

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the Working Session 9: “Humanitarian Issues and Other Commitments” of  
2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
delivered by Sergiy Nizhynskyi, Deputy Minister for European Integration of  
Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine  
(20 September 2019)**

Mr. Moderator, dear colleagues,

Ukraine has acceded to all major international anti-human-trafficking legal acts and adopted relevant national legislation.

Another State Social Program for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings has been adopted and is being implemented.

A system for combating human trafficking was created in Ukraine: interaction of key actors of the National Cooperation Mechanism was ensured. Public and international organizations are included to interagency working groups at all levels.

Over the last four years, we have increased the number of identified victims of human trafficking and provided assistance to them.

*In 2018, 221 citizens were granted the status of a person affected by human trafficking, which is 11.6% higher than in 2017 (198 people), 2 times higher than in 2016 (110 people) and 2.3 times higher than in 2015 (83 people). As of 09/16/2019, the status was established to 169 people.*

Law enforcement agencies have stepped up to solve crimes related to trafficking in human beings.

The Government is working on opening an All-Ukrainian Center for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and an All-Ukrainian Call Center for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Preventing Domestic Violence, Gender-Based Violence and Child-Related Violence.

The illegal occupation of part of Ukraine by the Russian Federation results in the inability of the Ukrainian authorities to respond to human rights abuses in territories which are not controlled by Ukraine.

The Government of Ukraine continues to combat the problem of involving Ukrainian citizens into criminal activities related to the production, transportation and distribution of narcotic substances in the territory of foreign countries, including the Russian Federation.

Despite all the complexity of the situation, we managed to transfer 121 persons from places of detention of the Russian Federation to Ukraine, and 1 person has already been released from penalty.

Ukraine is concerned that it cannot protect the rights of its citizens because of the Government of the Russian Federation violates the norms of international legal acts (in particular, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which complements The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, to which the Russian Federation has not acceded). Besides, it makes it impossible to provide assistance and protection to Ukrainian citizens who suffered from human trafficking.

Unfortunately, in the context of military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which going on for more than 5 years, Ukrainians have become a part of the population of the world, which suffers from war.

Today in Ukraine, almost 1.4 million people have become internally displaced persons. It caused loss of job, income, and property.

However, focused work provides an opportunity to increase incomes and reduce poverty in the country gradually. In this case the Government adopted the Strategy of Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and Implementation of Long-Term Solutions to Internal Displacement, aimed to increase the level and quality of life of internally displaced persons.

In view of the above mentioned, Ukraine appeals to the OSCE and all participating countries and partner countries to struggle against these issues together, because it is not only a problem for Ukraine. Ukraine appeals to consolidate efforts in order to develop new mechanisms for the protection of citizens' rights who live in the temporarily occupied territories, and counteracting a new type of human trafficking - engaging in criminal activity on the territory of other countries, in particular the Russian Federation.

Thank you.