



7th Meeting of the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen
"Legal education on human rights and freedoms as a
direction of human rights activity"
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Statement by
the Akyikatchy (Ombudsman) of the Kyrgyz Republic
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First of all, let me express my gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the seventh meeting of the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen. Tatiana Nikolaevna, let me congratulate the Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation on its 25th anniversary. In fact, while we have been through the tour, the data and results of your work have been visible. The Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation shows the best experience of interaction with state bodies, working with citizens and working with people who have other citizenship.

I am glad that I have the opportunity with you, so we just signed a memorandum in Kyrgyzstan on October 26 during our Anniversary event and, just the same, provided for new mechanisms of interaction, where, first of all, on your initiative, points on holding joint receptions of citizens were included, which is one of the important components of the legal educating citizens, improving the legal literacy of the population of both states, which in turn leads to consolidation, systemic improvement of friendly relations, and most importantly, improving the situation in the field of human rights.

I think that the human rights map that you have shown is also an excellent indicator and experience. I really liked this idea, and we will also implement it at home, because in fact, it is very important to own the situation in the country, especially federations of such size, in order to make timely decisions on where and how to pay more attention to this or that type of human rights. And the fact that new technologies, new opportunities, digital opportunities are used in the work of the Commissioner for Human Rights is certainly an indicator of the best best practices being implemented at the institute. It will be useful for us, I think. We talked with the staff of the Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation that we need this data in the context of our citizens who stay here for various reasons, for various purposes. This way we can receive timely information about what is happening to our citizens.

Legal literacy, legal education, in some countries it is called legal propaganda – this is an important tool on which the stability and development of the state is based, since we all know the postulates of Orwell and our other classics that rumors and gossip occur in a less educated society. The less educated a society is, the more cataclysms there are in this society, the more people are subject to various manipulations, which is now one of the great threats of the modern state anywhere in the world, because social networks and Internet capabilities, they spread any fakes, any gossip, any fears, threats that may appear at lightning speed, and not always the state, state bodies have time to indicate that this is a lie.

Therefore, we see the consequences of such wars and the consequences of such manipulations. Therefore, legal education is important now, in my opinion. So in our country, in relation to children, it is very often discussed that it is necessary to close the content unfavorable for children on the Internet and it is possible to restrict children from the Internet. There are also threats and risks of religious extremism and radicalism, which are also much better used on the Internet than states have time to educate and educate their population.

Now our Institute of the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic is of course more puzzled by how to use the Internet to improve the situation with human rights and, first of all, with the dissemination of reliable information, with the dissemination of legal information, with the dissemination of advice for our citizens both located on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic and located outside it.

We are introducing online reception of citizens, online registration, yes, we are trying to keep up with the times, but so far, unfortunately, government agencies are lagging behind more and more new tools that appear on the Internet.

The legal literacy index is conducted by one of the analytical organizations, the NAFI analytical center, and according to their data, in 2020, the right literacy of Russians was 47%, 22% of respondents said they had experienced violations of their rights, and 48% want to increase their level of legal literacy. I think these figures are similar in our countries.

Therefore, we need to conduct annual research, assess the basic state of legal literacy of our population, take joint events and by the end of the year make another cut and see how much our event has affected the legal literacy of the population.

And that's where we could lay down how we should fight or prevent human rights violations in connection with information manipulation, the spread of fakes and false information on the Internet, in messengers. We can close some sites, but it is almost impossible to close messengers. Therefore, if this is not possible, we need to learn how to avoid risks and use opportunities correctly.

Also, as in the Russian Federation, many CIS countries have adopted model laws and a lot of laws, including those regulating the field of education, legal education. We also have the law "On Education", the law "On guaranteed State legal Aid". The Minister of Justice is very progressive, carries out very large reforms in the field of legal education of citizens, and a Legal Education Center has been specially created under the Ministry of Justice, with which we are conducting joint activities, as well as with the Ministry of Education, at the level of higher educational institutions, at the school level.

We are also strengthening cooperation with our scientific community, if the scientific community joins us and strengthens our messages to state bodies, the state, with their research and possible solutions, then this situation will change.

And you already have a good experience, a scientific center has been created, and we are also interested in seeing the interaction within the framework of cooperation with scientific circles. Therefore, now, keeping up with the times, it is important for us to try to find answers on how we can improve the legal literacy of the population.

And most importantly, in my opinion, now in the legal education of citizens, we must proceed not only from the position of "I have the right", but also from the position of "I have the duty", because it is very strange that most of our courses, most of our training conference booklets are devoted to the position of "I have the right". We have taught, in fact, more or less our citizens to say: "I have the right." But "I have responsibilities" or "I have to", unfortunately, in my opinion, there are fewer educational programs in this part, and I still think that we now have to carry these two components unambiguously always and everywhere and at all levels and teach not only rights, but also duties our citizens, because if people understand the limits of what is possible, there will be fewer human rights violations and, of course, the whole human rights situation will improve.