

**Appeal to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities by the
Leaders of National Cultural Autonomies of the Republic of Crimea**

Warsaw, September the 24th, 2019

Having proclaimed independence of Ukraine in 1991, its authorities since the year 2014 were pursuing the policy of suppression the Russian national identity in the Republic of Crimea, that had achieved a wide constitutional autonomy.

Nationalistic takeover in Kiev in 2014, civil war, initiated by the authorities of Ukraine against own citizens who keep their Russian identity in South-Eastern Ukraine, repressions against the leaders of Russian compatriot organizations, prohibition of the Russian language has proved the correctness of the path pursued by the Crimean people to return to their motherland Russia.

As a punishment for the most democratic, constitutional way to stay safe, the Crimea became a subject to be sanctioned, blockaded and has even become an aim for the terroristic attacks against its population – detonation of energy bridges, cut off of the North-Crimean channel, that were providing up to 80% of energy and drinking water to the peninsula. These crime acts stay seemingly unseen by the NATO and European Union countries, who encourage the falsification of the events happened in Crimea in 2014.

The public and fair-minded politics who actively visit our republic may see that today on the peninsula a strategy is realized aimed at real development, reconstruction of social and economic infrastructure, inter-ethnic harmony, equality, respect to all the national communes and to their languages (three of which are officially proclaimed state languages – Russian, Ukrainian, and Crimea Tatar). Every ethnic community has the right, written down in federal and republican law, to create its National Cultural Autonomy. This high status makes it possible to meet the needs of the ethnic communes receiving state financial aid for cultural and educational programs.

For more than twenty years had the ethnical communes of Crimea asked the Ukrainian authorities to create a place for developing the inter-ethnic dialogue, yet only in Russia in 2014 we have received from the state the House of Nations, that has become a place for many events to be conducted. The modern Mediacenter named for Ismail Gasprinsky have been created. The spiritual needs of different confessions are met: new churches, mosques, prayer houses are being constructed. In Simferopol the new Central Mosque is almost raised up, Karaite Kenasse is renewed, a land for the Synagogue was allocated. The restoration of the masterpiece of medieval architecture – the Khan Palace in Bakhchysaray is in progress.

National Cultural Authorities of the Republic of Crimea strongly condemn and find it totally unacceptable the application of political or any other sanctions to all the peoples of our peninsula. We are against the implemented by the Western countries violations of basic human rights: right for drinking water, right to allocate freely, right for development, as undermining the basis of mutual trust between the nations.

We demand the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to evaluate the legitimacy of these draconian measures adopted by the governments of the European Union against the peoples of Crimea, and give a public answer to the National Cultural Autonomies of the Republic of Crimea – to Ukrainians, Crimea Tatars, Belorussians, Jews, Bulgars, Greeks, Germans, Italians, Karaites, and other peoples - on what basis are their rights, written down in international conventions, are being violated.

We invite the High Commissioner to visit the Republic of Crimea and not only prove its peaceful and harmonic development as a part of its historic Motherland, but also to understand the readiness of the Crimean people to stand for their free choice contrary to the pressure of our unfriends – nationalists in Ukraine and anti-Russian politics in the Western countries.