



**CENTRE  
FOR PEACE  
STUDIES**

# **Centre for Peace Studies' Strategic Framework**

**2023-2027**

# 1. Strategic framework: vision, mission and values

## CPS's vision

An open and non-violent society based on solidarity, whose institutions enable peace, social security, political and economic equality and freedom for all people. Taking into account the balance between their own existence and the environment, members of society actively participate in decision-making, management of public goods and development of their communities.

## CPS's mission

CPS is a civil society organisation that protects human rights and pursues social change based on the values of democracy, anti-fascism, non-violence, peacebuilding, solidarity and equality through activism, education, research, advocacy and direct support. We work with communities, initiatives, organisations, the media, institutions and individuals in Croatia and internationally.

## CPS's values:

- Anti-fascism and anti-racism
- Autonomy
- Democracy
- Feminism
- Interculturality
- Equality
- Peacebuilding
- Non-violence
- Sustainability
- Secularism
- Freedom
- Solidarity

## 2. Strategic areas of action

In the process of strategic planning, CPS has chosen to define **areas of action** that correspond to the operational approach to strategy and reflect the organisation of work, defining **general objectives** which characterise the social change pursued by CPS within each area, and **specific objectives** which represent the expected effects of CPS' action.

CPS identified the following strategic areas of action:

1. **Educating and empowering for social change**
2. **Protecting and promoting the right to asylum and migration**
3. **Supporting inclusive society**
4. **Affirmation of economic and social rights**

In addition to these core strategic areas, CPS recognises the need to engage in an additional area of intervention. Although it is not CPS' strategic dimension and mission, circumstances call for further action in the area of:

5. **Strengthening the status of civil society organisations**

### 3. General and specific goals and types of activities

In its work, CPS uses different working methods typical for activist organisations in the field of human rights protection, spanning from direct fieldwork to public advocacy at national and European level. Different methods are applied across different areas of action depending on the ability to implement direct activities on the ground and provide legal aid which differs according to specific area, both due to complexity and relevance of organising such aid and due to in-house capacity.

The **distribution of working methods by areas of action** planned in this strategic period is presented in the following scheme:

	Educating and empowering for social change	Protecting and promoting the right to asylum and migration	Supporting inclusive society	Affirmation of economic and social rights	Improving the position of human rights organisations
Education	x	x	X	x	x
Legal aid		x	X	x	
Direct support on the ground		x	X	x	
Strategic litigation		x	X	x	
Research and monitoring	x	x	X	x	x
Public advocacy and outreach	x	x	X	x	x
Institutional advocacy	x	x	X	x	x
Networking	x	x	X	x	x

Specific activities will be defined in annual plans, while the strategic planning covered types of activities planned by specific objectives and areas of action.

## 1. Educating and empowering for social change

### General objective 1.1. Means for development of civic competences have been provided to more students, teachers and young people

<b>Specific objectives:</b>
1.1.1. Encourage the inclusion of activist practices, experiences and content in formal and informal education programmes
1.1.2. Increase the extent of schools that encourage emancipation and develop student civic competences
1.1.3. Promote and affirm a quality assurance system for non-formal education programmes
1.1.4. Enhance awareness among all stakeholders in the education system and the public of the importance of the global dimension of civic education
1.1.6. Ensure the networking of actors relevant to the field of civic education
1.1.7. Develop or revise activist programmes for pupils and/or students

### General objective 1.2. More individuals, initiatives and groups are empowered to work on social change

<b>Specific objectives:</b>
1.2.1. Peace Studies keep addressing current societal challenges and activist practices that respond to them
1.2.2. Support individuals and groups of activist resistance in the struggle for progressive social change

## 2. Protecting and promoting the right to asylum and migration

### General objective 2.1. Protect the asylum system and ensure safe and regular pathways for migrating and obtaining status

<b>Specific objectives:</b>
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2.1.1. Keeping up the pressure on institutions to stop systematic violence and illegal practices towards refugees and other migrants at the border and on the national territory
2.1.2. Put proposals for safe and regular pathways on the agenda of decision-makers, experts and the general public
2.1.3. Put an improved legislative framework and practices on asylum and migration on the agenda of decision-makers, experts and the general public
2.1.4. Prevent and minimise formal and informal criminalisation of solidarity
2.1.5. Increase the awareness of refugees and other migrants about their asylum-seeking and status-regulating rights

**3. Supporting inclusive society**

**General objective 3.1. Ensure a multi-sectoral and multi-departmental approach to integration, with refugees and foreigners well accepted and enjoying human rights**

<b>Specific objectives:</b>
3.1.1. Increase institutions' awareness of the necessity to adopt and implement integration policy at both national and local levels
3.1.2. Contribute to positive developments in achieving access to rights (political, socio-economic and cultural)

**General objective 3.2. Encourage society to be more open to diversity: discrimination and violence motivated by hatred and prejudice are less accepted/unacceptable**

<b>Specific objectives:</b>
3.2.1. Ensure visibility of target groups as organisations for reporting discrimination, hatred and violence and mapping discrimination, hatred and violence
3.2.2. Ensure legal protection and gain insight into cases of discrimination and violence motivated by hatred and prejudice

3.2.3. Messages about inadmissibility and consequences of discrimination and hate violence as well as protection mechanisms are present among potential victims, perpetrators and the public

3.2.4. Develop and promote good practices for building inclusive local communities

**General objective 3.3. Make institutions aware of the necessity to introduce institutional practices for the prevention and sanctioning of structural violence and discrimination**

**Specific objectives:**

3.3.1. Increase awareness of inadmissibility of discrimination and hate violence among those who can prevent or sanction these occurrences (officials in competent institutions)

3.3.2. Increase awareness of structural violence among those who can transform it and thus create positive practices

3.3.3. Promote anti-racist policies and measures at EU, national, local and micro levels

**General objective 3.4. Develop networks of activist resistance for progressive social change in combating racism**

**Specific objectives:**

3.4.1. Encourage and empower target groups for political activity and participation in the work of associations, trade unions, cultural clubs, etc.

3.4.2. Contribute to strengthening integration-related capacities, interests and knowledge of activists and associations in local communities

**4. Affirmation of economic and social rights**

**General objective 4.1. Develop own human and financial capacities in this area**

**Specific objectives:**

4.1.1. Build capacity to provide direct legal assistance in cases of violations of economic and social rights

4.1.2. Ensure funding for work on economic and social rights

**General objective 4.2. Encourage citizens, the public and institutions to recognise economic and social rights as human rights**

**Specific objectives:**

4.2.1. Improve CPS' educational content in the field of socio-economic rights

4.2.2. Increase the awareness of decision-makers about the importance of economic and social rights

4.2.3 Through campaigns on specific issues, include arguments about economic and social rights as human rights

**General objective 4.3. Improve access to economic and social rights for citizens, in particular marginalised social groups**

**Specific objectives:**

4.3.1. Analyse and build legal practices in the field of discrimination based on economic status

4.3.2. Institutionalise cooperation of CSOs concerned with economic and social rights with each other and with the Office of the Ombudsperson

4.3.3 Analyse main problems in the area of social and economic rights and identify and conduct campaigns to address the problems

4.3.4. Ensure sustainability of research and papers on access to education

**5. Improving the position of human rights organisations**

**General objective 5.1. Increase the impact of human rights organisations in the field of advocacy, public communication to mobilise citizens and providing legal aid in terms of strategic litigation**

**Specific objectives:**



5.1.1. Strengthen the role of Human Rights House in the coordination and joint action of human rights organisations

5.1.2. Empower other organisations in the field of advocacy, public communication to mobilise citizens and providing legal aid in terms of strategic litigation