



The CRO's Annual Report 2020

The highlight of the CRO's 2020 Work Plan:

1. Organizing the Third International Circassian Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. The Conference will be organized in a collaborative effort with the Nuremberg Circassian Culture Association and several Federations and Associations in Turkey.
2. Continue to offer the SBSP.
3. Invest more time and effort in the CRO Literature and Culture Preservation Program, especially the "The Circassian Library" project.
4. Promote the CRO Education Program with both initiatives: "The CRO Backpack Drive" and the "CRO Higher Education Scholarship."
5. Promote "The CRO Awards." The CRO Awards Program is intended to honour Circassian individuals or groups who made significant contributions investing their energy and resources, inspiring others, and going above and beyond to support the Circassian people, community, language, or culture.
6. The CRO will be running a "Membership Drive" to increase the number of members.
7. Participate in the Annual Adiga Day in New Jersey, USA.
8. Pursue the CRO's application at the United Nations to bump up the listing of the CRO to be recognized as an NGO by the United Nations.
9. Identify financial resources that can provide the CRO with self-sustaining funding to support the Organization and improve its performance.
10. Continue to communicate with international and civil organizations to build new bridges and establish partnerships and collaboration efforts with them.
11. Finalizing the opening of the branches in Germany
12. Exploring the possibility of establishing a branch in Turkey.

13. Focus on the marketing and media strategies of the CRO and appoint a team specialized in media affairs.
14. Improve the website of the CRO.

Activities and Achievements:

The CRO focuses its activities on supporting the economy, education, and culture, spreading national awareness, and building bridges with the motherland and with Circassian associations and organizations, in addition to the humanitarian relief aspect.

The Corona pandemic has affected the activities of the CRO as it affected businesses all over the world.

The CRO Small Business Support Program (SBSP)

The CRO continued to offer SBSP in 2020, and under this program, the CRO managed to support four more projects in the Caucasus with a total cost of USD12,500.00. Unfortunately, the CRO was forced to reduce the number of projects funded this year due to the Pandemic. Furthermore, the Pandemic affected the ability of previous loan holders to pay their financial obligations.

- Pita Bread Bakery Store (two partners).
- Taxi project.
- Barber Shop project.
- Paper Towel project.

One thousand dollars has been allocated exclusively for short-term (3 months) urgent loans.

In 2020, the CRO made the SBSP applications and the economic feasibility study application available at the CRO's website to simplify the application process.

The CRO issued a Circassian Calendar for 2021. The Calendar was designed in the Caucasus and printed in America and Europe. It was distributed in various countries and the revenue was utilized in the SBSP.

The CRO Education Program

The CRO is a big advocate of the importance of education, and hence it has started "*The CRO Education Program*" with two initiatives under this program:

- The Backpack Support Program aims to provide supplies for students from pre-school to high school.
- The Higher Education Scholarship Program aims to support Circassian students in their educational pursuits in an engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable manner. The top-scoring students (Combination of GPA, creating best essays or video about the "Maykop Culture" and extracurricular activities) to be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.
 - In 2020, The CRO offered one \$1000 scholarship and two \$250 consolation prizes.
 - Dr. Gabagh S. Kablo evaluated all applications.
 - The CRO allocated and spent \$17,000 towards the Backpack Support Program and supported 768 students. The supported students were from the following locations:
 - ❖ 141 students from the Adygea Republic
 - ❖ 107 students from the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria
 - ❖ Five hundred twenty (520) students from the Circassian villages of Homs and Hama.
 - It is worth noting that this year's campaign witnessed an expansion on several levels. On the one hand, the budget increased by 42% compared to the previous year (\$12,000), and on the other hand, the number of supported students showed a four-fold increase (768 versus 178 students). Furthermore, the campaign expanded the geographical coverage, where it expanded to cover the Circassian villages of Homs and Hama and the Adyghe Republic, and the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria.

The CRO Award Program

The CRO Awards Program aims to honor Circassian individuals or groups who have made significant contributions, spent much of their time and resources, inspired others, and went above and beyond to serve the Circassian community, language, and culture.

The goals of the Award Program are:

- Recognizing the exceptional efforts that serve the Circassian community and expressing the Circassians' appreciation for these efforts.
- Raising awareness of the significant achievements that serve the Circassian community.
- Providing a successful role model for the young Circassian generations.

- Promoting a culture of contribution within the Circassian community. Support volunteer initiatives.

The CRO Lifetime Achievement Award: Recognizes dedicated individuals who made exceptional contributions to the Circassian public affairs, language, or culture for at least 25 years.

The Circassian Person of The Year Award: Recognizes distinguished individuals or groups aged 18 or above who made exceptional contributions to the Circassian community, language, or culture in the previous calendar year.

The Satanay Award: Recognizes distinguished female individuals or groups aged 18 or above who made exceptional contributions to the Circassian community in the previous calendar year.

The Project of The Year Award: Recognizes outstanding ideas or projects executed in the previous two calendar years to preserve the Circassian language or culture.

The recipients of the 2020 CRO Lifetime Achievement Award are:

- The Late Mr. Zaur Nalo (НАЛО ЗАУР)
- Ms. Elmas Dishek & Ms. Aysha Dishek (ДЫЩЭК ЕЛМЭСРЭ, АИШЭРЭ)

The recipient of the 2020 CRO Circassian Pearson of the Year Award is:

- Mr. Arsen Kanokov (КЪАНОКЪУЭ АРСЕН)

The Recipient of the 2020 Satanay Award is:

- Mrs. Mariat Wojoukh (УДЖЫХЪУ МАРЕТ)

The CRO Award Committee consisted of the following members:

- Mr. Mohammad Hamzouq, Chair
- Mrs. Zarena Qanouqa
- Mr. Nouraldeen Barsbay
- Mr. Bassam Haj-Hassan Lapsarouqa
- Prof. Günsel (Şurdum) Avci

The CRO Literature and Culture Preservation Program

Under this program, the CRO established "The Short Story Competition" Project.

The CRO Organized two Short Story Competitions:

1. The Short Story Competition in Circassian language named after the well-known author and Circassian Activist the Late Mr. Qoueqoua Nalbi (Къуекъо Налбий). The CRO and the Adyghea Republic Institute for Humanitarian Studies, named after T. M. Kerasheva, registered in the Republic of Adyghea, collaborated to organize this Competition.
2. The Short Story Competition in Circassian language (Kabardian dialect) named after the well-known author and Circassian Activist the Late Mr. Kadir I. Natho (Къадыр Натхъо). The CRO and the Adyghe Language and Literature Teachers Association, named after Kazi Atazhukin, registered in the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, collaborated to organize this Competition.

The *Competition* is designed to strengthen the positive attitude of the younger generations toward their native language as the essential spiritual value; identify gifted teenagers and young students, increase their ability to creatively exploit the richness of the Circassian language following the proposed conditions. Moreover, the *Competition* is expected to help enhance the students' skills in literature and expression and create an ingenious text as well as in employing the native language in creating novel short stories and developing their spoken and written language skills.

The cultural programs organized by the CRO are all designed to help preserve Circassian Literature and culture and build bridges between the diaspora and the motherland.

The CRO Awareness Program

The Third International Circassian Conference:

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the "Third International Circassian Conference" organizers have communicated the decision to **postpone** the Conference to **2021**.

The Third International Circassian Conference will be an excellent platform for Circassian Activists to meet, exchange ideas, share research results and project outputs, and initiate discussions and collaborations. The Circassian communities in the motherland and diaspora are vibrant, with experts in various fields. Therefore, it is imperative to create a platform that brings

all these experts together. The motto of the Third International Circassian Conference is "***Together for a Better Future.***"

The main topics of the third Conference are:

- The Circassian - Circassian Relations: Overcoming Challenges and Initiating Collaborations.
- The Circassian - Russian Relations: Addressing Critical Issues Including the Right of Return and Implementing Solutions.
- Circassian Youth: Identity, Responsibilities, Opportunities and Prospective

The Third International Circassian Conference will be one of the most significant Circassian events in 2021, and it will include the second Circassian Art Exhibition and the CRO Awards Ceremony. The Conference will be held in "The Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center," **Istanbul, Turkey**, between **Sept. 24th and Sept. 27th of 2021**.

The CRO Charity and Relief Program

The CRO is a humanitarian organization, and the CRO Charity and Relief Program is a prominent and essential CRO program. The CRO Charity and Relief Program covers the following aspects:

- Responding to exceptional humanitarian and critical situations.
- Carrying out annual aid campaigns.
- Providing free medical services in cooperation and coordination with health providers and associations worldwide.

The CRO Charity and Relief Program Committee consists of the following:

- Mrs. Sue Napso / USA
- Mrs. Nada Abeda / USA
- Mr. Sibay Taloustan Shojan / Germany
- Mr. Nart Tamzouk / Turkey
- Yara Libzo / UAE

The CRO Charity and Relief committee conducts many activities to support its mandates. These activities include launching relief fundraising campaigns to help those in need, distributing food boxes, and securing required financial support to perform necessary surgical procedures. Furthermore, ensuring treatment costs and expensive medicines, providing free medical consultations provided by volunteer doctors, and collecting Zakat Al-Fitr.

The Committee cooperated with the Solidarity Association in Kiswa and the Circassian Association in Syria (Mr. Radwan Barduqa) to distribute food baskets to support 125 families in need. In addition, 1,800 dollars was distributed in Homs (forty dollars per family) via Mr. Rami Othman and mayors of villages.

An official logo was created for this program, and all activities are documented.

The CRO Outreach Program

The CRO continues to contact various Circassian Associations and Circassian activists to join efforts and collaborate on various vital issues by initiating new programs.

In 2020, the CRO initiated The CRO Media Group. The Media Group was established to improve the representation and public relations of the CRO. Since its establishment and the CRO, Media Group is enhancing the organizations' marketing and media strategies by appointing a specialized team in media affairs. The Group is planning to achieve these goals by:

- Implementing the recommendations of the Board of Directors regarding media and marketing aspects
- Developing a media plan
- Marketing the Organization and its goals
- Marketing of the Organization's activities
- Media coverage of the Organization's activities
- Documenting aa activities of the Organization
- Organizing media events
- Supervising the Organization's website and social media pages
- Conducting research and
- Issuing press releases and bulletins
- Media coordination with other bodies in joint activities
- Follow up on everything published about the Organization
- Attracting experienced and talented volunteers.

The Media Working Group was keen to present the CRO's image, credibility, activities, and achievements in the most professional way through organized teamwork with several editors, translators, and young creative designers. Some of the Media Group activities are listed below:

- Developing an annual media action plan that takes into account multilingualism and geographical distribution.

- Issuing a new quarterly periodical in the English language called "Mafa." The first issue was published in the last quarter of 2020.
- Carrying out a campaign to increase the members of the CRO. Short videos and posters were produced and published on social media to aid in this campaign.
- Created a Facebook page for the CRO branch in America.
- Issuing a calendar for 2020 in cooperation with a designer from the Caucasus.
- Introducing a competition for designing the 2021 Calendar.
- Launching a diverse online talk show entitled "Insight." The talk show is designed to introduce and highlight the CRO's programs, activities and events, and activities of other Circassian Associations.
- Launching a talk show entitled "From the Heart". This program is designed to host prominent Circassian personalities who have enriched the Circassian world in different disciplines to learn about their contributions and personal life.
- Introduced a collaboration event with the Federation of Caucasus Societies in Turkey to organize a Circassian New Year's video competition for children in the Circassian language.
- Periodically reviewing and evaluating the media plans to improve its performance.

Other CRO Activities

Membership Drive Campaign: The CRO formed a Membership Drive Committee to promote the CRO and increase the number. The Committee was headed by Mr. Zaur Barsbay and included Mrs. Nihal Habej Bey, Mr. Nihad Soukar, Mr. Mowaffaq Stas, and Mr. Sabah Tsey. The Committee sent messages, made introduction videos that educated the public about the CRO, its mission, and its programs. It also encouraged people to become members and volunteer in the different CRO programs. As a result, the membership Drive resulted in attracting 64 new members. Aside from the CRO SBSP, the CRO dedicated funds for emergency and short-term loans. In 2020, over 100 loans were given to various people to help them with their needs.

The CRO Board of Executives' Service Award: This award recognizes individuals with outstanding services by one of the CRO members. Someone who helped and assisted in the success of one or more of the CRO programs. This award is presented to individuals who served the CRO for over five years, and their service greatly exceeded the normal expectations of voluntary service. Nominations for recipients of the CRO Board of Executives' Service Award may be made by any member of the CRO or by the Board of Executives. The 2020 Service Award was granted to Mrs. Tina Abzakh for their outstanding service over the years.

The CRO Certificate of Appreciation: The CRO Certificate of Appreciation recognizes individuals (CRO members or non-members) who contributed to advancing the CRO's Programs with their financial support or volunteer work. The success of the CRO and its Programs is a direct result of all contributions and all collaboration efforts. Nominations for the CRO Certificate of Appreciation may be made by any CRO member or by the Board of Executives.

Recipients of the 2020 CRO Certificate of Appreciation:

- The Kabardino-Balkarian Regional Public Organization for Assisting the Return of Compatriots (PERYT)
- The Adyghe Language and Literature Teachers Association named after Kazi Atazhukin
- The Adyghea Republic Institute for Humanitarian Studies named after T. M. Kerasheva
- Mr. Badreddin Wojokh and Mrs. Nefen Stas
- Mr. Bassam Haj-Hassan Lapsarouqa
- Dr. Gabagh S. Kablo
- Mr. Ghassan Arslanbeck
- Mr. Ghazi Balkar
- Prf. Dr. Gonsel Avci
- Mrs. Gupse Aydemir
- Mrs. Huda Daghouz
- Mrs. Liza Stas
- Dr. Marziyat Bidanok
- Mr. Mohammad Hamzouq
- Mr. Mouafaq Stas
- Mr. Mozaffar Dogoz
- Mr. Nart Bachkhaz
- Mr. Nart Tamzok Tsey
- Mr. Nasouh and Mrs. Latifeh Appesh
- Mr. Nihad Souqar
- Mrs. Nehal Habej Bek
- Mr. Ossama Libzo
- Mr. Radwan Bardouka
- Mrs. Raja Mousa
- Mr. Rami Othman
- Mr. Ratmir Khazritovich Karov
- Mr. Raya Hatzeka
- Mr. Murat Tabish
- Dr. Riad Ismail

- Mrs. Sahab Dabet
- Mrs. Samara Varouqua
- Dr. Sameer Stas and Mrs. Lama Appesh
- Mr. Sawsan Napso Osman
- Mrs. Svetlana Tesh
- Mr. Talal Bardouka
- Mr. Talat Jatker
- Mr. Wafa Souqar
- Mr. Yanal Ali Tsey
- Mr. Yanal Majeed
- Ms. Yasmin Bagh
- Dr. Yanal Habj-Bik
- Mrs. Zarena Qanouqa
- Mr. Zawer Barsbai
- Mr. Ziad Shabsough
- Noor Stas
- Dean Stas
- Jan Stas

The CRO Branch in Germany: The Committee responsible for establishing the CRO branch in Germany could not complete the registration due to some administration difficulties. However, the Committee is keen on resolving these issues.

CRO Governing Bodies:

The CRO Board of Executives

- Dr. Orfan Shouakar-Stash (Chairman) / Canada
- Mr. Sabah Tsey (Vice-Chairman) / Holland
- Mrs. Tina Abzakh/ Sweden
- Mr. Yahia Touk / Germany
- Dr. Zaver Shawjan / Germany
- Mrs. Lina Bast / Canada
- Mrs. Sue Napso / USA
- Mr. Badreddin Youssef / USA
- Mr. Hamid Abzakh / Jordan

The CRO-US Board of Executives

- Ms. Yasmin Bagh (President)
- Mrs. Sue Napso (VP)
- Mrs. Nada Abeda (VP)
- Mr. Safwan Helmi Soukar (Treasurer)
- Mr. Nassouh Appesh
- Mr. Yanal Ali
- Mr. Badreddin Youssef
- Mrs. Sally Shobut

The CRO Board of Trustees

- Dr. Ihsan Saleh / Germany
- Mr. Nour Barsby / USA
- Mr. Deeb Katt / Kabardino Balkaria
- Mr. Nasouh Appesh / USA
- Mr. Nusret Bash / Turkey
- Mr. Mohamed Hamzouq / Jordan