



Frequently asked questions *being a translator for EHRAC*

What language will I be translating into?

The majority of documents require translating from Russian/Ukrainian/Georgian/Azeri/Armenian into English. Occasionally we may ask volunteers (depending on their ability) to assist with the translation of training materials, website articles and other general material and correspondence from English into Russian/Ukrainian/Georgian/Azeri/Armenian.

What type of documents will I be dealing with?

Translators will mainly be dealing with legal documents and some evidence documents, for example post-mortem reports, that contain highly specialised vocabulary and sometimes require extensive research on the part of the translator as well as linguistic, cultural and historical knowledge of the region. Other documents, for example witness statement, contain less technical vocabulary as the content relates mainly to descriptions of people, places and actions. There may be opportunities for translators with less legal experience to work with these types of document. Sometimes, unconventional documents such as Soviet era passports, insurance receipts or school reference letters are used as evidence to support cases.

Documents are usually scanned and sent to us by email and arrive in varying states of legibility, whether handwritten or typed. The subject matter of EHRAC's cases is varied – from environmental pollution and ethnic discrimination to armed conflict.

What is expected from translators?

When translating legal documents, the translator has to strive for precision. The translator may need to research the actual meaning of a particular term and then find the most suitable equivalent for those terms and concepts, which may not exist in the other language. While legal dictionaries can be of great help, the translator will ultimately have to rely upon their own experience. The translator is expected to take great care in translating provisions of laws, names of institutions, references to specific incidents, or abbreviations. EHRAC provides a glossary of terminology, which is distilled from international law-based institutions, to encourage uniform transliteration and translation of the documents – a benefit to translators wishing to enrich their legal vocabulary. You should have a particular interest and the relevant skills to undertake translations of this calibre.

Will I work remotely or come into the EHRAC office?

Translators usually work remotely and liaise by email with the EHRAC Case and Project Support Officer. However, we occasionally offer placements to students studying translation and they would spend a specified period of time in the EHRAC office.

How can translating for EHRAC benefit my career?

Translating with EHRAC provides a solid experience of translating in the area of human rights law which can serve as a good foundation for any further work in this field. Over time you will build up a good idea of the European Court systems, as well as domestic legal systems, even if you previously had no background in law or human rights. All translations will contribute directly to our work to

uphold human rights and address violations in Russia and the South Caucasus.

Can EHRAC offer payment?

EHRAC is a non-profit organisation funded by charitable grants and donations. As a small NGO we rely on our volunteers and we are therefore looking for people willing to provide pro bono services to support our cause.

If you have further questions please contact ehrac@mdx.ac.uk