

**Regional Center of Human Rights for the Working Session 9 “Humanitarian issues and other commitments, including combating trafficking in human beings, refugees and displaced persons, persons at risk of displacement” of the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**The policy pursued by the Russian Federation** on the occupied territory of Crimea **causes mass displacement of Ukrainians** living in the Peninsula to mainland Ukraine and other countries. Those, fleeing from Crimea to mainland Ukraine – become internally displaced persons (IDPs). Therefore, Russia is responsible for the generation of the influx of IDPs in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of the occupation, **over 36,000 Crimeans** have left the peninsula for mainland Ukraine (as of 29 March 2019 according to the Report of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) and **their number continues to grow**.

As we know, **forcible transfer of population is considered as a crime against humanity according to the Rome Statute**. **Involuntary or forced** means not only **the presence of explicit decisions of the authorities** (occupying powers) but also when the **displacement was caused by policies and/or practices compelling the population in issue to move**. **That includes cases when the said policies or practices did not state it as a deliberate purpose**.

That has been proven by the resolutions of PACE (1863 (2012)) and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2/18). This interpretation was also followed in the judgments of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (Stakić; Krajišnik; Simić et. al. judgments).

In Crimea, in addition to the fear for their lives, the destruction of housing and other circumstances that are inextricably linked to the war, **several other indirect factors push Crimeans to flee**.

Among them are:

- Inability to openly adhere to their political beliefs;
- Persecution on a religious basis;
- Imposition of Russian citizenship;
- Lack of fair trial;
- Deprivation or loss of property and/or business;
- Threat of recruiting military service to the Russian Army;
- Violation of freedom of speech and freedom of peaceful assembly;
- Difficulties with access to medical, social and other services;
- Failure to meet cultural needs and preservation of identity;
- Complication of maintaining family ties etc.

These are the result of the policies and practices of the occupying Russian government.

Accordingly, the method of coercion, in this case, is **the creation of an environment of constant threat, in which a person cannot live and is forced to flee.**

The relevance of the problem has been repeatedly stressed at the international level. Nevertheless, there are still **no acting mechanisms aimed at the inevitability of punishment of states compelling the population to flee.**

**Therefore, we ask international society and intergovernmental bodies:**

1. To plead Russia guilty to the forcible displacement;
2. To condemn the policy of mass systematic human rights violation by Russia in Crimea, which leads to displacement;
3. To adopt a resolution recognising the responsibility of the RF for the influx of internally displaced persons from Crimea;
4. To elaborate a reimbursement mechanism that will include compensation both to the victims of the forced displacement for the injuries suffered and the state of Ukraine and international donors for the expenses incurred.
5. To develop standards and guidelines on how to protect people from forced displacement.

**More information is available in the Information Material via the link: <http://bit.ly/2kv143k>**