



Universiteit Leiden

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<i>Your reference</i>	--	<i>Telephone</i>	+31 (0)71 5277711
<i>Subject</i>	Letter of recommendation for dr. Anton Burkov	<i>Contact</i>	dr. J.P. Loof

With this letter Leiden Law School would like to support the application by Dr. Anton Burkov for a Matra subsidy in order to set up a teaching program to promote greater awareness and knowledge of international and European standards of human rights protection and their effective integration into the legal systems of Russia and other Eurasian countries.

In our view Dr. Burkov's proposal for a Eurasian LL.M Program on the Application of International Human Rights Regimes in National Legal Systems would have at least two beneficial effects.

Firstly, increasing the knowledge of European and international human rights standards with the practicing lawyers in Russia and the Eurasian countries. Up to now, individuals from these countries depend to a large degree on the knowledge and help from NGO's and foreign lawyers to bring complaints on (serious) human rights violations before international supervising organs such as the European Court of Human Rights. Strengthening the knowledge of 'home bred' lawyers and of the legal community in general in the countries concerned can and should lead both to a higher level of conformity with international human rights of the national legal system and to a more adequate access to international complaints procedures for individuals from these countries.

Secondly, Russia nowadays counts for more than 26% of the total number of cases before the European Court of Human Rights. This illustrates the lack of an adequate implementation of European human rights standards in this country. Although in the Moscow region some basic knowledge on European and international human rights standards is available and being taught to lawyers and other professionals, in other regions of Russia information and teaching programs simply are not available. Raising awareness on the existence of human rights standards and knowledge on the standards developed in the case law of the European Court and other supervising organs throughout Russia, especially in the Eastern parts, should lead to better practices within the domestic legal system, for instance when it comes to fair trial standards, the treatment of prisoners, the operation of security forces and the treatment of conscripts. These are all areas in which Russia is often found to violate the European Convention on Human Rights. Better knowledge of human rights standards in the community of practicing lawyers generally is the first step to improvement of domestic legal practices because it raises a greater

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awareness with domestic courts and government officials. Increasing the human rights conformity of domestic practices and policy not only helps the people in Russia who's rights are being violated, but also helps the European Court of Human Rights since there would be less need for individuals from Russia to address the Court.

Dr. Burkov has been educated in the field of human rights in the United Kingdom (Ph.D Cambridge University) and is known to have good contacts with several human rights institutes and universities in the UK and with the School of Human Rights Research in the Netherlands. These contacts will enable him to gather foreign expertise in the setting up of a LL.M program on the implementation of international human rights standards in the domestic legal order.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Lawson', written over a horizontal line.

Professor Rick Lawson
Dean, Leiden Law School