

**Statement of the Head of the Department of International Connections
of the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of
Crimea Yevhen Samukha at
Working Session 3: “Effective enjoyment of the right to education as a
tool to foster peace and security” of the
2018 Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

**Madam Moderator,
Distinguished participants,**

In the framework of today's discussion, I would like to draw the attention of the participants to violations of the right to education under foreign occupation by one OSCE participating state of a part of the territory of another participating State.

The situation on the Crimean peninsula after the Russian occupation of this Ukrainian territory in 2014 was a glaring example of discrimination of educational rights on ethnic and political grounds, infringement of the right to education in their native language, in violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

With the beginning of the occupation, schools and higher educational institutions of the Crimea began to function according to the curriculum and educational standards of Russia, which significantly limited the right of ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars to education in their native language. According to the legislation of Russia in high school all subjects must be taught in Russian. In this regulatory system, which is used illegally in Crimea, there is no clear procedure regulating the possibility of education in the native language, and the quantitative criterion for the opening of schools or classes based on nationality is not legally established. In reality, this leads to mass abuses, when classes with Crimean Tatar or Ukrainian language of education either do not open up by deception, blackmail and threats to the parents of children, or function only on paper.

The number of children who studied in the Crimea in Ukrainian-speaking schools and classes decreased in four times during the occupation - from 12,694 to 318 children, and the number of Ukrainian-speaking schools decreased in seven times to one school. It should be noted that before the occupation in Crimea, parents, due to the large number, and in some places - and most schools with Russian language of instruction, had a free choice of school language. Such a reduction of schoolchildren cannot be explained, for example, by the

cessation of some coercion to study in Ukrainian, the only explanation for it is the purposeful assimilation policy of the occupation authorities.

Today, Ukrainian-language education in Crimea exists only in the false reports of the occupying authorities. For example, in a single school № 20 in Feodosiya with the alleged Ukrainian language of education there are no Ukrainian class at all and in the alleged Ukrainian-speaking gymnasium № 11 of Simferopol, the last Ukrainian class was closed in 2016. About 21,600 (actual majority) of children of the Crimean Tatars study their native language not as a school subject, but in the best situation as an optional course. For example, in Zui secondary school No. 2 of the Belogorsk region of Crimea, education is entirely conducted only in Russian, although the school positions itself as an educational institution with the Crimean Tatar language of education.

At the same time, pressure is being exerted on the leadership of schools, teachers of parents and children, in order to stop teaching the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian languages. At the same time, pressure is being exerted on the leadership of schools, teachers of parents and children, in order to stop teaching the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian languages. Crimean parents who require their children to receive education in the Ukrainian language are included in the lists, which are then transferred to the FSB of the Russian Federation, and the direct demands of parents on using the Crimean Tatar as a language of education for their children are ignored by the occupying authorities. In fact, the occupiers are on course to the destruction of the Crimean Tatar language as a living means of communication, leaving him the role of a certain folklore type, which can only be used for signs in public places and to glorify the current Russian government.

As for the university level, in September 2014, the Faculty of Ukrainian Philology and Ukrainian Studies at the Tauride National University was closed, and the majority of its teaching staff was dismissed. By the end of the 2014, Ukrainian as a language of studying was generally excluded from university education in Crimea. The occupying power of Russia in Crimea uses this discriminatory practice in the implementation of the right to education and professional training of the residents of Crimea with the goal of their full assimilation into the so-called "Russian world". The Russian authorities did not hide and do not hide the desire to completely destroy the ethnic identity of the Ukrainian language and culture in the territories under their control, and they continue the assimilation policy of the hybrid genocide of the Crimean Tatar people.

Today, Russia as an occupying state is fully responsible for the violation of human rights on the peninsula, including the access to education in their native language. All of the above violations are confirmed, inter alia, in the published reports of UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the order of the International Court of Justice in the case of Ukraine v. Russia.

In view of the foregoing, it seems extremely necessary to ensure the ODIHR OSCE, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to monitor remotely the provision of the right to education in their native language in the territories occupied by the Russian Federation in Ukraine - in Crimea and in certain districts of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

We also ask the OSCE participating States to put pressure on the Russian Federation to comply with the latest order of the International Court of Justice on April 19, 2017 on providing education in the Ukrainian language in Crimea.

Thank you for attention.