



DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Working Session II: Tolerance and non-discrimination

Promotion of mutual respect and understanding in Ukraine

The national legislation and ethnic policies in Ukraine are shaped in conformity with the international norms and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and other relevant binding international documents.

The State guarantees to the citizens of Ukraine - representatives of different nationalities residing in its territory - equal political, economic, social and cultural rights.

According to the Constitution of Ukraine, the citizens have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal under the law. Violation of citizen's rights and freedoms based on race, ethnical or social origin, religious or other conviction is criminally punishable. Under the Criminal Code of Ukraine, the commission of a crime motivated by racial, national, social or religious enmity or disagreement is regarded as an aggravating circumstance.

Article 24 of the Constitution of Ukraine stipulates that there may be no privileges or restrictions on the basis of race, skin colour, political, religious or other conviction, sex, ethnic or social origin, property status, place of residence, or language or other characteristics.

In accordance with article 1 of the Declaration of the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine, discrimination on the basis of national affiliation is prohibited and is punished by law.

Article 6 of the Law of Ukraine "On National Minorities in Ukraine" guarantees national minorities the right to national and cultural autonomy, within which they satisfy their language, educational as well as cultural information needs.

The Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government In Ukraine" stipulates that any infringement on the right of citizens of Ukraine to participate in local self-government on the basis of race, skin colour, political, religious and other convictions, sex, ethnic and social origin, property status, period of residence on the corresponding territory, or on the basis of language or other characteristics, is prohibited.

Article 37 of the Constitution of Ukraine prohibits the establishment and activities of political parties or public organizations whose programmatic objectives or actions are aimed at propagating a war or violence, at inflaming

inter-ethnic, racial or religious enmity, or at infringing on human rights and freedoms.

Similar provisions are contained in Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, which lays down responsibility for inciting inter-ethnic enmity or hatred, for disparagement of national honour or dignity and for limitation of the rights of, or the institution of privileges in respect of, citizens on the basis of ethnic origin.

Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On printed mass media” prohibits the use of the printed mass media for the purpose of propagating national, racial and religious hatred.

The State Committee on Nationalities and Religion of Ukraine consistently takes preventive measures to ensure interethnic stability and accord. The Committee, in cooperation with regional divisions, constantly monitors the situation and, in case of necessity, refers it to the law-enforcement and judicial bodies. The Committee also undertakes awareness-raising campaigns among the representatives of different nationalities about their rights and freedoms.