

Introduction of myself(will add later)

****Slide 1: Introduction****

In 2022, the Movement of Conscientious Objectors (MCO) experienced a year of remarkable transformation. This transformation was catalyzed by the unprecedented events unfolding on the international stage, most notably Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As a result, the Russian populace began showing a heightened interest in MCO and its mission. These developments peaked at the end of September, following Russia's announcement of a "partial" mobilization on September 21.

Throughout the year, MCO faced various challenges and celebrated significant achievements. In this presentation, we will delve into the pivotal developments and accomplishments that marked MCO's journey in 2022.

****Slide 2: Subscribers and Engagement****

A fundamental aspect of MCO's outreach and influence in 2022 was its expanding online presence. The movement's Telegram channel saw a substantial surge in subscribers, with numbers reaching close to 60,000 during the peak of Russia's partial mobilization announcement in September. Furthermore, MCO's YouTube channel and VK page both garnered a remarkable 13,000 subscribers each. To enhance its reach, MCO also initiated an Instagram account, despite the platform's ban in Russia. The movement's videos and live streams on YouTube were viewed over 410,000 times in 2022, underscoring the growing interest in conscientious objection and non-military service alternatives.

****Slide 3: Consultations****

MCO's commitment to providing support and guidance remained steadfast in 2022. The movement resumed offering online consultations through Telegram, a convenient platform for engagement. Elena Popova, MCO's coordinator, conducted numerous consultations, often working tirelessly and almost non-stop. She was later joined by dedicated volunteer Alena. In total, MCO provided more than 100 online consultations during the year, offering critical assistance to individuals navigating the challenges of conscientious objection.

Amidst the heightened demand for guidance during the mobilization period, MCO was instrumental in redirecting a substantial number of consultations to the 'Call to Conscience' Coalition (@agsnowarbot). This collaborative effort allowed MCO to address the ongoing questions of beneficiaries effectively, with 11,694 individuals receiving consultation through the Call to Conscience bot.

In addition to consultations, MCO recognized the significance of education and conducted seven educational broadcasts on YouTube, covering a range of topics related to conscientious objection and non-military service.

****Slide 4: Fundraising****

MCO embraced a revamped fundraising strategy in 2022. Previously, donations were collected via direct transfers to a Sberbank card. However, in response to evolving preferences, the movement introduced the collection of ruble donations in cryptocurrency via Telegram. These changes aimed to make it more convenient for supporters to contribute to the cause.

A considerable portion of the funds raised were allocated to recognize and reward the most active volunteers who played crucial roles in content creation, video production, visualization, and consultation. These dedicated volunteers actively supported and answered questions from members of the MCO, receiving a total of 121,646 rubles in recognition of their efforts.

MCO also had to manage legal expenses for coordinators, website maintenance, server and airtable expenses, security consultations, and video editing services. As of December 31, 2022, the movement had a balance of 191,257 rubles upon conversion.

****Slide 5: Media Recognition****

In 2022, MCO received notable recognition from both Russian and foreign media outlets. German, American, British, Norwegian, Estonian, Belgian media, as well as major independent Russian media, sought MCO's expert opinions and insights. Some of the prominent outlets that featured MCO included Kholod, Bumaga, Radio Liberty, Takiye Dela, Mediazona, among others. This media coverage was testament to the growing importance of conscientious objection in the public discourse.

During the year, MCO also extended its support to journalists seeking information and stories for their reports and documentaries. Numerous media outlets, including 7x7, DOXA, Bumaga, Novaya Gazeta, Mediazona, and Current Time, included MCO in their lists of human rights organizations to consult on military service-related issues.

****Slide 6: Community Engagement****

MCO's community engagement and structure were central to its mission in 2022. The movement structured its participation into three levels: participants, volunteers, and coordinators. Nine coordinators, who had previously been members of the movement's headquarters at different times, played pivotal roles in guiding MCO's activities throughout the year.

To further strengthen the network of conscientious objection, MCO developed a community of like-minded individuals dedicated to the idea of refusing military service, which included members of MCO. Prospective participants had to fill out a form to join the movement, and by the end of 2022, the MCO community comprised 593 participants. Upon joining, participants gained access to a general forum and six specific Telegram chats, each catering to different aspects and experiences of conscientious objection.

In addition to participants, the movement included approximately 40 volunteers who actively contributed to MCO's mission.

****Slide 7: International Advocacy****

MCO's efforts transcended national boundaries as the movement embarked on a journey of international advocacy in 2022. Saša Belik initiated a petition to abolish conscription in Russia, a central goal of the movement. Remarkably, over thirty thousand signatures were collected, highlighting widespread support for the cause.

In June, MCO took its message to the global stage as Saša Belik, the Director of MCO, delivered a speech at the 126th session of the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) during

the review of Russia's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This was a significant opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for conscientious objection at the international level.

In September, MCO prepared a comprehensive report on the rights of conscientious objectors for the Moscow Mechanism, further emphasizing the importance of human rights in the context of military service. Additionally, MCO expanded its international presence by becoming a member of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection and joining the War Resisters' International.

****Slide 8: National Advocacy****

MCO actively engaged in national advocacy throughout 2022, responding to critical issues and initiating successful public campaigns. The movement released a statement in response to the outbreak of war in Ukraine, and this served as a crucial milestone in addressing the evolving political and military landscape.

One of the most notable achievements was the successful campaign to close a concentration camp for conscientious objectors in the village of Bryanka in the Lugansk region of Ukraine. Servicemen who refused to participate in the 'special operation' were initially sent to the camp. Following the launch of a public campaign and calls for subscribers to file complaints with the Military Prosecutor's Office, the camp was eventually closed. This accomplishment highlighted the effectiveness of collective action in defense of conscientious objectors.

A similar camp, this time in the village of Zaitsevo in the Donetsk region of Ukraine, was also brought to public attention. The detainees, newly mobilized, were subjected to violence by their commanders. Another public campaign was initiated, urging subscribers to file complaints, leading to the eventual closure of this camp as well. These achievements underscored MCO's commitment to human rights advocacy.

****Slide 9: Stories of Determination****

MCO

's mission extends beyond statistics and campaigns; it also encompasses the stories of individuals and their loved ones who demonstrate immense courage and determination in the face of adversity. Three remarkable stories illustrate the resilience and commitment of those who refuse military service and those who stand by their side.

Ekaterina's husband, Vladimir Shevtsov, faced mobilization and an absence of a military medical examination, prompting Ekaterina to reach out to MCO for advice. Through collaborative efforts and Vladimir's unwavering resolve, he managed to write a report to the Alternative Civilian Service (ACS) and ultimately return to his hometown as a driver in a military unit.

Aigul's husband, Ruslan Shayakhmetov, was called up for military service despite having chronic illnesses that should have exempted him. Aigul's relentless efforts, with support from human rights defenders, led to Ruslan's return home and a pending medical examination.

Mikhail Ashichev, a conscientious objector, recorded a mobilization draft board meeting on video, defying resistance from the authorities. The public campaign that followed ensured that he was allowed to pursue alternative civilian service and avoid deployment to the combat zone.

These stories reflect not only the challenges but also the courage and determination of those who choose the path of conscientious objection. They highlight the vital importance of legal and psychological support provided by MCO.

****Slide 10: Conclusion****

In conclusion, 2022 was a pivotal year for the Movement of Conscientious Objectors. The movement faced a changing landscape and numerous challenges while making significant strides in raising awareness about conscientious objection and the rights of those who refuse military service.

MCO's accomplishments, both nationally and internationally, underscore the importance of conscientious objection as a human rights issue. The stories of individuals and their loved ones demonstrate the power of determination and support in the pursuit of conscientious objection.

As we reflect on the past year, it is evident that the path of conscientious objection is not just about the individuals who choose it but also about the communities, movements, and organizations that rally around them. The movement's dedication to transparency, education, and support positions it as a key advocate for conscientious objectors.

****Slide 11: Contact Information****

For more information and to engage with the Movement of Conscientious Objectors, you can find us on various platforms:

- Telegram
- VK
- Instagram
- YouTube

****Slide 12: Q&A****

Now, we welcome your questions and discussions about MCO's work and the state of conscientious objection in 2022 and 2023.