

SOAR SPOTLIGHT

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Insight Public Organization - Ukraine



Insight Public Organization – Ukraine - Insight Public Organization used SOAR funding to equip LGBTQ+ activists with tools and strategies to protect against online harassment in the form of hate speech and threats. The project included research on the roots and prevalence of anti-LGBTQ+ hate speech in Ukraine, along with a detailed guide for activists on how to respond to online harassment on different social media platforms. The comprehensive guide on digital safety includes information on what to do about inappropriate messages and comments, how to protect access to your accounts and personal inform-

ation, how to respond to other forms of online attacks such as phishing and "zoombombing," and how to preserve psychological well-being in the face of online harassment. Insight's findings from their review of LGBTQ+-related Ukrainian social media activity can be found here: <https://www.insight-ukraine.org/special/commentsLGBT/>. Their guide for digital security can be found at <https://www.insight-ukraine.org/special/online-security-guide/>.

NGO LGBTI Forum Progress - Montenegro

Montenegrin NGO LGBTI Forum Progress used SOAR funding to cover crucial costs of its LGBTI Shelter program. Montenegro's Ministry of Human and Minority Rights unexpectedly discontinued funding to the program due to a change of government. The short notice of this substantial loss threatened to close the entire program during a time at which the pandemic had rendered the LGBTIQ+ community particularly vulnerable. NGO LGBTI Forum Progress used SOAR support for minimal shelter expenses as well as an on-site social worker, who assessed the social circumstances of each of the shelter's beneficiaries and provided mediation services when beneficiaries encountered violent, unwelcoming environments.

Bilitis Resource Centre - Bulgaria

The Bilitis Resource Center used SOAR support to respond to an increase in anti-LGBTQI+ actions in summer 2021 which was exacerbated by national elections. Nationalist parties that failed to qualify for elections were looking to gain electoral votes by attacking LGBTQI+ activists and organizations. The Center used funding to provide emergency security protection at 25 events during June alongside the installation of security cameras and a panic button at Rainbow Hub, an LGBTQI+ community center. The Center also used funding to launch a public campaign called "Vote with Love" featuring prominent Bulgarian personalities and influencers aimed to create an understanding among the LGBTQI+ community and progressive Bulgarians of the importance of voting in the upcoming elections.

To learn more about SOAR Grants and the Dignity for All Program, visit <https://www.dignitylgbti.org/> or contact us at info@dignitylgbti.org