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia  
vidacek.m@gmail.com

*Abstract:* Despite the long history of the establishment and functioning of ombudsman institutions in the world, there is still a growing interest in their establishment and strengthening of their competences, due to the significant role it has in terms of the protection of human rights and freedoms in modern societies. The ombudsman, as an informal, additional, non-repressive and non-judicial mechanism for the protection of human rights and freedoms, protects the citizens from maladministration. Based on the mandate of ombudsman institutions, they play a major role in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, promotion of good governance and respect for the rule of law. In that aspect, regardless of the type of ombudsman institution, i.e. whether they are established at the national, regional or local level, they should be independent and autonomous institutions, in accordance with the adopted principles for the protection and promotion of the ombudsman institution.

In the paper, starting from the international standards and practices for the establishment and functioning of the ombudsman institution, a comparative analysis of the ombudsman institution in the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia is carried out. Therefore the constitutional, legal and organizational setting of this institution in both countries is analyzed, in order to show the key similarities and differences regarding the functioning of the

ombudsman institution in the protection of human rights and freedoms. The results of the analysis will provide a clearer understanding of the advantages and disadvantages in the establishment and functioning of the ombudsman institutions in both countries and their contribution to the realization of the protection of human rights and freedoms.

*Keywords:* ombudsman, human rights, freedoms, North Macedonia, Serbia, human rights institutions.

**ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS’ ATTITUDES  
ON THE IMPACT OF THE APPLICATION OF  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Jelena Matijašević**

Full Professor, Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary in Novi Sad,  
University Business Academy in Novi Sad,  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8068-0816>,  
[jelena@pravni-fakultet.info](mailto:jelena@pravni-fakultet.info)

**Milena Galetin**

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary in Novi Sad,  
University Business Academy in Novi Sad,  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1489-6050>,  
[milena.galetin@pravni-fakultet.info](mailto:milena.galetin@pravni-fakultet.info)

*Abstract:* The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in modern society implies the application of the latest technological achievements to solve various issues, problems and situations. However, in that process, basic rights and freedoms could be seriously threaten. The authors examine and analyze the attitudes of students of undergraduate academic studies at the Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary in Novi Sad on the impact of AI application on various human rights. The paper consists of three parts. After the introduction and theoretical analysis, the results of the empirical research are presented in the second part of the paper. For this purpose, a prepared questionnaire - a survey for the predetermined target group was used. The authors’ conclusions and recommendations concerning the improvement of understanding and explainability AI systems and tools related to the subject of research, among student population are given in the final part of the paper. It also contributes to the broader goal of the research - human rights protection enhancement in the era of AI in a wider sense.

*Keywords:* Protection of human rights, artificial intelligence and human rights, artificial intelligence and students’ attitudes.

## **DATA PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN AS AN INSTRUMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION**

**Jelena Milivojevic**

Local ombudsman of City of Kragujevac,  
PhD candidate Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac,  
jelenajovicickg@gmail.com

*Abstract:* The subject of this paper is the analyses of the form of human rights protection in the field of digital technologies. The ombudsman is an independent and neutral state body in the public administration system. The aim of the ombudsman is to guarantee the realization and protection of human rights. In this paper, author studies a specialized ombudsman in the digital field with special reference to those systems where it is a normative part. The existence of such state body will be sought using by comparative method with special reference to the Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon models. Special attention in the work will be focused on competences, authorizations and procedure at the data protection ombudsman. In particular, the practice will be analyzed as well as the effects of the introduction of this special ombudsman in this area in relation to those countries where such a type does not exist.

*Keywords:* ombudsman, human rights, data, protection.

**“EASY” DETERMINATION OF DETENTION**  
—  
**LONG-TERM PRACTICE OF THE COURTS IN SERBIA**

**Marko Milović**

PhD, Associate professor at the Faculty of Law,  
Megatrend University in Belgrade

**Ratomir Antonović**

Research associate at the Institute of Serbian Culture Priština - Leposavić,  
antonovicr@gmail.com

*Abstract:* lenient determination, but also the extension of custody, is a decades-long “pain” in court practice, inherited from the former socialist times of the former Yugoslavia. Connoisseurs of the judicial situation in Serbia can notice that although a lot has changed in the last half century in all segments of life, including in the judiciary, the old and bad habit is still maintained that custody is the best and safest solution for ensuring the presence of the accused in criminal proceedings. procedure. As a result, we have a large number of detained persons, even though there is objectively no need for it, especially if it is subsequently established (after final acquittals, the onset of the absolute statute of limitations of criminal prosecution or the public prosecutor’s withdrawal from further criminal prosecution) that they were unjustifiably deprived of their liberty or unjustifiably convicted because of for which we are obliged to compensate them materially, and for which we are at the top of the infamous ladder in Europe. It is known that the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for other (milder) measures to ensure the presence of the accused in criminal proceedings (Chapter VIII), and that care must be taken not to apply a more severe measure including detention, if the same purpose can be achieved achieve with a milder measure. The paper provides a critical overview of the current practice of the courts, because the determination and sometimes (long-term) extension of detention in certain cases represents a threat and violation of the human rights of defendants in criminal proceedings.

*Keywords:* determination of detention, duration of detention, defendant, court, measures to ensure the presence of the defendant and for the smooth conduct of criminal proceedings.

**DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS AMONG ELDERLY  
RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE  
AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (SERBIA)**

**Tamara Musić**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; tamaramusic25@gmail.com

**Dajana Erceg**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad,  
Novi Sad, Serbia; dajana.erceg97@gmail.com

*Abstract:* Depression is one of the most prevalent mental health conditions among the elderly, with nursing home residents being at an increased risk. Previous studies suggest that the prevalence of depression varies between 15% and 48% among nursing home residents. Nevertheless, depression remains underdiagnosed and undertreated among this population, despite its adverse consequences on physical, cognitive and social functioning. Untreated depressive symptoms may also contribute to slower recovery from illnesses and surgery, increased use of healthcare services and a poorer quality of life. **Aim:** This study aimed to evaluate symptoms of depression among elderly residents living in nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Serbia). **Methods:** This cross-sectional study, initiated in May 2024, presents a snapshot of the data collected up to September 2024, while the research is still ongoing. Data were gathered from 10 nursing homes in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. A set of questionnaires was administered by trained interviewers during in-person interviews with the residents. To assess depression scores among elderly residents, we used The Geriatric Depression Scale: Short Form (GDS:SF). This 15-item screening tool provides “Yes/No” answers while taking into account the specificities of depression symptoms among older adults. Each point suggested the presence of depression, with categories indicating mild (5-8), moderate (9-11) and severe (12-15) depressive symptoms. **Results:** The current sample included 249 participants, comprising 67.9% females and 32.1% males, with a mean age of 77.77 (SD = ±9.465) years. The mean score on the GDS:SF was 4.21 (SD=±3.61).

Of the participants, 22.5% exhibited mild depressive symptoms, 7.6% exhibited moderate depressive symptoms, and 6.4% presented with severe depressive symptoms. These findings suggest a notable prevalence of depressive symptoms among the sample population, with varying degrees of severity. **Conclusions:** The findings of this study indicate that a significant portion of elderly residents in nursing homes in Vojvodina have depressive symptoms, with over one-third showing signs of depression ranging from mild to severe. These results highlight the need for enhanced screening and targeted interventions to address depression in this vulnerable population. Early detection and treatment of symptoms of depression could help improve the residents' overall quality of life and reduce the burden on healthcare systems. Further research is warranted to explore factors contributing to depression and to develop effective strategies for its management.

*Keywords:* depression; mental health; elderly; nursing homes; Vojvodina; Serbia.

## **THE PHENOMENON OF TWINS FROM A MENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE**

### **Željka Nikolašević**

Dr Željka Nikolašević is an Assistant Professor at the University of Novi Sad,  
Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychology  
zeljka.nikolasevic@mf.uns.ac.rs

### **Vojislava Bugarski Ignjatović**

Dr Vojislava Bugarski Ignjatović is a Full Professor at the University  
of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychology  
vojilsava.bugarski-ignjatovic@mf.uns.ac.rs

*Abstract:* Growing up as a singleton is psychologically and biologically different from growing up as a twin. Studies have revealed that twins' unique relationships are linked to various aspects of their lives, including mental health, conduct problems, social relations, and educational attainment. Studies comparing emotional and behavioral functioning in twins and singletons have yielded mixed results. Earlier findings have demonstrated that different qualities in a twin relationship are connected to the psycho-emotional well-being of individual twins. Most research has evaluated twin-singleton differences from a negative perspective, anticipating more maladaptive functioning and marked vulnerability among twins, with high interdependence and submissiveness as risk factors for maladaptive adjustment. Other studies have suggested that twinship may act as a protective factor in the development of mental health. This paper considers these different results in the light of determining risk factors for twinning and identifying potential effective interventions.

*Keywords:* Twin relationships; co-twin dependence; psycho-emotional distress; mental health; upbringing.

**PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH  
THE INCRIMINATION OF STALKING IN  
THE CRIMINAL CODE OF SERBIA**

**Gordana Nikolić**

Gordana Nikolić, LL.D. is a Research Associate and Criminal Inspector  
at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia  
chupka84@gmail.com

*Abstract:* The criminal offense of stalking was introduced into the criminal legislation of the Republic of Serbia in 2016, as one of the many amendments that followed in a series of amendments to the Criminal Code from 2005, the implementation of which began on January 1, 2006 and which is still, with all, novellas applies. As a necessary need to incriminate the act of stalking that modern society has encountered and the criminal justice system has improved, this crime was included in the group of crimes against the freedoms and rights of man and citizen. Bearing in mind that the incrimination of this act primarily protects the safety of citizens, the fact that the same incrimination protects the freedoms and rights of man and citizen is of extreme importance for the legal system. In the paper, the author analyzes the criminal offense of stalking in the legislation of Serbia, but also reviews the same solutions in the criminal justice systems of the countries of the region, all with the aim of focusing on the protection of human rights by the action of this criminal offense and pointing to the improvement of criminal law conceptual norms in order to more fully protect freedoms. and the rights of man and citizen.

*Keywords:* human rights, stalking, protection, criminal offense, Criminal Code.

**PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
—  
**PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
OR PROTECTION FROM HOMOPHOBIA**

**Ana Ogrizović**

Deputy of Local ombudsperson of Municipality  
of Stari grad, Belgrade

*Abstract:* Although the Universal Declarations on human rights of contemporary and modern society, so as numerous international and bilateral agreements, proclaim mandatory provisions on protection of human and basic rights, and the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination, in contemporary world there are still examples that, even though the aforementioned provisions are mandatory, some social groups are marginalized, unprotected and stigmatized. Starting from the foundation of civilization, due to it's legal and social system, namely from the time of ancient Greece, homosexuality within certain social classes was accepted, and it was the part of daily life and culture, mythology and social status. Despite the fact that homosexual relations were related to the members of the upper social class, and the fact that it implied social and financial support from the partner, from a social point of view it created inferiority of passive partners. The essence of acceptability of homosexual relations in ancient Greece was establishing subordination relations, and passivity in relations was reserved only to women and men up to the certain level of their maturity. Therefore, homosexuality is not modern era phenomenon, although it was present in ancient history, but society's attitude towards homosexuality was changing throughout history. In this article, the Author will refer to some examples from the recent past, which will demonstrate that even in societies where homosexuality is accepted, some members of society are discriminated against, depending on their profession or life calling, while in some societies in present time, homosexuality is subject to severe prison punishments and even death penalty. The Author creates possibility for taking a position with regards to the question Is the change of society's position towards the homosexuality result of improvement of moral norms and modern people's attitude, or is condemnation of homosexuality result

of modern people’s weakness to confront their fears, and ingrained urge to subordinate weak and sensitive groups.

*Keywords:* Human rights, protection of human rights, discrimination, LGBT rights and freedoms, and morality.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES:  
INVISIBLE VICTIMS OF CLIMATE  
CHANGE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW?**

**Enis Omerović**

PhD, professor at University of Zenica, Faculty of Law  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, enis.omerovic@unze.ba

*Abstract:* Climate change represents one of the most serious challenges of modern society, and its consequences increasingly force people to migrate. Environmental refugees, i.e. people forced to leave their homes due to ecological disasters and environmental degradation, such as severe droughts, floods, rising sea levels, or other extreme weather conditions, undoubtedly face insecurity and legal invisibility. The author explores whether there is specific legal protection for this category of people and whether appropriate legal rules in international law would recognize and protect their particular needs. This paper examines the existing legal framework and definitions of refugees according to international law, pointing out their shortcomings to ecological migrants. The existing international legal framework for refugees, especially the Convention on the Status of Refugees from 1951 and its Protocol from 1967, does not include environmental refugees because, according to the definition of refugees, they must leave their country of origin due to “persecution based on race, religion, nationality, belonging to a certain social group or political opinion”. Climate change and environmental disasters, as causes of migration, are not included in this definition, which means that persons forced to migrate due to environmental factors do not formally meet the conditions for refugee status. International legal instruments and initiatives are analyzed, as well as the responsibilities of states and international organizations in protecting environmental refugees. Some political and legal acts try to indirectly address the problem of environmental migration, such as the Global Compact for Migration from 2018 or the 2015 Paris Agreement. However, there is still no specific international treaty that would recognize and protect environmental refugees. Some contemporary challenges include legal protection through human rights in a way that ecological migrants

can refer to certain human rights instruments cataloguing particular human rights (e.g. right to life, security), but this does not guarantee permanent protection or specific benefits of refugee status. Some regional documents (e.g. the Kampala Convention, formally the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa) indirectly recognize ecological migration but do not provide formal refugee status. Finally, certain countries allow temporary residence for people affected by environmental disasters, but these domestic measures, although they represent evidence of state practice, are not internationally standardized or long-term. Environmental refugees, due to their current status in international law, remain legally invisible victims of climate change. Due to the increasing impacts of climate change on migration flows, there is a comprehensive need to develop a legal framework that would provide adequate protection through specific international legal instruments, expand the definition of refugees or adopt special international rules for ecological migrants. The paper accordingly proposes possible legal mechanisms and reform approaches that could improve the status and rights of environmental refugees, highlighting the urgent need to adapt international law to respond to the humanitarian challenges caused by climate change faster and more decisively.

*Keywords:* climate change, environmental refugees, human rights protection, UNHCR, IOM, Convention on the Status of Refugees.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THROUGH THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE NEW GREEK STATE AND TODAY**

**Alexios P. Panagopoulos**

Academician - Ordinary Member European Academy of Sciences  
and Arts - Salzburg, Austria and director EPLO - European Public Law  
Organization for Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Montenegro.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-9304-4040>

*Abstract:* All Greek Constitutions after liberation from the Turkish yoke proclaimed the democratic and non-kingdom character of the state, containing the extensive lists and values of fundamental constitutional human rights. Within the framework of the emergence of the first party formations with the influence of the Western Great Powers, such as England, France, Russia. The political confrontation would lead to a civil strife of 1823-1825, a development that undermined and disrupted the mild application of human rights and constitutional liberties. The complications created by the assertion of political power, after the revolutionary conditions and the creation of the poles of power, will exhaust the people materially and spiritually. The provosts of the people will co-constitute the main representatives and political actors of the new Greek State. The National Assemblies voted three constitutional texts of the years 1822, 1823, 1827, which had strong influences on human rights from the French Constitutions of 1793 and 1795, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, the Constitutional design of the “Charter” of Rigas Feraios - Velestinlis, year 1797, and the three Constitutions of the Ionian Islands, as well as the positive influences from customary law and written and unwritten tradition. The Greek revolution had the character of a rebellion for human rights and was against slavery. The national, liberating, leading role of the Orthodox clergy, who sacrificed thousands for freedom and human rights and today teaches us about high ideals. These ideals call us to have a timeless application and to guide with morals and ethics the modern legislator of each state, to protect and guard even the bioethical and modern international human rights, but also the wider constitutional human rights.

*Keywords:* Human rights, constitutional freedoms, ethics, morality and the new Greek State.

## **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

### **Ivan Petrović**

MSc Ivan S. Petrović, Master of law, coordinator of the Regional Chamber of Mediators of Serbia for Raski administrative district, ivanpetrovicjoske@gmail.com

### **Aleksandar R. Ivanović**

Phd Aleksandar R. Ivanović, Associate professor of Faculty of law in Lukavica, BEM University Banja Luka, aleksandar.ivanovic@pravnifakultet.edu.ba

*Abstract:* The authors of the paper address the procurement and installation of video surveillance by local governments in the Republic of Serbia, in violation of the law, which leads to breaches of administrative legality, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of RS,” No. 98/2006 and 115/2021). This violation infringes upon international privacy rights, in line with international legal instruments, and is directly connected to guaranteed constitutional rights, resulting in breaches of the rights to: personal data protection, freedom of movement, fair trial, and especially the rights of the accused.

Additionally, the authors emphasize that, conversely, one of the tasks of state institutions is to actively and constructively engage to prevent the procurement of video surveillance systems for recording public areas by local governments, as they do not have the legal authority to do so. This would ensure the legal security of all citizens of the Republic of Serbia and prevent violations of their fundamental freedoms and rights. Specifically, the aim of the paper is to address the issue of the violation of basic freedoms and rights of citizens in the aforementioned segments.

*Keywords:* video surveillance, right to privacy, personal data protection, freedom of movement, fair trial, special rights of the accused, local government, legality of administration, protection of human rights.

## **DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE OF PROTESTS IN SERBIA**

**Milana Pisarić**

Assistant Professor, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Law,  
mpisarić@pf.uns.ac.rs

*Abstract:* The digital surveillance of protests, both in physical spaces and online, should not imply harmful impact on those exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of expression, particularly in connection with the use of new and emerging digital tracking tools by police and security services. The author analyzes the national legal framework, and raises concerns over human rights compliance regarding the use of digital technologies for the facilitation of peaceful protests in Serbia. The author also considers the technical and practical toolkit developed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in order to recognize international human rights standards and good practices.

*Keywords:* digital surveillance, digital rights, protests, law enforcement.

## **THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF JUDGES, PROSECUTORS AND LAWYERS**

**Stefan Radojčić**

Lecturer and Researcher at the Law Faculty of the University of Novi Sad,  
Department of International Law and International Relations.

*Abstract:* Freedom of expression is one of fundamental rights in a democratic society. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. However, its exercise may be subject to restrictions or penalties, if prescribed by law and necessary in a democratic society. Further to that, such restrictions must be in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or especially for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary. Bearing in mind the importance of these subjects of judiciary system to achieving the rule of law, it is particularly relevant to analyze frontiers of their freedom of expression as set by the European Court of Human Rights. Such an analysis entails the notion of interference by a state and assessment of its legitimacy and necessity in a democratic society.

*Keywords:* freedom of expression, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, rule of law.

## ON MILITARY OMBUDSMAN

**Milan Rapajić**

PhD, Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Kragujevac  
mrapajic@jura.kg.ac.rs

*Abstract:* Control of the administration is possible through the general ombudsman, however, in addition to the ombudsman of general jurisdiction, there are also specialized ombudsmen in a certain number of states. The subject of the work is the analysis of the position of the military ombudsman in certain countries. Otherwise, according to the position in the state system, all countries can be divided into three large groups: countries in which there is a military ombudsman and he is elected by the parliament, then, countries in which the military ombudsman is appointed by the minister of defense and countries in which there is an ombudsman of general competence, which includes jurisdiction of the ombudsman and for the defense system. Also, there are countries, of which there are the most, where there is no military ombudsman institute. The comparative-legal method is used to analyze the peculiarities of the states that are representatives of the mentioned groups, with an indication of the advantages and disadvantages of different models.

At the end of the work, it is concluded that military ombudsmen are in a very delicate position because they operate in an environment that is not democratic as a rule, and at the same time they have to find a balance between the needs of the military sector and the inalienable human rights they protect.

*Keywords:* army, military ombudsman, administration control.

**CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR MONEY LAUNDERING  
IN FUNCTION OF CRIME SUPPRESSION POLICY:  
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE  
LAW OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**Miodrag N. Simović**

Academician, PhD,

full member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
full professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Bihać, professor emeritus,  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5116, msimovic@anubih.ba>

**Vladimir M. Simović**

PhD, prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, full professor at the  
Faculty of Security and Protection Independent University in Banja Luka  
ORCID: [https://orcid.org/0009-0002-9640-6488, vlado\\_s@blic.net](https://orcid.org/0009-0002-9640-6488, vlado_s@blic.net)

*Abstract:* In the structure of economic crime today, a large number of countries prescribe criminal liability and punishment for a specific criminal offense called “money laundering” or “concealment of illegal property gain”. This is incrimination, the introduction of which in positive criminal justice system represents a reaction to the inefficiency of the competent state criminal justice authorities to use effective measures to oppose to different forms or types of crime by which the perpetrators (natural or legal persons) acquire, come into possession of illegal property benefit.

In order to suppress money laundering, which would at the same time prevent money obtained through criminal activity and other types of property benefits from being legalized, a system of international standards was established within the framework of the international community, so that this fight would be successful and efficient. Based on these standards, universal or regional, individual national legislations prescribe a specific economic crime, which is most often called “money laundering”. For the perpetrators of these crimes are prescribed severe punishments, as well as other types of criminal sanctions.

The situation is similar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, due to its specific constitutional and legal structure, in the field of criminal legislation,

prescribes criminal liability and punishment for the criminal offense of money laundering in four legal texts of this type. In addition to criminal legislation, the prevention and suppression of money laundering is also dealt with by a special financial law - the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorist Activities.

Proceeding from the above, this paper considers money laundering in universal and regional international documents, the legal system of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and money laundering as a criminal offense.

*Keywords:* international standards, money laundering, criminal offense, property, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**DECENTRALISATION AND NEOLIBERALISM:  
CHALLENGES IN SOCIAL PROTECTION  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Lazar Stefanović**

PhD Candidate at the Department for European, International  
and Comparative Law, University of Vienna  
lazar.m.stefanovic@gmail.com

*Abstract:* This article examines the decentralisation of social protection services, particularly for persons with disabilities, as part of broader neoliberal trends in governance. It critiques how neoliberal policies undermine the implementation of international human rights law, especially in smaller, less wealthy states like Serbia. Drawing from legal and political theory, the paper explores how decentralisation may weaken local service provision, exacerbating inequalities. The analysis includes Austria and Serbia, illustrating differing challenges these countries face in delivering social services and complying with international human rights law. The article then proposes constructive recommendations, advocating for a more targeted role for the state, particularly in Serbia, to ensure consistent and effective service delivery. By situating these issues within the framework of neoliberal governance, the paper contributes to discussions on the role of the state in safeguarding social protection and rights of vulnerable groups.

*Keywords:* governance, decentralisation, neoliberalism, human rights, disability.

## **THE ROMAN CONCEPT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MAN OBSERVED THROUGH THE PRISM OF CONTEMPORARY HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Nenad Stefanović**

PhD, Associate professor at The Faculty of Law in Novi Sad,  
The University of Business Academy in Novi Sad, Serbia,  
nenad@pravni-fakultet.edu.rs

**Tamara Crevar**

Associate professor at The Faculty of Law in Novi Sad,  
The University of Business Academy in Novi Sad, Serbia,

*Abstract:* The subject of this paper is a comparative presentation of basic civil and human rights in the long period of the Roman Empire, throughout different eras of duration. The goal of the research is to analyze legal, historical and scientific texts, and by using analytical, deductive, comparative and historical scientific methods, to determine whether the civil rights of some layers of society in ancient Rome, from different periods of the development of the Roman state, influenced the emergence and interpretation of the modern term and the concept of human rights. From Roman citizens (cives), and a wide range of associated rights, through other classes of free society (peregrines, clients and Latins), all the way to slaves, in the sense of “things that speak” (Instrumentum vocale), and not human beings, Roman law defined the social status of its citizens and determined their position on the social ladder. In the paper, the authors will try to find the correlation and origins of the rights of the men defined in the ancient period and human rights created after the Second World War, defined in the General Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Defining and protecting basic human rights is an “eternal topic” that, due to the danger of abuse and misinterpretation, deserves to determine the origin and roots of such an important issue.

*Keywords:* human rights, Roman law, slaves, right to life, right to freedom.

## **INSURANCE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA\***

**Zorica L. Šipovac**

Master of Law and Advisor for the sale of all types of insurance  
at Wiener Stadtische Insurance, in Novi Sad, Serbia  
zoricasisipovac@gmail.com; z.sipovac@wiener.co.rs

*Abstract:*

*“Vision: The Art of Seeing the Unseen.”, Jonathan Swift.*

In this scientific paper, the author will prove the necessity of the (r)evolution of the Serbian insurance market from “traditional to modern insurance”, as well as awareness and gender equalization of insurance in the broadest sense of “men’s and women’s business” in accordance with the needs of the development of modern society.

From its inception until today, insurance is one of the highest quality forms of securing human life and all its aspects and values on the insurance market in the Republic of Serbia and in the world. Accordingly, the Serbian insurance market must not slow down, but must catch up with the current situation. In this paper, the author points out linguistic differences where it is undeniable that the Serbian insurance market is exclusively a “male” business, as evidenced by the names of most insurance companies (DUNAV, DDOR, WIENER STADTISCHE OSIGURANJE, GENERALI OSIGURANJUM, MILENIJUM, GRAWE, GLOBOS, AMSS, MERKUR...) of which there are only a few “female” insurance companies (UNIQA, SAVA). The situation is similar with insurance assistance that helps the work of insurance companies (“male” CORIS, ATLAS 24H, TESLA... while there are no “female” ones). The author then shows the structures of employees in the leading structures of insurance companies, where in the last five years undeniably sees the evolution of management personnel in the Serbian

---

\* All views and opinions expressed in this scientific paper are those of the authors and cannot be considered the official views of the Wiener Stadtische osiguranje.

insurance market from “male to female”. The National Bank of Serbia, as the supervisory body of the Serbian insurance market, is female, while the most important Association of Insurers of Serbia, i.e. UOS, is middle or male. The most important European association of insurers, EIOPA, is still female.

The author shows the names of jobs that are mostly male, the gender structure of the employees, the imbalance in the amount of employees’ wages (reductions in wages, i.e. “setbacks and punishment” in the career due to the birth and care of children), then different forms of mobbing of employees - mostly against women. Finally, the author shows in her paper the terminological evolution of both the names of insurance products, as well as examples of the harmonization of tariffs that define different contracting of life insurance for men and women. At the end of this work, the most recent revolution “from male to female insurance” is presented - a concrete example from the practice of female business insurance in the Republic of Serbia (“Osiguranje OsnaZena” Project)

The current operating system of active insurance companies and the imbalance of insurance offers viewed through the provision of certain life and non-life types of insurance in the Republic of Serbia has been greatly “eroded by the ravages of time”, which can be seen in the self-initiative and different solutions of insurance companies to the insurance needs of modern society. This diversity in the insurance market calls for the necessity of practical and theoretical harmonization, as well as legislative formulation through adequate regulation of the legal regulations of the Republic of Serbia at the domestic and international level, in order to avoid “legal gaps” and different interpretations, and achieve timely prevention of potential frauds and insurance abuse, and ultimately achieved the preservation of “gender equality and the security of the domestic and world legal order.”

*“If you’re not constantly learning and improving yourself, rest assured that someone else, somewhere, is doing just that.” Brian Tracy.*

*Keywords:* insurance, (r)evolution, women’s insurance, empowered.

**ECONOMIC FREEDOMS AND THEIR IMPACT ON  
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA:  
ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE  
PRISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Marko Tmušić**

Associate Professor

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4745-6078>

marko.tmusic@fpn.bg.ac.rs

*Abstract:* This paper investigates the connection between economic freedoms, political and economic institutions, and economic growth in the Republic of Serbia, with a special focus on human rights. In the context of global economic changes, economic freedoms are considered key factors in stimulating growth and development. The paper analyzes how institutions, which shape the legal and economic framework, influence the realization of economic freedoms and how these freedoms, in turn, contribute to economic growth. It also emphasizes the importance of human rights as a necessary condition for sustainable economic performance. It will demonstrate how the institutional structure in Serbia shapes economic dynamics and the consequences this has for human rights and social progress. The research findings are expected to provide insights into potential reforms that could enhance economic freedoms and encourage sustainable economic growth in Serbia.

*Keywords:* economic freedom, economic growth, human rights, political and economic institutions, Republic of Serbia.

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION,  
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, HATE CRIMES  
AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION:  
BETWEEN PROPORTIONALITY AND ABUSE**

**Lorena Velasco Guerrero**

Dr Lorena Velasco is assistant professor at  
the University Francisco de Vitoria in Spain  
lorena.velasco@ufv.es

*Abstract:* Freedom of expression - the freedom to impart thoughts, ideas, and opinions, and the freedom to communicate and receive truthful information - “constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the primary conditions for its progress and for the development of each individual” (Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter ECtHR) in the case of *Handyside v. United Kingdom*, of December 7, 1976). It is a fundamental and inalienable right, inherent to all people, enshrined both in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the respective constitutional texts of the Member States. These rights - included in Article 20 of the Spanish Constitution - are defined:

“as shaping elements of our democratic political system.” For the Spanish Constitutional Court, these rights guarantee “a constitutional interest: the formation and existence of a free public opinion, a guarantee that is of special importance since, being a prior and necessary condition for the exercise of other rights inherent in the functioning of a democratic system, it becomes, in turn, one of the pillars of a free and democratic society. In order for citizens to be able to freely form their opinions and participate responsibly in public affairs, they must also be widely informed, so that they can weigh diverse and even opposing opinions” (Circular 7/2019, of 14 May).

The practical affirmation of these fundamental rights may entail limitations, since they are rights that are not absolute. At present, the two areas in

which freedom of expression and freedom of the press are being limited are: the fight against disinformation and hate crimes.

The fight against disinformation has occupied the European political arena for almost a decade. In 2015, the European Council established the “need to counter disinformation campaigns from Russia.” This was the first step in a process that culminated with the Action Plan for the Fight against Disinformation, approved in 2018. As part of this fight, several European governments have developed campaigns against disinformation and hate crimes. In Spain, this campaign has been reinforced in recent months through the presentation of various legislative measures - such as the Proposal for an Organic Law on the Guarantee of the Right to Truthful Information and the Fight against Disinformation, presented for processing on 31 May 2024 - and political measures - such as the Action Plan for Democracy, approved by the Council of Ministers on September 24, 2024, which, among its objectives, seeks to “combat the risks faced by democracies, such as disinformation”. On the other hand, hate crimes - regulated in Chapter IV of Title XXI of Book II of the Spanish Penal Code - are intended to prohibit and criminally punish actions aimed at inciting hatred against different groups or individuals, or at direct humiliation and degradation. However, in recent years, the scope of application of this crime has been expanded by modifying the typical conduct through Organic Law 6/2022, of 12 July, complementary to Law 15/2022, of 12 July, comprehensive for equal treatment and non-discrimination, which amended Organic Law 10/1995, of 23 November, of the Penal Code.

Although it is true that freedom of expression cannot provide cover for so-called hate speech (ECHR of 8 July 1999, *Ergödu and Ince v. Turkey*; of 4 December 2003, *Gündüz v. Turkey*; and of 6 July 2006, *Erbakan v. Turkey*), nor for false information or disinformation; when considering its limitations, it cannot be forgotten that:

its “structural nature determines a wide margin for the free expression of ideas and opinions, and also for criticism, ‘even when it is tasteless and may annoy, disturb or displease those addressed, as this is required by pluralism, tolerance, and the spirit of openness, without which there is no democratic society’” (STC 174/2006). For the same reason, the freedom of any opinion must be respected, “no matter how wrong or dangerous it may seem (...), even those that attack the democratic system itself. The Constitution, it has been said, also protects those who deny it” (STC 176/1995). And this is so because “in our system - unlike others in our environment - there is no room for a model of ‘militant democracy’, that is, ‘a model in which not just respect, but positive adherence to the legal order, and,

first and foremost, to the Constitution, is imposed” (STC 48/2003)” (Circular 7/2019, of 14 May).

The essential role that these right plays in democratic societies calls for special caution in its limitation, as the use of these types of crime to restrict freedom of expression and political pluralism is not foreign to our constitutional history, nor to the current situation in contemporary legislative systems. For this reason, in this research, we aim to analyze the measures taken in the fight against disinformation and hate crimes in Spain and Europe over the past decade. Our goal is to determine whether these measures impose proportional limitations or, conversely, are being used to restrict the right to freedom of expression and information in a way that casts doubt on their true validity.

*Keywords:* disinformation, hate crimes, freedom of expression, freedom of information, legal guarantees.

## **THE RESEARCH ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF ELDERLY IN INSTITUTIONS OF SOCIAL CARE IN APV**

**Jagoda Vještica**

Senior adviser at the Provincial protector of Citizens - Ombudsman, Novi Sad,  
jagoda.vjestica@vojvodina.gov.rs

*Abstract:* In 2024, the Provincial Protector of Citizens - the Ombudsman, in cooperation with the external team of established medical and psychological experts, conducted research in Gerontology centers and homes for the elderly and pensioners founded by the Provincial Government in order to determine the quality of life and mental health of the elderly who are users of the services of social welfare institutions. Bearing in mind that according to the latest population census in the Republic of Serbia, every fifth resident is over 65 years old and that we therefore have a negative natural increase, as well as that the largest number of households in the Republic is with one household member, it is clear that the need for accommodation services according to The Law on Social Protection (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 24/2011 and 117/2022-decision US) is an urgent need for which the average wait is half a year or longer.

According to the facts that indicate an insufficient number of employed professional workers and associates in Gerontological centers and homes for the elderly and pensioners founded by the Provincial Government, the reasons for which elderly people decide to be placed in a home, the conditions in which employees and users of accommodation services live and work in institutions, the presence of chronic diseases and disabilities in the elderly, it is clear that in the part of social protection related to: rights and services; protection, support and improvement of the quality of professional work; financing of social protection, they must establish and provide better conditions and financial resources.

Gerontological centers and homes for the elderly in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina participated in the sample examined and processed so far, which the Provincial Citizens’ Protector - Ombudsman, in cooperation with the team, directly visited and talked to over 249 users of residential care services.

*Keywords:* elderly people, social care institutions, social care, home placement service, social workers and professional workers and associates.

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND  
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AS A  
PRESUMPTION OF DEMOCRACY**

**Jelena Vučković**

Full Professor at University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

**Anika Kovačević**

Assistant Professor at University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

**Ružica Kijevčanin**

Assistant Professor at University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law

*Abstract:* Freedom of expression and freedom of speech are fundamental human rights that have constitutional status and are guaranteed in international documents. Their realization directly affects the realization of democracy in every society. Freedom of expression and freedom of speech can often cause confusion, giving the impression that they are one and the same right. In the work, the authors make a distinction between freedom of thought, freedom of expression and freedom of speech, especially referring to the challenges brought about by technological development. Freedom of expression and freedom of speech in the field of digital media and under the influence of artificial intelligence acquire a new meaning and importance. These human rights are subject to restrictions that can be legal and legitimate, but also vice versa, which leads to their endangerment and violation. This (il)legal state of freedom of expression and freedom of speech also affects other human rights because conditions are created for their narrowing, jeopardy and violation in practice. The manifestation of these freedoms is particularly visible through the media, which exerts a key influence on modern democratic processes and institutions, but the right to privacy, as a personal right, can also be seriously challenged. The European Court of Human Rights, applying the European Convention on the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms, established standards regarding the enjoyment of these rights, as well as their limitations, which will be a separate subject of analysis.

*Keywords:* freedom of expression, freedom of speech, right to privacy, media, European Court of Human Rights.

**CONTROL BY INDEPENDENT BODIES FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS OVER THE STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE  
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

**Simona Zorić Ristova**

PhD, State Attorney  
zoriksimona@gmail.com

*Abstract:* Control over the administrative bodies represents a process for addressing the contentious systematics that arise daily in the functioning of institutions. Without such control, there would be anomalies in the functioning of the administration and the everyday service orientation towards citizens in general. Its purpose is to contribute to the effective realization of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws. The subject of this work is the control exercised by independent bodies for human rights over the state administration, with a focus on human rights through the institution of the Ombudsman as an independent entity that monitors the protection of rights, as well as the Commission for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination. This highlights the significance of this commission in terms of safeguarding human rights and freedoms in various aspects of life and work. The state administration, in any form, represents a strong instrument of the state where the greatest power of functioning is concentrated. Because it is coordinated, represented, and managed by entities with individual approaches to affairs, control expressed through independent bodies is necessary and essential, aligned with appropriate legislation. This necessity arises because the internal control system strives for the principles of interdependence and hierarchy, as well as the considerable authority that institutions hold in their operations. Such functioning of the institutions is characteristic of the system in North Macedonia, where the administration is strongly influenced by social events and processes, and the mechanisms of control in its operations are weakened. However, despite these shortcomings, it can be concluded that the state administration must be subject to control by independent bodies, regardless of the hierarchical system within the administration itself. On the other hand, the key conclusion is that control by independent bodies, despite all its shortcomings, still

yields results in terms of protecting against the abuse of concentrated power and the authorities granted by the state apparatus itself.

*Keywords:* state administration bodies, Ombudsman, Commission for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination, control, human rights and freedoms.

## RESILIENCE OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN NURSING HOMES IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (Serbia)

**Anja Žujović**

Centre for Political Research and Public Opinion,  
Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia;  
azujoVIC@idn.org.rs

**Tamara Musić**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy,  
University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia;  
tamaramusic25@gmail.com

*Abstract:* The aging process can be seen as an adversity, given that it is marked by multiple losses. Social networks shrink, health risks increase and independent functioning of the elderly becomes more difficult due to greater physical, cognitive and financial limitations. Resilience can be understood as a process of bouncing back from adversity and flourishing despite such conditions, making it an important concept in the context of aging. Higher resilience among the elderly is associated with improved quality of life, lower levels of depression symptoms, increased longevity and faster cardiovascular recovery, among other benefits. **Aim:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the resilience of elderly living in nursing homes in Serbia. **Methods:** The study was designed as cross-sectional study that began in May 2024 conducted in 10 nursing homes in the Vojvodina region of Serbia. 10-item Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC-10) (Campbell-Sills & Stein, 2007), a measure that has been validated for use with the elderly, was used to assess the resilience in this research. The scale evaluates the ability to tolerate stressful experiences, such as failures, painful emotions, and other challenges. Participants responded on a five-point Likert scale, with total scores ranging from 0 to 40, indicating their level of resilience. Higher scores reflected a greater capacity to cope with and recover from adversity. **Results:** The results are based on a snapshot taken in September 2024, as part of ongoing research. To date, the sample consists of 67.9% female and 32.1% male

participants, with a mean age of 77.77 years ( $\pm 9.465$ ). The mean resilience score was 31.59 ( $SD = 7.67$ ), and 68.8% of respondents scored higher than 30. These findings suggest that higher levels of resilience predominate among elderly living in nursing homes. **Conclusions:** Conducting surveys with elderly is possible primarily with those who have preserved cognitive abilities and generally function well, making it difficult to draw conclusions about the resilience of those who were unable to participate. However, examining the relationship between high levels of resilience of elderly in this sample and their current capacity to participate in the study is an important question for further research. The significance of the obtained results can be found in the understanding that resilience is a resource available at any life stage and can be enhanced among elderly, indicating that planning interventions based on these findings would be a reasonable approach in this context.

*Keywords:* resilience, aging, mental health, elderly, nursing homes, public health, Vojvodina, Serbia.



---

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији  
Библиотеке Матице српске, Нови Сад

341.231.14(048.3)

INTERNATIONAL Scientific and Professional Conference "Human Rights in Focus" (2024 ; Novi Sad)

Book of abstracts [Elektronski izvor] / International Scientific and Professional Conference "Human Rights in Focus", November 27, 2024, Novi Sad ; organizers of the conference Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman, Faculty of Law of the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Law of the University of Kragujevac. - Novi Sad : Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman, 2024

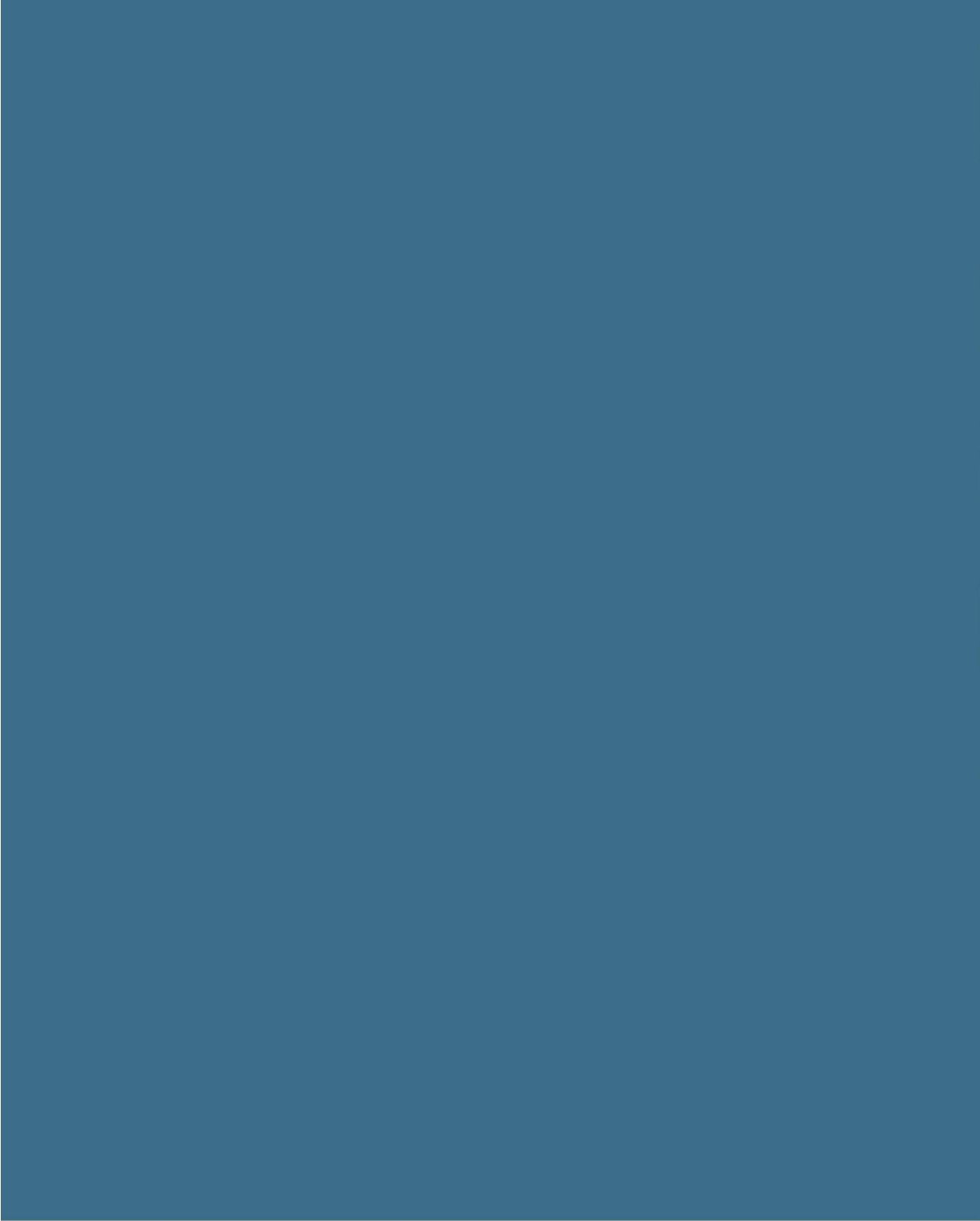
Način pristupa (URL): <https://www.ombudsmanapv.org/riv/doc/Human-Rights-in-Focus-2024.pdf>. - Opis zasnovan na stanju na dan 22.11.2024.

ISBN 978-86-89417-24-1

а) Људска права -- Апстракти

COBISS.SR-ID 157435657





9 788689 417241