

The problem of creating culturally homogeneous societies.

Many discriminatory measures, which we are talking about this morning, are aimed at the same goal - the creation of a culturally homogeneous society. These are original models of integration that the state uses in the hope of assimilating religious and ethnic minorities.

Discriminatory conditions for the registration of Muslim religious communities that exist for example in Slovakia and Austria; language discrimination, including the language discrimination of Muslims during the exercise of religious worship, as in Italy; the temporary withdrawal of children from immigrant families in order to be introduced with national, but in fact - to Christian values, as in Denmark; imprisonment for up to 4 years for the fact that parents sent their children living in certain Muslim enclaves to their homeland ancestors for a long period, so that they do not forget their traditional values, as in Denmark, or the ban on education in minority schools in minority languages, both in Ukraine and Latvia, the ban on 17 Islamic local religious communities in France (and today there is talk of closing all Salafi mosques in this country in general), even the ban on religious headgear is an attempt to create a culturally homogeneous society, and with elements of violence, because people have no choice - to accept or not to accept these Rules of the game. Accepting these rules, they inevitably lose their values, their traditions, even elements of their language and horizons, especially in narrowly specialized spheres.

What does this lead to? People who reject such a policy either have to leave the country or choosing the ghetto created by themselves, where they become victims of radicals of different stripes. There is the process of radicalization of the minorities. In accordance with the Statistics, 27-28% of all representatives of minorities are choosing a Ghetto. And this is the main problem. In 2017, the proportion of Muslims, for example, who do not have and do not seek to have any contact with non-Muslims and generally with the aborigines of host countries, was 22% in France and Germany, in Britain and Austria - 32% and 38% respectively.

I want to draw the attention of the OSCE leadership that uniformity and coercion is not a feature of democratic societies. It is necessary to develop new conventional conditions that ensure the free development of national and religious minorities. Today, there is no binding international document and no international body that prohibits forced assimilation when a person is deprived of the right to choose, except for one - to emigrate. The Framework Convention of the Council of Europe, on the contrary, allows assimilation if it meets the objectives of integration (Article 5.2). So, if the State wants to assimilate the minority, it has to state that it is in the interest of integration of the minorities.

It is necessary to separate "values" from "language competence". It is necessary to rely on multilingualism and the multipolarity of opinions, traditions and cultures. The culture of the majority only couldn't unite the society, but general supra-ethnic and nonreligious values, for example, democratic or pan-European values, patriotism, neutrality, like in Switzerland, or the idea of a united Europe can do that. In any case, violent actions aimed at creating culturally homogeneous societies, when a person is deprived of the right to choose, are not permissible.

But for this we need a new convention, a new international instrument on the prohibition of forced assimilation of minorities, because in the world today there are no real binding instruments in this field. I call on the OSCE to pay attention to the absence of such a legal instrument today, and to start working on a new document that can block the path of forced assimilation.