

**Statement of the Head of the Department of International Connections of the  
Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea  
Yevhen Samykha at  
Working Session 1: “Policy making for mainstreaming human rights  
education in the OSCE region” of the  
2018 Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

**Madam Moderator,  
Distinguished participants,**

In my statement, I would like to describe the challenges that face legal education under foreign occupation, to which the ODIHR must pay due attention and help solve the problems of the OSCE participating country.

Today Ukraine has created a unique system for the world that provides access to education for children and youth of Crimea who have found themselves in the Russian occupation since 2014, and who are discriminated against by the aggressor in their right to educate in their native language after an attempt to annex the Russian Federation to this Ukrainian territory. As a result of the joint efforts of the authorities and public organizations in 2016, the Parliament amended the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” and it was also adopted the regulations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine which allow to get the higher education for citizens residing in temporarily occupied Crimea and to ensure the implementation of their constitutional rights as citizens of Ukraine.

So, children on the peninsula, which is controlled by the Russian Federation, have the opportunity to study remotely or externally in schools in mainland Ukraine and, according to the results of the state final certification, obtain Ukrainian documents on secondary education with which they can enroll in any Ukrainian university. This mechanism is used by many schoolchildren, whose parents understand the illegality of the actions of the occupying power in Crimea, but are forced to be occupied, and link their further fate with Ukraine as a European state.

Then there is a simplified procedure for admission to higher schools of Ukraine for Crimean residents, who need to come to the mainland, having only a document confirming their place of birth on the peninsula, and contact the educational centers “Crimea-Ukraine”, which were created at 35 higher educational institutions of different profiles regions of Ukraine. After passing three exams: the Ukrainian language, the history of Ukraine and the specialized exam, Crimean residents become students of the best of these universities, studying at the expense of the state budget. In 2018, according to this procedure, all Crimean pupils applicants who expressed a desire to study in Ukraine were accepted into higher educational institutions of Ukraine.

In addition, Ukrainian citizens who entered and studied at the universities of Crimea and Sevastopol until 2014, as well as those who entered the illegal educational institutions of the already occupied peninsula, have the right to undergo certification in institutions of higher education in Ukraine to confirm their qualifications, continue their studies in free territory and receive Ukrainian diplomas. This mechanism has already used by more than 2,000 students from the Crimea.

An important role is played by the information support of introductory companies for Crimean scholars. Thus, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, together with public organizations, developed “road maps” containing detailed information on how and when applicants from the occupied Crimea can enroll in a higher or vocational education institution under a simplified procedure through educational centers. The developed instruction contains key dates regarding the submission of documents, dates of entrance exams, enrollment, a list of necessary documents and an algorithm of actions that the incoming Crimean applicant must perform.

Ukraine pays great attention to the safety factor of Crimean students studying on the mainland, who are forced to visit the territory of the peninsula, where the occupation authorities and the security forces of the Russian Federation create problems for them and their relatives.

The Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea actively promoted this information system. In 2018, on our initiative, the universities involved in the program “Crimea-Ukraine” were produced and transmitted to the television channels broadcasting in the Crimea social advertising clips which also were posted on the Internet. The Mission also helped applicants who arrived from the temporarily occupied Crimea in resolving problematic situations related to the renewal of identity documents and other problems.

The Mission officers also takes an active part in raising the qualifications of the Crimeans living on the peninsula or moving from it. In particular, the leadership and officers of the Mission together with public organizations conducted a series of seminars for lawyers and activists from the Crimea “Universal mechanisms for the protection of human rights” in the mainland of Ukraine. Representatives of the Mission took part in the training for internally displaced persons from Crimea on rights and personal safety for indigenous peoples and in the session of the Second Annual Academy of Public Diplomacy of the Crimean Tatars, in the educational camp "Liberate Crimea".

During these seminars and trainings during 2017-2018, the mechanisms for protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Crimeans and the form of contacting the OSCE, UN and Council of Europe bodies were reviewed, the examples of international negotiations, administrative and judicial procedures, as well as actual examples of violations international law in Crimea and the negative economic consequences for violating countries were given.

Also, the issue of the human rights situation in Crimea and the problems faced by human rights defenders working in Crimea were discussed at an expert meeting on June 14, 2018 in Kherson, held jointly by the OSCE Office and the ODIHR.

We are ready to implement the OSCE’s expected recommendations developed by the participants of this meeting in the field of human rights and education for Crimeans, as well as the relevant prescriptions of the OSCE / ODIHR Report on Human Rights in Crimea and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities 2015.

I thank you.