

INFORMATION AND REFERENCE MATERIAL

on the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation in the field of legal education

Legal education in matters of human rights and freedoms and the forms and methods of their protection is one of the main areas of activity of commissioners for human rights in the Russian Federation, which is set out in the Federal Act "On the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation" and the Federal Act "On commissioners for human rights in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation".

In 2022 22 human rights education projects were carried out, as part of which 75 events were organized for various target audiences.

In addition to traditional formats (round tables, lectures, master classes, quizzes, book and photo exhibitions, cinema club, excursions, practices), the High Commissioner is introducing new formats of legal education (electronic museum, youth human rights chatbot, incubator of youth human rights initiatives, multimedia workshop on legal education and social support for students).

Key trends in legal education work in recent years: a shift from local events, legal education as a personal activity of the High Commissioner to project work, mastering of new interactive practices, adaptation of socially demanded, long-term projects to the current level of technology development.

The High Commissioner's legal education work relies on legal education projects for young people and socially vulnerable categories of the population - people with disabilities, pensioners, representatives of small indigenous peoples, children in difficult life situations, women subjected to domestic violence, victims of political repression and migrants.

In 2022, the nature and scale of awareness-raising activities were to a large extent determined by the volume of requests for the protection of the rights of evacuees and the protection of the rights of servicemen and members of their families. The partial mobilisation of the armed forces of the Russian Federation also had an impact on the focus of legal education.

In cooperation with the human rights commissioners in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and the regional branches of the Russian Association of Lawyers, a socially oriented educational campaign entitled "A single day of free legal assistance for people forced to leave the Donetsk, Luhansk and Ukrainian republics" was conducted. The campaign covered more than 40 regions and more than 1,000 persons were consulted (May 2022).

YOUTH

The High Commissioner and employees of the Office primarily carry out their own educational and awareness-raising projects, but also participate in or use for awareness-raising purposes the platforms of projects implemented by other state bodies, higher education institutions and public organizations.

The Youth Council under the High Commissioner has become an important platform for systematic work to protect young people's rights and exchange best practices (29 events have been held by the federal Youth Council and more than 100 are held in the regions). At the initiative of members of the Youth Council, the Youth Human Rights Projects and Initiatives Incubator project was launched for the first time - educational webinars and training sessions on social design, media promotion and grant support, as well as the human rights chatbot in Telegram.

A nationwide contest entitled "Innovative technologies in legal education on the rights and freedoms of citizens, forms and methods of their protection" and a nationwide contest of student law-making initiatives entitled "The law of the future" were held. In 2022, participants of the VI All-Russian legal (legal) dictation were asked a video question by the Ombudsman.

Together with the All-Russian Student Union, the Student Watch online human rights marathon project was implemented. Members of the Youth Council took an active part in the Multimedia Workshop on Legal Education and Social Support for Students.

The inter-agency mentoring project initiated by the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, Women: Mentoring School and the Commissioner's own Mentoring Project were supported, under the general guidance of the Commissioner, students from leading Russian universities worked on their social and legal projects in the field of education and protection of family, maternity, paternity and childhood rights.

In the framework of cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, for the seventh year educational events have been held for students of the inter-university master's programme "International Protection of Human Rights". During this time, some 4,000 master's students have participated in them.

SCHOOLERS

As a result of constructive cooperation between the High Commissioner and the Russian Ministry of Education, changes have been made to the federal state educational standard (FSSES) for secondary general education.

Now schoolchildren must learn about the human rights system and state and public institutions, including the Ombudsman Institution.

For the sixth time, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation supported a large-scale educational project titled 'Human Rights Lesson' thanks to the active participation of commissioners for human rights in regions of the Russian Federation. In 2022, schoolchildren and students from new constituent entities of the Russian Federation also joined the project. Since 2017, 32 million people have participated in the project over five years. In different years, the Single Lesson has been held in Serbia, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, as decided by the Eurasian Ombudsman Alliance.

A joint project with the Department of Education and Science of Moscow, the Legal Navigator, was continued. A joint project 'Legal Navigator' aimed at improving the level of legal knowledge among school students within the Social Science course continued.

INVALIDS

Events were held for people with disabilities as part of the socially oriented Integration Festival project - lectures, master classes, webinars, a cinema club (the project has been running since 2018). Together with O.E. Kutafin University (Moscow State Law Academy), a scientific and practical V International Interuniversity Legal Competition "Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" was held.

PENSIONERS

Implementation of the large-scale long-term educational project "Legal Marathon for Pensioners" continued (over 1,700 events and more than 17,000 legal consultations were organized and held in the regions and by the High Commissioner's Office between 2017 and 2022).

A significant event of the project was the Single Day of Free Legal Aid for the Senior Citizens - Pensioners, War Veterans, Disabled, which was held in 57 constituent entities of the Russian Federation (September 2022). Together with the regional branches of the Association of Lawyers of Russia, more than 1,500 legal consultations were organized by the commissioners for human rights as part of this campaign.

MIGRANTS

For the third year running, events within the framework of the project «legal literacy days for migrants».

In 2022, representatives of the "Coordination Centre for Protection and Adaptation of Migrants", an educational master class for refugee and migrant

children at the Russian Red Cross educational centre, and a book and illustrative exhibition 'Worthy Workers for Humanity: Migrants in Russian History' were held as part of cooperation with the Russian National Library.

INDIGENOUS MINORITIES

Since 2016, the High Commissioner has supported a programme of internships for Russian-speaking representatives of indigenous peoples in the UN system.

As part of the Moscow component of this internship, a traditional training seminar on the activities of the State Human Rights Institution was held at the Human Rights House for leaders of youth non-governmental organizations representing the Khanty, Evenki, Altai, Vepsy, Tver Kareli peoples.

(November 2022).

DIGITAL PROJECTS

New digital projects have been launched: an electronic Library of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation on the platform of the National Digital Library, an electronic museum "History of the Institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation", and an online quiz (on the 25th anniversary of the Federal Law № 1).

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

Since 2019, the Human Rights Research and Education Centre of O.E. Kutafin University has been in operation, established on the initiative of the Ombudsman with the support of Russian President Vladimir V. Putin.

Since its launch, it has trained more than 2,000 commissioners for human rights and commissioners for children's rights in constituent entities of the Russian Federation, their staff, members of public monitoring commissions and aspiring human rights defenders.