



**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 Head of the National Center for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan**  
**Zere Utebaeva**

Thank you Tatiana Nikolaevna, on behalf of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Asimova, I express my greetings and wishes for a successful discussion of topical issues on today's agenda.

Currently, as you all know, large-scale work is being carried out in Kazakhstan to implement constitutional reforms aimed at strengthening human rights mechanisms and ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens. A number of legislative initiatives are being progressively adopted, and first of all, among them the constitutional law "On the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan" adopted just a few days ago

As you know, early elections of the President of the Republic are scheduled for November 20 this year in Kazakhstan, and this event is a direct evidence of the renewal of the political system and greater involvement of civil society in deciding their own fate in the state-people format. The constitutional reforms currently underway will form a new model of interaction between the branches of government, expand opportunities for citizens to participate in government, strengthen guarantees for the protection of human rights and freedoms.

The direct participation of the Commissioner for Human Rights both at the stage of preparation and in the process of holding the elections themselves plays a special role in monitoring this process. Currently, the Commissioner is considering the possibility of inviting ombudsmen from other States and representatives of international organizations as experts.

In accordance with the Paris Principles, one of the functions of the NHRI is to promote legal education of citizens in the field of protection of human and civil rights and freedoms. We are impressed by the systematic approach of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation in matters of legal education, in particular with the use of digital technologies, the introduction of an electronic museum, virtual book exhibitions and regular contests of innovative technologies in legal education.

Kazakhstan's experience of working with young people in matters of legal education is based on interaction with metropolitan and regional universities, regardless of ownership forms, as well as departmental academies and training centers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the penal enforcement system, the Prosecutor General's Office. One example is a joint project with

The PRI representative office in Central Asia has been implemented in five major regions of the country with a total coverage of more than 2,700 students and 500 teachers. The project ideas have already been introduced into the practice of educational institutions, approaches to the preparation of theses have been changed, elective courses on human rights have been introduced, in particular the course "International Standards of Human Rights and the national preventive mechanism", cooperation with foreign universities has been established. Together with the United Nations Agency on Drugs and Crime, the Nelson Mandela Scientific and Educational Center was opened for the first time in the Central Asian

space at the Academy of the Penal System. Education and education in the field of human rights, including youth, is a constant focus of the work of the Commissioner for Human Rights.

According to the population census, the number of the country's population has exceeded the mark of 19.6 million people, the percentage of young people aged 14 to 28 years is more than 20 percent. At the same time, there is an understanding that from an early age it is necessary to instill legal education to the younger generation not only through the prism of rights, but also duties. This is what a colleague of the Ombudsman from Kyrgyzstan also said about compliance with the law, including taking into account the age of administrative and criminal responsibility. In this context, the Ombudsman initiates a review of the age of children who are taught the subject "Fundamentals of human rights" in schools. Children and young people today have a great need to acquire not just skills about human values and self-knowledge, but also the question of the basics of law.

Another example is the holding of the Voice of Children forum in an open microphone format with the participation of the Commissioner, the Ministry of Education and other interested state bodies. Children together with their parents have the opportunity to discuss issues related to the violation of children's rights, bullying and cyberbullying, the rights and duties of teachers of parents and children.

The Commissioner for Human Rights also conducts a livestream through Instagram platforms in real time. By another method of education, in our country we practice holding by the participants of the national preventive mechanism, in addition to receiving citizens held in closed institutions, a consultation of convicts, as well as seminars for employees of institutions, the main focus of which is not only on international standards, but also on communicating information about the ongoing reforms, changes and trends.

In addition to educating the staff of institutions, the initiatives of the Commissioner for Human Rights are being implemented, one of which is "Reading without Borders", which does not require budget expenditures, but which increases the chance of convicts to be released on parole. The initiative was launched relatively recently, but already has its effect: in its short period of implementation, about 300 convicts have positively increased their degree of behavior. It is gratifying that our judicial system supports this initiative, and there is already the first case when a convict was able to exercise the right to parole.

In addition to this, the issue of connecting to a single centralized library system of all types of institutions subordinate to the functions of the national preventive mechanism is currently being worked out. The conclusion of memoranda of cooperation and interaction also significantly contributes to the legal education and awareness-raising of citizens about the activities of the Ombudsman.

I see colleagues from other countries are also signing memoranda, this is really necessary. Within the framework of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation with the Civil Alliance of Kazakhstan, and it covers more than three thousand non-profit organizations, it is planned to implement joint activities of projects to improve the development of civil society, protect the rights and interests of citizens, conduct scientific and analytical research. The memorandum was also signed on cooperation and interaction with the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, which provides for the exchange of information on the human rights situation in the country, the interethnic situation in order to monitor and analyze data, holding a joint reception of citizens, consultations on legal issues with the invitation of representatives of state bodies, mediators, legal consultants and other specialists. We also have a partnership within the framework of the memorandum of mutual cooperation with the Republican Board of Legal Consultants, which is aimed at implementing joint tasks to improve mechanisms for the protection of constitutional human and civil rights.

An important tool of education for us is interaction with the media, as mentioned above. A number of landmark reforms are being carried out in our country, including strengthening the status and role of the refinery

In order to ensure the observance of human rights and the restoration of guaranteed rights, as I said just the other day, the constitutional law "On the Commissioner for Human Rights" was adopted, the purpose of which is to expand citizens' access to constitutional control and strengthen human rights instruments. The new law provides for the right of the commissioner to appeal to the Constitutional Court.

We have created a new institution - the Constitutional Court. Now the Ombudsman has the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court on the issue of compliance with the Constitution of normative legal acts affecting the enshrined constitutional rights and freedoms of man and citizen. The law also provides for the establishment of regional representative offices of the Commissioner. We assume that the increase in the Commissioner's staff, as well as the opening of his representative offices in the regions, will increase the awareness of citizens in remote and rural regions about the existence of a human rights institution.

Not only the Commissioner for Human Rights, but also the staff of the office, as well as newly appointed regional representatives, in addition to working in social media, take part in TV shows that are in the focus of public attention, especially during prime time.

In addition to strengthening the Commissioner's status, we are involved in all legislative initiatives related to human rights, where we practice a transparent approach through the involvement of a wide range of the public, including through the organization of public hearings. So, under the Commissioner, we have expert councils, traditional councils, where we discuss all the norms and legislative initiatives with them, since almost all the speakers in their speeches have already said that we need to involve critics, as they say, we have enough that they are not involved, and the ombudsman's platform is a vivid example of what actually in fact, on the contrary, the public is involved.

In the near future, we see the development of the direction of the development of special reports, as well as the issues of protection of personal data of citizens in the digital space are included in the field of work. This is what Boris Alexandrovich said, for example, in the first half of the day. Business and human rights issues and the impact of climate change the announced methods of work are far from an exhaustive list of the work being done on this issue. I am sure that the discussion within the framework of this event will allow us to fully exchange experience in human rights activities, in particular in the field of legal education. I wish us all fruitful work and thank you all for your attention