

Good day! My name is Valeriia Vershynina I represent Ukraininan-Canadian Charity Fund “Stabilization Support Services”. I was born in Donetsk and lived there until 2014. I, as 1,5 mln of my fellow citizens, lost my home, property, documents. Just imagine, that all population of Warsaw was forced to leave their homes. The state had to find the way to ensure their lives and reinstate their rights.

We call the representatives of the Russian Federation to liberate immediately the territory of Ukraine from their troops, as well as the economic and tactical support of the armed forces established in the east of Ukraine.

Occupation administrations under the Russian Federation ensure the provisions for civilians and especially retirees affected by the occupation, and they return to the legal field of Ukraine.

We call the Ukrainian State representatives to support the draft law 6692, and thus to unlock the possibility for conflict-affected retirees to receive their pensions.

We urge the OSCE participating States to call the parties to reinstate the rights of the affected population, identify mechanisms to reinstate social and economic ties, such as pension payments, and to restore taxation within the legal field of Ukraine.

The Donetsk Regional State administration, as well as city administrative institutes and department of Pension Fund, were seized on April 6, 2014. Ukraine has lost the possibility to ensure pension rights of its citizens in the occupied territories—circa 1.5 mln people.

The occupation regime seized establishments of heavy industry, mines, and other enterprises, plundered and exported them to Russia, thus deprived Ukraine of budgetary allocations necessary for the social protection of citizens, and the citizens themselves of the possibility to rely on either Ukrainian or Russian pensions. The basic human rights of those who stay in the occupation are being violated.

The only chance for a decent age is to leave the occupation and become an internally displaced person (IDP). The IDP certificate gives access to Ukrainian social payments and administrative services.

But the social security system for Ukrainian IDPs was developed in a hurry, in the conditions of an acute humanitarian crisis and did not take into account a number of important factors, namely the nature of displacement. The state finds it rather difficult to implement the obligations and provide benefits envisaged by Ukrainian legislation in reducing budget allocations. In addition, a number of legislative collisions, affect the situation.

Particularly, the most common complaints of internally displaced retirees are that they are monitored and checked monthly by the state authorities, which often ends up with illegally suspension of social payments and pensions. They have to report regularly on their whereabouts and use only one bank.

The draft law 6692 has been registered in the parliament for a year already. It is intended to correct the current situation. If it is adopted, retirees will be able to issue their pensions in Ukraine without IDP certificate. Also, the restriction on unclaimed pension will be lifted.

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