



VII Meeting of the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen
"Legal education on human rights and freedoms as a
direction of human rights activity"
Moscow, November 15, 2022

Statement by
the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation
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From an early age, we know the phrase – "ignorance of the law does not exempt from responsibility" – and there is a certain injustice, and justice, and the position of the state, and the position of society, which must do everything possible to ensure that a person knows the law, knows his rights, knows the possibilities and knows how to protect them. Legal education is therefore the main activity of the Ombudsman in almost all States. In accordance with a special law, this is directly enshrined in Russian legislation, in our federal constitutional law "On the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation" and the federal law "On Human Rights Commissioners in the Subjects of the Russian Federation".

Dear colleagues, we have specifically put our fundamental documents in your handout: the Constitution and federal laws so that you have the opportunity to familiarize yourself and use them in your work.

In Russia, in full compliance with international documents on legal education, which are shown here on the slide, over the past years, a legislative system has been created to conduct legal education so that everyone can have the opportunity to gain knowledge about their rights and about the means of their protection: the Constitution, the Foundations of state Policy in the development of Legal literacy and Legal legal consciousness of citizens (Pay attention to this title, namely the formation of legal consciousness, the position of a person in society), the federal law "On Free Legal Aid" and "On Education" and others.

I would like to share with you the experience that we have accumulated in Russia by the Institute of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This year alone, we have launched 22 large-scale projects in the field of legal education, which cover 60 events. They are aimed both at raising the level of legal education and at supporting specific citizens. Along with the traditional ones, we are also introducing new formats of legal education. Our guests focused on certain areas of human rights, and I want to focus on the forms and tools that we use to make people aware of their rights.

The pandemic prompted us to do this. We have created an electronic museum, a youth human rights chatbot, an incubator of youth human rights initiatives, a multimedia workshop for legal education and social support for students.

Starting from 2023, which has been declared by the President as the year of the "Teacher and Mentor", together with the Ministry of Education of Russia, we plan to hold an educational forum "Human Rights", we pay special attention to legal education of socially vulnerable categories of people, those who find it more difficult to obtain rights, knowledge about their rights, persons with disabilities, pensioners, representatives of indigenous minorities, youth. The Integration Festival for People with Disabilities has become a traditional legal marathon for pensioners. We directly go out into this environment and help people and issue documents, and tell them how best to speak in court or in administrative bodies.

This year, two new projects were launched: the electronic "Library of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia" on the platform of the National Electronic Library, which includes scientific and practical works on the activities of the Commissioner; and the electronic museum "History of the Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation". These QR codes are real, working, and if you point your gadgets at them, the entire volume of information placed under the QR code will be revealed and will give you the opportunity to get as much information as possible about the institution of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, its history, future and real programs that are being implemented.

Our slide contains educational digital book exhibitions dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the International Day of Disabled People. Today, during our short exhibition, we showed you how it works, and it is very much in demand.

The All-Russian Unified Lesson on Human Rights is held annually for students and schoolchildren. This form has become, one might say, a favorite both for young people and for us human rights commissioners in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation (Tatiana Potyaeva, the Moscow Commissioner present here, will confirm this) and for our staff. For five years, the audience of the open All-Russian lesson amounted to 32 million schoolchildren and students. This year, a single lesson will be held in December on the eve of Human Rights Day, and as part of the decision of our Alliance, a single lesson on human rights has already been held in Serbia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and a number of other countries, and I suggest that our alliance members develop this initiative further.

Within the framework of cooperation between the Commissioner and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and a consortium of universities, colleague Lukyantsev spoke about this in detail, an educational event for students on the master's program "International Protection of Human Rights" has been held since year 16. In my office, Russian-speaking representatives of indigenous minorities are constantly being trained. This topic is also relevant for many states that are part of our alliance.

The project days of legal literacy of migrants has been implemented for more than two years, and this year it was especially in demand due to the huge influx of migrants and evacuees to our country from Donetsk, Lugansk Republic and Ukraine and a huge number of refugees on the territory of your states.

Dear Ombudsmen, in connection with the current trends in the field of migration processes, I propose to combine efforts to prepare specialized pamphlets for citizens migrating across the territory of the Eurasian Space, coming to work with us, for the purpose of tourism, family reunification.

Every year in December, together with the Association of Lawyers, civil society, the All-Russian Legal Dictation is held. Just yesterday, I voiced new questions for the participants of the new dictation, which encourage them to develop interest in human rights and in the work of our institute. This year we are conducting an online quiz on the public's knowledge of the competence of human rights commissioners. A very interesting experience. The initiative has been developed and implemented in the Educational process in many universities, especially in non-legal universities, the human rights program aims to introduce it into all non-state higher education institutions

For schoolchildren, this year, with the participation of our expert council, here Tatiana Alexandrovna participated in the development, together with members of the expert council, of a new Federal Educational Standard for high school students, where for the first time we have a module for grades 10-11 on human rights. We see our task to extend the teaching of this subject to other levels of education.

A Scientific and educational center on Human Rights has been operating in Russia for several years. You have seen in our museum a stand dedicated to him and the main stages of his work. For three and a half years, it has trained more than two thousand employees of the offices of the Human rights

commissioners and the Human rights commissioners themselves, and children, and entrepreneurs, members of public monitoring commissions who work in pension system institutions, novice human rights defenders. Last year, for the first time, the staff of our colleague from Kazakhstan took part in the human rights training center. Dear colleagues, I suggest that you use the REC platform and all the opportunities in Russia to train employees of your devices, use our methods, and we will be happy to promote your methods.

An Expert Council and a Youth Council have been established under the Commissioner, they carry out significant educational work both according to their own program and consolidated with other civil society institutions. The youth educational forums "Territory of Meanings" and "Eurasia Global" became another legal platform. At them we meet with young people, answer questions and participate in discussions. They, as a rule, go to a very beautiful place near Moscow, where they live for a few days, get acquainted with their experience and meet with us, experienced people in this field in order to ask us questions, and we need to see what the youth are concerned about today, which problems are the most important. We invite the members of our Eurasian Alliance to send their youth teams to participate in these forums. I promise that full comprehensive support will be provided from my side.

The annual ceremony of awarding the Commissioner's medal "Hurry up to do good" carries a great legal charge. It has been held since 2005 – the medal encourages people and human rights organizations for their great contribution to the protection of human rights. I think it would be interesting if we discussed with you the possibility of introducing an award on behalf of the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen to organizations and individuals who have shown themselves in the direction related to the protection of human rights.

Dear colleagues, I know that projects in the field of legal education and innovative practices are being actively implemented in your countries, publishing activities are expanding. I think it will be interesting for all of us to learn about this experience.