



**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 Chief Ombudsman of the Republic of Turkey**  
**Şeref Malkoç**

Dear Ombudsmen, dear participants, I would like to welcome you and thank the organizers who made this event possible, first of all, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, Mrs. Tatiana Moskalkova.

Two days ago, a bloody terrorist attack took place in Istanbul: six civilians lost their lives, many people were injured. I want to thank those colleagues who expressed their condolences.

Dear colleagues, regardless of how human rights are protected or regulated in the Constitution, these human rights are not necessarily known to the population and how to use them and what mechanisms to use, it is even less known, and this is a problem. And it is a huge responsibility of the ombudsmen to promote and explain how to use their rights, how people can protect their rights. This is a huge responsibility of the Human rights Commissioners.

I would like to give some examples to demonstrate how the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Turkey uses its mechanisms to achieve these goals.

The population in our country is almost 85 million, 8 million of them are university students and we can say that almost 10 percent of the population are university students. There are 105 law faculties in the country. This means that there are almost 100 thousand students studying law. They cooperate with teachers, and we certainly work with them. And there are almost 200 thousand lawyers and lawyers in our country, they have associations in 81 cities, and we also cooperate with them.

We have a special Department for Human Rights, and we pay special attention to the training of employees. In 2020-2022, we conducted 32 trainings. This means that we had almost three trainings every month. In order to increase the knowledge and expand the experience of our experts, we send many of them to the European Ombudsman Institutions so that they can get acquainted with their experience there personally.

In Turkey, we have a total of 17 million high school and high school students. After negotiations with the Ministry of Education, we decided that textbooks for schoolchildren and students should contain information about the protection of human rights and the activities of ombudsmen so that this information could be brought to this number of 17 million schoolchildren and students, and in order to reach 8 million students, we have established special clubs at universities and others universities.

We are a member of nine global associations and entities that unite ombudsmen around the world, including the Association of Ombudsmen of Islamic States.

As Ms. Eshmatova has already said, in 2022 we established the Association of Ombudsmen of Turkic-speaking States.

I would like to ask you to remember for yourself the date, January 11, 2023, we are planning an international conference where we invite representatives or organizations for the protection of human rights from all over the world, including your region and also other regions of the world, and my best wishes to all of you.

Once again, I would like to thank Tatiana Nikolaevna and her wonderful staff for organizing this event.