Areas of our work

- Violation of basic human rights (right to privacy, right to human dignity, right to name, etc.)
- Violation of citizens’ rights (right to vote, right to be elected, freedom of expression, etc.)
- Violation of social rights (right to social security)
- Violation of the right to health (patients’ rights, etc.)
- Suspicions of ill-treatment, medical malpractice and negligence (during arrest or imprisonment, in mental asylum or in social service institutions, etc.)
- Suspicions of any form of discrimination (disability, age, race, religion, etc.)
- General knowledge about proceedings
- Workers’ rights (labour relations, fair treatment in the workplace)
- Rights in social institutions
- Providing social services, right to social care and benefits
- Right to private and family life, right to education
- Public administration

Our counseling service

- Provides information about how to improve on unfavourable social situations or how to prevent them
- Provides support and help to clients who express their needs, protection of their rights and interests
- Provides support and help to clients about their rights
- Provides support and help to clients in finding possible solutions to their problem and implementing them in practice
- Provides information about available services

Contact us

Štefánikova 21, 150 00 Praha 5. (1st floor)
+420 257 221 141
info@helcom.cz
www.helcom.cz

Opening hours of the counseling service
Monday-Thursday: 10:00 - 16:00 at the office of CHC
Inquiries can be sent via e-mail or postal address.
Counseling service can be provided personally after making an appointment on phone: +420 773 115 951.

Donation

Czech Helsinki Committee
Date of registration: 11. 05. 1990
ID: 00539708
Bank address: Česká spořitelna Praha 5.
Bank account number: 2542779329/0800

Our mission: foster and protect human rights

- Monitoring legislative activities concerning human rights
- Commenting upon law proposals and submit alternative proposals related to the protection of human rights
- Monitoring the human rights situation in the Czech Republic and periodically bring out a report on human rights in Czech Republic.
- Monitoring the situation of those groups which require special attention in the field of human rights.
- Raising awareness by organising conferences, seminars and publishing about human rights issues and setting up educational programs for schools, professionals and activists of non-governmental organisations.
- Cooperating with other non-governmental organisations and public institutions on both national and international level for the development of democracy and protection of human rights.
**OUR PROJECT "CHILDREN OF PRISONERS"**

Czech Helsinki Committee, as a non-profit organisation for human rights, offers supporting contact and organising assisted visits for children who are under legal guardianship (foster care, foster parent) and have a parent in prison.

In 2008, CHC inter alia translated and published the book “Mom in prison” to present prison environment in a child-friendly way. The publication can be downloaded from the website of CHC.

**Base of the program**

The loss of contact with parent caused by imprisonment endangers the psychosocial development of the child.

The child suffers from the lack of information about prison-life and from losing contact with the imprisoned parent. The child is also concerned about the well-being of the parent and suffers from being deprived of normal family-life and the influence of a parent.

Practically the society does not help child to keep in touch with the parent in prison; does not explain, nor understand her/his needs, concerns and changing behavior.

According to both public and professional opinion, breaking ties with a ‘criminal’ parent is in the child’s best interest. Imprisoned parents often share this opinion (e.g. because they feel ashamed).

**Our activities**

- Providing help with sharing contact and information between children in institution and parents in prison
- Helping to communicate with the institution staff (where the child is situated), with OSPODs and prison staff
- Securing the financial status of the child and providing accompany for prison visits
- Preparing and organising assisted visits to prisons with professional help
- Providing informations through discussions, with the assist of OSPODs and social workers for children in foster care

If you know anyone who might be interested in this project, please contact us via phone, e-mail or postal address.

For further information about the project and CHC activities, visit our website.

**Opinions of mothers and children involved in the project**

“I enjoyed the visit very much. I saw my mom after approximately 13 months, so it made me happy. I hope there will be another visit. Thank you also for the photos.”

ONDREJ, 17

“My opinion, and probably not only mine, is that your work has a real purpose. In the prison we are separated from our children and from everything you consider natural. This is the consequence of our life outside. You might consider our behavior inappropriate, but we love our children anyway. In our surroundings there are not many people who want to help us, but you are one of the few. I do not have to describe, how a mother feels after not seeing her children for two years. Till the last minute I did not believe this visit would become real. Thank you for your help. After the visit my children started to write me more often and I found out we are not strangers anymore.”

IVANA, 38