IRRA
INTERNATIONAL
Refugee Rights Association
Uluslararası Mülteci Hakları Derneği



ANNUAL REPORT

ACCESS TO RIGHTS · LEGAL SUPPORT · ADVOCACY

2025 AT A GLANCE

In 2025, the International Refugee Rights Association (IRRA) continued its work to support access to rights, justice and protection mechanisms for refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, stateless persons and others in need of international protection. Throughout the year, IRRA provided legal assistance and counselling and undertook field monitoring, research, reporting, training and advocacy activities, addressing both issues identified through individual cases and broader challenges in practice.

Legal support included the assessment and follow-up of requests concerning immigration detention, deportation, residence permits, international and temporary protection, and other legal matters. The Refugee Advice Line provided legal information, while a network of lawyers across different provinces supported local case follow-up and referrals. These activities aimed to help individuals understand their legal situation and available remedies, facilitate access to relevant information and documents, and support the follow-up of legal proceedings.

Monitoring and documentation focused on conditions in removal centres, immigration detention practices, return processes and barriers to accessing rights. Information gathered through field visits and legal work informed reports and workshop discussions. Public and press statements drew attention to discrimination, hate speech, forced displacement and concerns relating to the principle of non-refoulement. This approach connected individual casework with the documentation of challenges in practice and wider advocacy efforts.

Training and knowledge-sharing activities included case law review programmes, comparative migration law seminars and thematic training sessions. The volunteer internship programme offered participants opportunities to gain experience in legal work, research and other areas. Academic publications and contributions to meetings supported the exchange of knowledge and experience on migration, refugee protection and human rights.

IRRA also undertook joint activities through international projects and institutional partnerships, contributed to regional reporting processes and shared its experience at international events. Meetings with national and international stakeholders explored opportunities for cooperation in legal support, monitoring and advocacy. Digital communications provided a further channel for sharing information on rights, research findings and organisational activities with the public.

This report presents IRRA's activities, service data and outputs for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. It brings together work ranging from individual legal support and field monitoring to training and international cooperation, supporting a consolidated review of these activities and the exchange of information a

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LEGAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTION

2025 Annual Report

REQUESTS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND CASE FOLLOW-UP

In 2025, IRRA assessed requests for assistance concerning immigration detention, deportation, residence permits, international protection and other legal matters, and followed up on the relevant proceedings. Depending on the nature of each request, support included legal information, assistance in obtaining information and documents, communication with relevant authorities and referrals to lawyers.

The table below presents a breakdown of requests recorded under legal assistance services by subject and processing status.



REFUGEE ADVICE LINE AND LEGAL INFORMATION

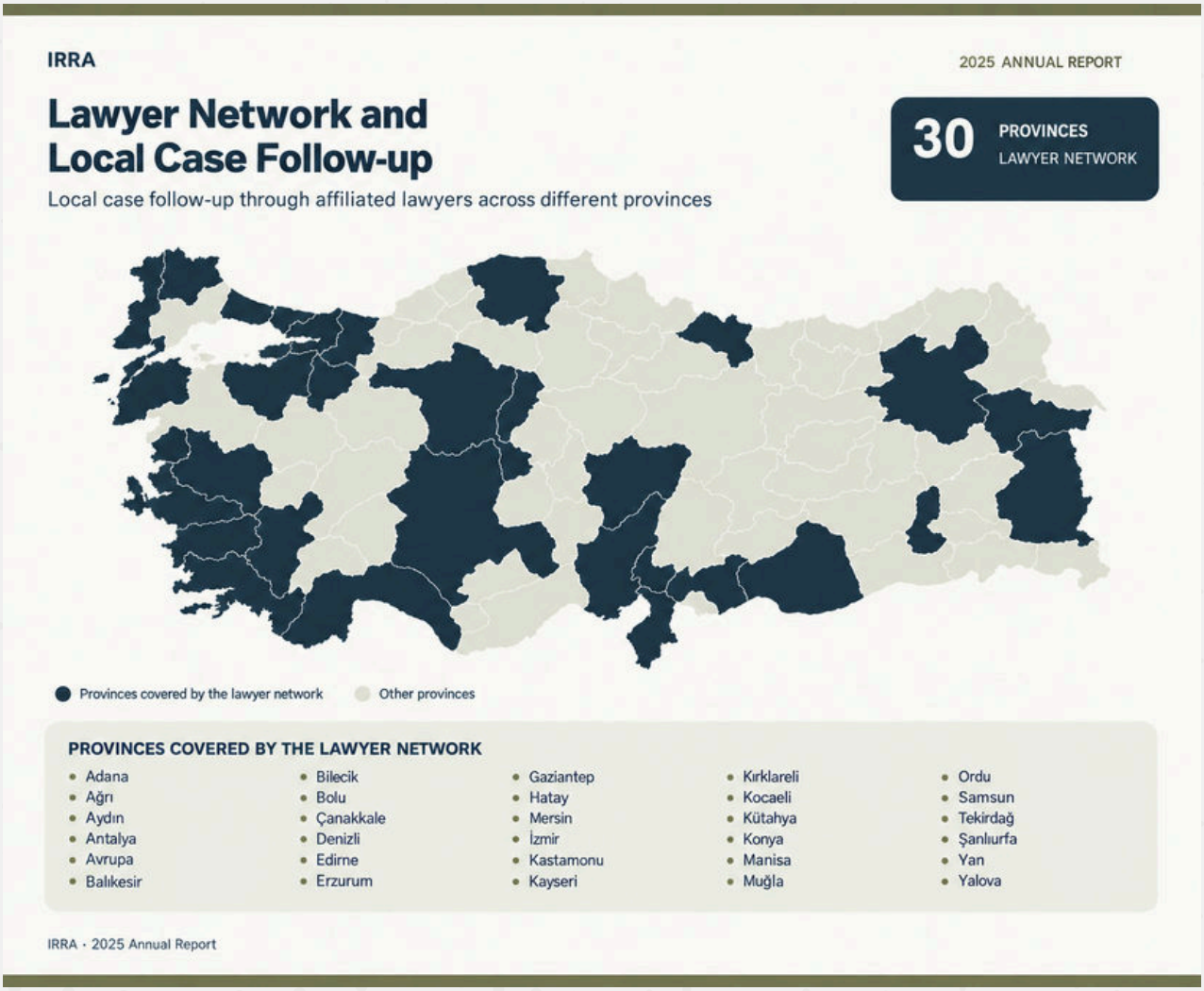
In 2025, IRRA continued to provide legal counselling and information through its Refugee Advice Line. Individuals seeking assistance received information on available remedies and relevant procedures in relation to their legal situation and the challenges they faced.

The service aimed to help individuals understand their rights, legal options and the mechanisms available to them. Requests requiring further legal follow-up were assessed according to their nature and addressed through IRRA's legal support services and network of lawyers.

Service	People receiving legal counselling
Refugee Advice Line	**3,366**

LAWYER NETWORK AND LOCAL CASE FOLLOW-UP

In 2025, IRRA continued to follow up on migration and immigration law cases at the local level through its network of affiliated lawyers across different provinces.



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RESEARCH, MONITORING AND ADVOCACY

FIELD MONITORING AND REPORTING

In 2025, IRRA conducted field monitoring and reporting to document challenges in the implementation of migration and immigration law and develop recommendations to address them. Information gathered through case follow-up and field visits informed thematic reports and other documents prepared for sharing with relevant institutions.





SECOND WORKSHOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PRACTICE (Right to Liberty and Security)

Held in 2025, the workshop examined legal challenges in removal centres and immigration detention practices through the lens of the right to liberty and security. Lawyers from different provinces and protection specialists from national and international institutions shared their practical experience and field observations.

The workshop brought together 35 participants, including lawyers affiliated with bar associations, a representative of the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, and the Field Coordinator of UNHCR's Legal Unit.



DISPLACED HUMANITY

The Reality of Refugeehood from Gaza and Sudan to the World

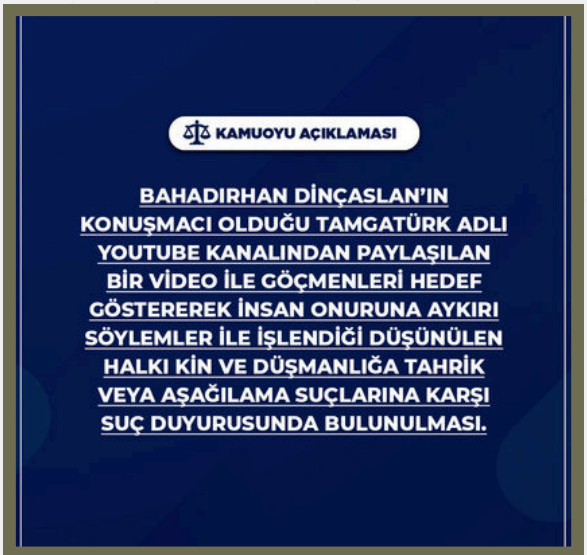
To mark Human Rights Day on 10 December, an academic conference entitled “Displaced Humanity: The Reality of Refugeehood from Gaza and Sudan to the World” was held at Istanbul University.

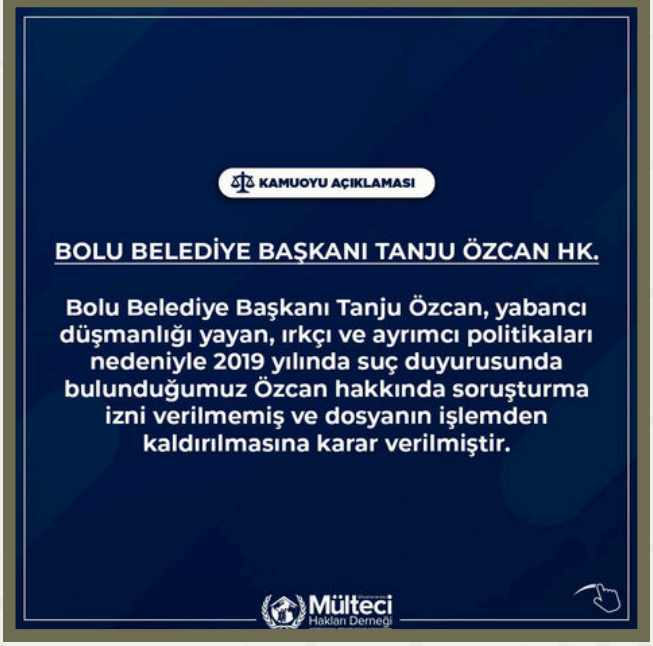


PRESS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

In 2025, IRRA issued press and public statements drawing attention to refugee rights, discrimination, hate speech and concerns relating to the principle of non-refoulement. Drawing on individual cases and legal proceedings followed by the organisation, these statements informed the public about challenges encountered in practice.







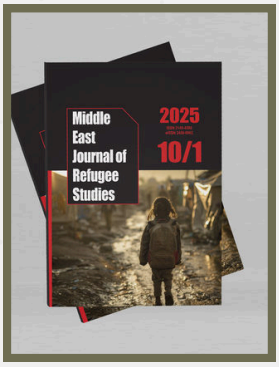


ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

In 2025, IRRA continued its academic publishing and knowledge-sharing activities in migration, refugee studies and human rights. Journal publications and contributions to academic events explored connections between legal practice and research priorities.

MIDDLE EAST JOURNAL OF REFUGEE STUDIES

Issues 1 and 2 of Volume 10 of the international peer-reviewed academic journal Middle East Journal of Refugee Studies (MEJRS) were published.





CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYMPOSIA

A presentation at the Migration and Law Symposium, organised by the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, examined how administrative transfer and sanction decisions affect foreign nationals' access to legal remedies.

PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

IRRA participated in the workshop "Syrian Asylum-Seekers in Türkiye in the Post-Assad Period: Current Situation, Challenges and Proposed Solutions", organised by the Mediterranean Research Centre at Medipol University.



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03 TRAINING AND VOLUNTEERING

MIGRATION LAW TRAINING AND CASE LAW REVIEW

In 2025, IRRA organised case law review sessions, seminars and online information programmes to support knowledge sharing in migration and immigration law.

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT CASE LAW REVIEW ON MIGRATION LAW

The six-week programme examined administrative court decisions concerning migration and immigration law.





COMPARATIVE MIGRATION LAW SEMINARS

The first module of the seminar series featured an online session entitled “An Overview of US Immigration and Nationality Law”.

UNLAWFUL RETURNS AND DETENTION: THE CASE OF ALISHER TURSUNOV

A live broadcast held to mark World Refugee Day on 20 June examined unlawful return and detention practices, the principle of non-refoulement and international protection mechanisms through the case of Alisher Tursunov.



THEMATIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES

In 2025, IRRA organised thematic training sessions on refugee law, research, reporting and civil society work. The sessions covered the core knowledge and methods needed to support legal work and organisational activities.









VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, IRRA continued its volunteer internship programme to support volunteers' involvement in the organisation's work and provide opportunities to gain experience in refugee rights.

VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

A total of 120 participants joined the programme across four three-month cycles throughout the year. Participants contributed to the organisation's work through placements in its legal, research, communications and administrative units.



STKFEST 2025

IRRA hosted a stand at STKFest, held on 22–23 October 2025 at the Halkalı Campus of Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University.



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PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

ERASMUS+ PROJESİ
Global Vision: Local Adaptation Strategy

IRRA participated in international exchanges on local approaches to the social inclusion of migrant communities through the Erasmus+ project “Global Vision: Local Adaptation Strategy”. In 2025, four days of meetings and activities were held with project partner Popoli Insieme in Padua, Italy.



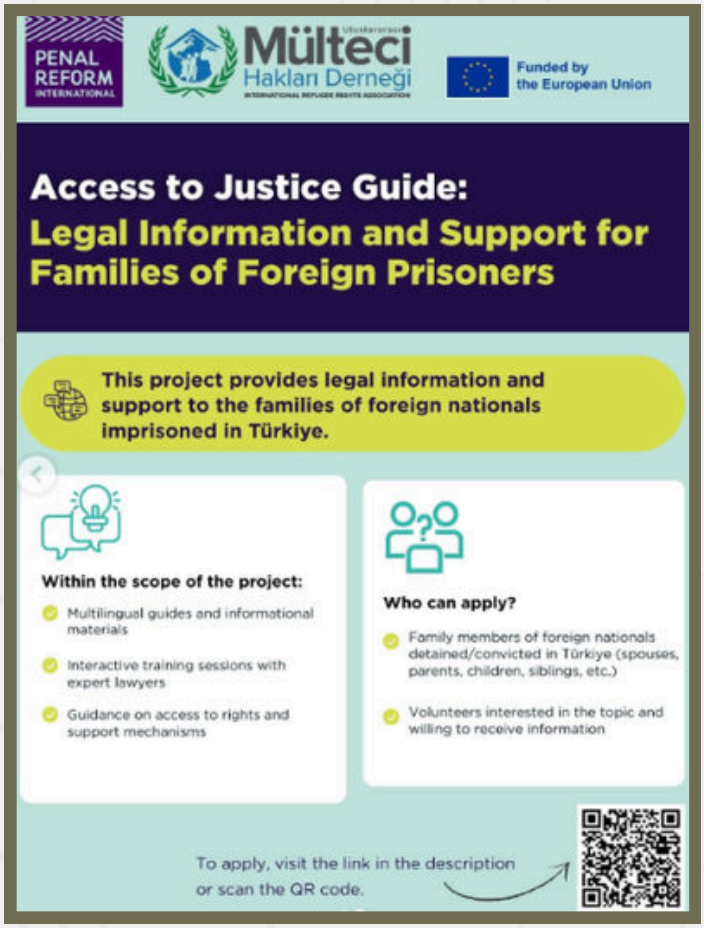




LEGAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PROJECT FOR FAMILIES OF FOREIGN NATIONAL PRISONERS

In 2025, IRRA launched the project “Access to Justice Guide: Legal Information and Support for Families of Foreign National Prisoners”, implemented in partnership with Penal Reform International (PRI) and with financial support from the European Union.

The project aims to facilitate access to legal information, rights and support mechanisms for families of foreign nationals held in prisons in Türkiye.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING

In 2025, IRRA continued its partnerships to contribute field experience and activity data to international monitoring and coordination processes. These efforts focused on documenting immigration detention practices and reporting on protection activities.

COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL DETENTION PROJECT

Through its cooperation with the Geneva-based Global Detention Project (GDP), IRRA continued reporting on removal centres in Türkiye.

REGIONAL REFUGEE AND RESILIENCE PLAN — 3RP

IRRA continued to participate in reporting processes in Türkiye under the United Nations-led Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONAL REPRESENTATION

In 2025, IRRA participated in international exhibitions, conferences and forums to share its work on refugee rights, legal support and advocacy, and held meetings with relevant organisations.

AIDEX 2025 — GENEVA

At AidEx, IRRA held meetings with humanitarian organisations, networks working on crisis and emergency response, and actors addressing migration and forced displacement.









DIHAD 2025 — DUBAI

IRRA participated in the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition, engaging with humanitarian organisations, civil society organisations, academic institutions and policymakers.

DOHA FORUM 2025 — QATAR

IRRA was represented at the Doha Forum at board level. Representatives attended sessions on migration, refugee issues, humanitarian crises and regional instability.



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INSTITUTIONAL VISITS AND STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

In 2025, IRRA held meetings with public institutions, diplomatic missions, international organisations, academic institutions and civil society organisations.











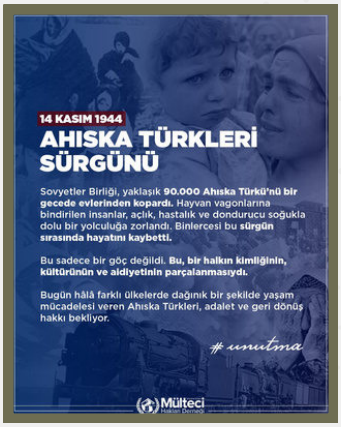




AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

In 2025, IRRA shared information on refugee rights, current developments and its activities through digital communication channels. These efforts aimed to draw attention to rights violations and inform the public about migration and forced displacement.



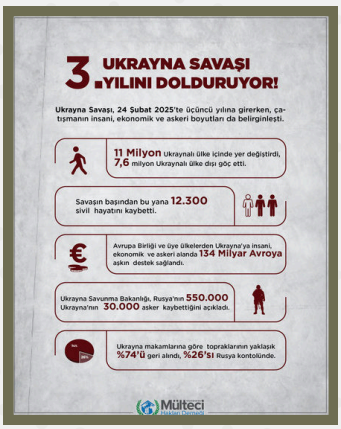














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