

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE  
THIRD OSCE SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EDUCATION: PROMOTING HUMAN  
RIGHTS, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND SECURITY IN THE  
OSCE REGION THROUGH EDUCATION**

9 October 2018

**Session II: Leveraging New Information Technologies for Advancing  
Human Rights Education**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Human rights education is an important element of the legal policy of a State wishing to ensure that its citizens take an active position when it comes to protecting their rights and freedoms. It is understood that this requires an innovative approach to education, with a focus on modern information technologies. What is more, this approach should apply not only to educational institutions but also to self-study programmes. Let me tell you more about the Russian developments in this area.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, Tatiana Moskalkova, pays particular attention to innovative methods of legal education. On 1 December 2017, the High Commissioner held the first Russia-wide open lesson on human rights for schoolchildren as a webcast across the entire country. The event was very warmly received and will now be held annually. An online seminar was organized for secondary school heads and teachers so that the teaching staff of every school could acquire the necessary skills to hold these lessons.

Furthermore, staff at the High Commissioner's Office prepared a wide range of online human rights education projects, of which the "Human Rights Map of Russia" website and a special portal<sup>1</sup> with visual information on Russian best practices and legal education programmes are worth mentioning.

Specialist higher education also receives due attention in Russia. In 2009, a master's programme in international human rights protection was launched and is implemented using a consortium of Russian partner universities with the support of the United Nations High

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1 <http://ombudsmanrf.org/pravo>

Commissioner for Human Rights. A number of distance learning courses involving video lectures have been developed as part of this programme. Five resource centres also operate under the aegis of the consortium of partner universities. They serve as a venue for webcasts of lectures by visiting professors, training sessions and round tables, using videoconference links. This enables master's students from different universities to play an active part in the discussions.

In addition to these information technologies, active use is also made of education through games, aimed at students in middle and secondary school classes. For several years now, the Russian New University has organized a multilevel interactive legal game called "Legal Volunteers", the main purpose of which is to train students in practical human rights skills. As part of this game, students are invited to embark on a human rights quest called "The Law – Instructions for Use". Case studies are also examined, and real appeals by citizens to regional human rights commissioners provide the material for this purpose. The goal of this project is to instil in the new generation a spirit of responsibility towards society and also to develop practical skills in the area of human rights protection.

Promising projects on the introduction of information technologies also receive attention. In December 2017, the Russia-wide competition "Innovative technologies in legal education on the issues of citizens' rights and freedoms and forms and methods of their protection" was launched. The project is intended to involve young people in the process of citizens' legal education through the use of information technologies. The competition's goal is to find the most promising models for adapting complex legal information for a wide audience. The results will be announced in December of this year. A jury will select the winners from six categories: websites, mobile apps, interactive tutorials, infographics, videos and online libraries with educational materials.

In this way, with the support of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation and a host of Russian educational institutions, information technologies and innovative methods are being introduced into the educational process for the protection of human rights. We hope that Russia's experience in this area will be useful to other OSCE participating States.