

In 2007 and 2010, we translated into Bulgarian “The Peacemaker”, a book and a special Flyer that helped us in setting national standards for the Code of Conduct for Mediators in which several RLI representatives participated.

We organized courses and presentations in one, respectively two consecutive levels in the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Nova Zagora, Pleven, Parvomay, Veliko Turnovo and Razlog.

We got involved in attracting copyright other books such as When Christians Act like Christians and Your Personal Encourager.

We obtained a copyright and published the flyer called “49 Godly Character Qualities”.

Our National Conferences touched upon this issue, as well as upon the issue of truth and its relation to the rule of law.

In this relation, in 2016 and 2017, we held our national conferences in the cities of Plovdiv and Varna.

In 2018 in Gabrovo, RLI and Advocates Europe organized an international Conference focusing on the need of legislative participation of the public, and started the preparation of an updated bill of the Lobbying to be a model for Eastern Europe. It is already a fact, prepared jointly with the Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”.

In 2018, our Institute was a leading party in two consecutive Statements to the Parliament, filed by 27 NGOs on the proposed discriminatory changes to the current Religious Denominations Act. The Parliament

satisfied the majority of our objections.

In March 2019, the Institute awarded its only so far “Golden Certificate” to Judge Dimitar Gochev- our first Bulgarian judge at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg France and our patron, who served long years in RLI as the vice - president of the Board of Directors.

One of our next projects is to organize a campaign to hold an international conference addressing the issue of the Right to Personal Dignity in the light of Art 1 from the “Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union”.

Over the past 25 years, a new generation of Christian lawyers have grown up. We would love to serve them and to exchange constructive ideas and experience.

We embrace the opportunity to work in continuity amidst civilization changes, when the introduction of new values and standards of law and ethics in Europe and around the world are challenging those from the old epoch.



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25 Years - Rule of Law Institute

This is the third brochure on the activities of the Rule of Law Institute (RLI) in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Since the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union - a legal fact since 01.01.2007, the Rule of Law Institute has established partnerships with counterparts from other EU countries. The Institute has also established strategic partnerships in Eastern European countries which are not part of the European Union, and with other countries around the world. It became possible as the Institute assumed the business of Advocates Europe and its President took part in the Global Council of Advocates International.

The Institute co-founded the Balkan Human Rights Network and became the representative of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Balkan Human Rights Network. The Network was joined by NGOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. We started building a network of Christian lawyers from Southeast Europe.

Following the RLI publication of the Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police, the Institute started training senior officers at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior. One hundred and twenty coaches, senior police officers - men and women, and thirty cadets from all over the country were trained there.

With the efforts of the Balkan Human Rights Network, the Institute produced a booklet called "Balkan Quick Check" and a Guide for its application. The purpose of these materials was to help the business identify the potential risks in its work affecting its employees, local people and others business stake-holders on the ground. In parallel, the booklet called "National Review and Potential Risk Report for Human Rights and Business in the Republic of Bulgaria" was published.

RLI gathered other NGOs and 50 experts from Bulgaria and abroad, at an international Conference and reviewed the bill for the unconstitutional amendment of the Family Code aimed at legalizing the so-called "Civil Partnerships". The MPs attended the Conference managed to suspend the Parliament's passing of the Bill.

The Burgas Municipal Council, suspended the passing of a local ordinance discriminating small religious denominations by forbidding the erection of religious community buildings closer than 300 meters to kindergartens and schools, except for the buildings of the Orthodox church after our Statement on behalf of RLI.

Following our Statement, the Council of Ministers halted a ready amendment to the Religious Denominations Act which required a minimum membership of 1000 people for newly registered denominations.

The Annual Meeting of the European Federalists held in Sofia heard the speech of the Institute's Chairman, addressing the Rule of Law and Ethics.

On the above topic, we started monthly business and prayer breakfasts at which speakers were well-known public figures and experts. Discussions on legal topics and Christian values were held by RLI members and guests from foreign and local institutions and organizations.

After 2007 we focused on combating corruption and we were speakers and guests of a number of Conferences organized jointly with the Union of Municipal Officials in Bulgaria. In 2010 we organized a European main event at the headquarters of the "Union of Bulgarian Jurists" where we are a corporate member to exchange experience on international achievements in the prevention of corruption. Participants from three continents and prominent international judges contributed to the success of this Conference.

In 2012, in collaboration with participants from the Supreme Court of Cassation, the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, the Chamber of Notaries, the Bar Association, the Chamber of Builders, the Ministry of Interior and the Union of Bulgarian Lawyers, we jointly drafted a proposal to the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Justice for amendments to construction contracts and cash payments in the process of real estate transactions.

We presented our Statement on the proposed amendments to the Judiciary Act which violated fundamental human rights in appointing judges, prosecutors and investigators. The Bar Association and the Union of Bulgarian Jurists published our Statement on their web sites and our views were taken into account by the Legislator.

We prepared a bill for amending the Penal Code, the Penal Procedure Code and the Penalties Enforcement and Remand in Custody Act, aiming at granting more rights to NGOs for the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug addicts when sentenced to serve a term of imprisonment less than two years. Our bill is still pending, without being rejected, after discussions held in two consecutive meetings with the Ministry of Justice.

The internships of foreign law students at the Institute continue. Students are trained on projects related to the rule of law and ethics of the European Union and the necessary changes in the Bulgarian legislation and case law.