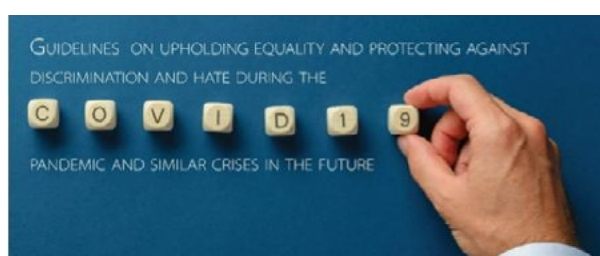


NEWSLETTER

September
2021

SECTION 1



- ▶ Protecting vulnerable groups in crisis situations: better structures and procedures needed

SECTION 2

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

- ▶ The use of the mother tongue is important for people's lives and the democratic functioning of society
- ▶ The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights united Equality bodies in fighting for Roma inclusion
- ▶ Regional consultations with representatives of national minorities on the draft law “On National Communities in Ukraine”
- ▶ Presentation of the Communication Strategy of National Minorities of Odesa Region and the Communication Platform “Multinational Odesa Region”
- ▶ A new information campaign “Community without Prejudice” has been launched

SECTION 3

EVENTS WITHIN THE ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL INITIATIVE GROUPS

- ▶ Legal hour on the topic “Consultation on the topic “Ethnically motivated hate crimes: “Right to Protection”
- ▶ Training on “On Writing project proposals for EU and Ukrainian funds”
- ▶ International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- ▶ Meetings with the representatives of local initiative groups of Melitopol, Nizhyn, Lutsk, Krasnosil'ska territorial community and Turyi Remety.

OUR PROJECT

The Council of Europe (CoE) continues to support its Member States to implement European human rights standards at the national level through revision of legislation, capacity development and exchange of best practices. To contribute to this process, the CoE is implementing a project on “Protecting national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine”. The Project started in March 2018, and it is part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018–2021.

OUR GOALS

- ▶ Strengthening the protection of national minorities and minority languages in Ukraine by reinforcing relevant policies, improving consultations with national minorities, strengthening the capacities and competencies of public authorities dealing with the protection of national minorities and raising public awareness.
- ▶ Improving the delivery of identity documents for the Roma people without IDs, including internally displaced Roma.
- ▶ Institutionalisation of the profession of health mediator in Ukraine; inclusive health care and services with better access by the Roma communities.

OUR PARTNERS

- ▶ National authorities involved in the protection of national minorities, including Roma, and minority languages: Ministry of Culture – State Service on Ethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience, Ministry of Education and Science, Office of the Ombudsperson, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Information Policy, State Migration Service, National Police and others.
- ▶ Regional State Administrations and district administrations of Ukraine dealing with the protection of national minorities.
- ▶ Civil society organisations, including national minorities' organisations.

FIND US HERE:

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalMinoritiesAndRomaCoE/>
<https://www.coe.int/uk/web/kyiv/national-minorities>

SECTION 1

PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS: MORE EFFECTIVE STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES NEEDED

GUIDELINES ON UPHOLDING EQUALITY AND PROTECTING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HATE DURING THE

C O V I D 1 9
PANDEMIC AND SIMILAR CRISES IN THE FUTURE



Strasbourg, 05.05.2021 – The Committee of Ministers today adopted Guidelines for the 47 member states to help them in upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the Covid-19 pandemic and similar crises in the future.

The Committee of Ministers stresses the importance of establishing effective structures and procedures to manage crises and their specific impact on disadvantaged groups and equality in a swift and inclusive way.

In doing so, member states should respect the European Convention on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments and take into account the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and other European or international human rights instruments, as well as the recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance ([ECRI](#)).

These guidelines, prepared by the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion ([CDADI](#)), focus on information, protection, access to services and benefits, combating hate speech and violence, prevention of discrimination, digitalisation and artificial intelligence. They invite member states to take measures such as:

- maintain an active and continuous dialogue with vulnerable groups throughout the crisis, involve them in creating crisis-related measures and policies and ensure their

concerns are reflected in the decision-making processes.

- ensure that persons belonging to vulnerable groups have, on an equal footing with others, effective access to healthcare, including available vaccines;
- ensure that all children including those belonging to vulnerable groups continue to access adequate schooling;
- provide all persons belonging to vulnerable groups with access to housing with good hygiene standards and which enables them to respect health-related rules and recommendations;
- take adequate measures to protect employees, including those belonging to vulnerable groups, who are particularly exposed to the dangers of the crisis on their way to work and at their workplace;
- focus on preventing and combating violence against persons belonging to vulnerable groups, including hate crime, domestic and gender-based violence and provide victims with the necessary psychological, social and legal support, particularly by ensuring the availability of hotlines and enough places in well-functioning shelters;
- take adequate measures to ensure that the digital tools developed to deal with the pandemic are not discrimina-

tory against persons belonging to vulnerable groups or otherwise violate their rights.

The [explanatory memorandum](#) to the guidelines and a [compilation of promising and good practices](#) provide a set of good practices from various member states that can be used by other member states to implement the guidelines, improve their responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and enhance their preparedness for future crises.

Central, regional and local authorities have, together with Equality Bodies and National Human Rights Institutions, an essential role in implementing these guidelines.

Finally, in times of crisis, Equality Bodies, legal aid structures and other institutions tasked with supporting victims of discrimination, violence and other rights violations should continue providing personal support and legal advice and assistance to secure their rights. The judiciary should continue to oversee the legality of the executive's action, including emergency measures that could have discriminatory effects or otherwise violate the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

SECTION 2

The use of the mother tongue is important for people's lives and the democratic functioning of society and improving the quality of education in Romani language.



Introduction of Romani language in the school system in Ukraine

Council of Europe Project "Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine"



The project «Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine» in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the European Roma Institute of Arts and Culture (ERIAC), Roma civil society and the Institute of Pedagogy of NAPS of Ukraine conducts a number of activities in Ukraine.

The Romani language is an important element of Romani identity and self-identification, the culture of the Romani community living in Ukraine (which is about 400,000 Romani men and women, children). Ethnic Roma groups, having gone through different migration routes, speak different dialects, which have more or less fallen under the influence of the surrounding languages.

The Romani language is insufficiently codified, it is not a literary standardized language in Ukraine. Dialects have been significantly influenced by other languages, and the definition of a single Romani language is currently a difficult issue. Modern dialects of Roma people in Ukraine differ in terms of phonetic and grammatical innovations in comparison with speech. In its turn, within each of the large dialect zones, there are numerous dialects that differ mainly in vocabulary (sometimes morphemes), borrowed from the languages of the living environment.

The Romani language is protected by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which aims to «protect and develop historical regional and national minority languages in Europe». The Committee of Experts calls on all member states of the Council of

Europe to strengthen the protection and development of the Romani language, as part of Europe's cultural heritage, in all areas, including education and cultural life. The development and preservation of the Romani language is an important element of the socio-political inclusion of the Roma community in Ukraine.

Over the last few decades in response to the needs identified in the member states, the Council of Europe has worked to develop a set of information resources that can be useful to local education authorities and to all European citizens.

The Factsheets on Romani Language is one of such resources, which can be found at the following link: <https://rm.coe.int/roma-history-factsheets-eng/1680a2f2f8>

SECTION 2

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights united Equality bodies in fighting for Roma inclusion



KYIV INTERNATIONAL ROMA FORUM OF EQUALITY BODIES 2021



Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe



Implemented by the Council of Europe

Upon the initiative of the Ukraine Ombudsperson office, the Anti-discrimination Department co-organised the 'Kyiv International Forum of Equality Bodies on Roma Inclusion', on 27 May 2021.

The Forum gathered over 140 participants, from over 20 independent human rights institutions from across Europe and provided space where over 20 good practices were shared on the role of the Ombudsoffices / Equality bodies in fighting for Roma inclusion in society. The first edition of the Forum focused also on the consequences of the pandemic on Roma communities, as the COVID crisis increased the stigmatization of vulnerable groups in Europe – including for the Roma population. Two thematic sessions were included in the programme, one on inclusive public policies for Roma communities and one on combating hate speech affecting the Roma communities.

The meeting was addressed by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner, who underlined the gravity of racism and discrimination against Roma communities and reaffirmed the

key role of human rights institutions in combating this phenomena.

Ms Denisova, Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights of Ukraine, proposed to the meeting guests to have a stable platform of coordination on Roma inclusion among Ombudsoffices in the future.

A Forum resolution was approved by participants, with calls for reinforcing the role of Ombudsoffices in protection the rights of Roma communities and advocating to other public institutions to ensure Roma inclusion.

The Council of Europe, through its standards, its Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Travellers Inclusion, and its monitoring bodies such as the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the AC/FCNM, is a privileged partner of the equality bodies across Europe. For example, the general policy recommendation (GPR) of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) number 2 encourages equality bodies to address, in the remit of respective mandates, all forms of discrimination, including based on ethnic origins.

ECRI GPR number 13, on combating antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma, calls for a multidisciplinary approach to issues concerning Roma; enhancing mutual trust, and combat antigypsyism in the field of education.

The event was supported by the EU-COE regional project [“Strengthening access to justice through non-judiciary redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in Eastern Partnership countries”](#), funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe and the Action Plan project [“Strengthening protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine”](#).

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

SECTION 2

Regional consultations with the representatives of ethnic communities on the draft law “On National Communities in Ukraine”



The Parliament Committee on Human Rights, with technical support of the project “Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine” and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience, regional authorities, held regional consultations with the representatives of ethnic communities. Consultations were held from 24 to 31 May 2021 in Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Odesa, Chernivtsi and Transcarpathia regions and covered more than 200 representatives of ethnic communities. During these consultations, a draft of the new version of the law of Ukraine “On Ethnic Communities in Ukraine” was discussed, and information was collected on ensuring the rights and needs of ethnic minorities in these regions of Ukraine.

The main issues raised by the representatives of ethnic communities during the meeting were:

- respect for linguistic rights of national minorities;
- right to self-identification;
- getting premises for the office of the NGO of national minorities on preferential terms;
- allocation of land for the construction of monuments;
- ability to publish their own printed periodical in their native language;
- securing the right to indicate one's ethnic origin in official documents;
- start a holiday of ethnicities, and others;
- representation in local self-government bodies;
- financial support from the state budget.

This is by far not a complete list of proposals voiced by participants during the consultations.

Consultations resulted in the development of the final text of the draft law “On Ethnic Communities in Ukraine” which was presented on 4 June 2021 as part of wider online consultations.

SECTION 2

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

Presentation of the Communication Strategy of National Minorities of Odesa Region and the Communication Platform “Multinational Odesa Region”



On 18 June 2021, the Odesa National Scientific Library, with the support of the project “Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine”, hosted a presentation of the Communication Strategy of National Minorities of Odesa region and the Communication Platform “Multinational Odesa region”.

The presentation was attended by managers and experts of the Council of Europe, Odesa Regional State Administration, the Council of representatives of ethnic and cultural societies of Odesa region, cultural institutions and mass media of the region.

The meeting participants discussed strategies and practical mechanisms for ensuring effective

communication and interaction between ethnic communities and authorities based on principles that ensure respect for human rights, compliance with the law and ensure a high degree of achievement of the necessary results, implementation of practical tasks.

During the event, the Communication Strategy of National Minorities of Odesa region was officially signed by the present representatives of public associations of ethnic communities of Odesa region and the representative of Odesa Regional State Administration.

Also, heads of Odesa National Scientific Library and the Council of Representatives of National Cultural Societies of Odesa region signed a Memorandum of Cooperation, which provides, in particular, for systematic

measures to support the implementation of the Communication Strategy of National Minorities of Odesa Region by means of information and library work.

For reference:

In August 2019, Odesa Regional State Administration applied for participation in the pilot initiative “Support of the Council of Europe in the development and implementation of a communication strategy for better communication on the protection of national minorities and minority languages in Ukraine for better consultancy of national minorities” and became one of its winners.

SECTION 2

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

A new information campaign “Community without Prejudice” has been launched



In August 2021, Ukraine celebrates 30 years of Independence. Ukraine is multinational – according to the population census, it is the home to 134 national and ethnic minorities. Some would say: “We all live close to each other, we stood for European values and Ukrainian dignity on the Maidan, we went to defend our country, we volunteer in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the south of Ukraine, and during the pandemic due to the spread of COVID-19.” But what do we know about representatives of various ethnic communities, including indigenous peoples of Ukraine?

It is in August that the new campaign “Community without Prejudice” started. The information campaign “Community without Prejudice” is aimed at supporting the visibility of the contribution of ethnic communities of Ukraine to the development of multicultural society, to understanding within society, public life and development of Ukraine. The campaign is held within the framework of the Council of Europe project “Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine” which is based on specific recommendations of the two monitoring bodies of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Ukraine is a multinational community. According to the latest all-Ukrainian population census, representatives of more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups live throughout Ukraine, which have their own culture, language, traditions and identity, which they strive to preserve and develop.

For its part, Ukraine, through its Constitution and laws, guarantees equal political, economic, social and cultural rights to all peoples, ethnic groups and persons living on its territory. Partners of the new campaign include national institutions

and authorities, as well as regional state administrations and local governments, “Initiative groups” on the rights of ethnic communities in Odesa region, Transcarpathia, Chernihiv region, etc. A good partner is the “Ethnic Communities” Inter-Factional Union in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. So, one of the ambassadors of “Community Without Prejudice” initiative is the chair of the Inter-factional Union, chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, representative of the Greek community Mr Dmytro Lubinets.

In a multinational state like Ukraine, such diversity should be seen as a driver for the development of society and community, society as a whole. Therefore, strengthening the protection and further involvement of national communities in the social and political life of the country will help in the development of a strong civil society. For ethnic communities, this will strengthen their voice and draw attention to their needs at the local level, together with the authorities and society. For the state, it is an important resource for new ideas, views and solutions, strengthening and expanding the system of horizontal connections, activating and involving the population in reaching and making decisions, increasing the level of self-organisation of people.

“If you look closely, we are all very similar, although we have different ethnic backgrounds. We all support each other, negotiate, work, and learn to interact. We all strengthen each other with common opportunities, actions, and cooperation. And this is how we make our society, our space safe, comfortable, open for personal

development, without prejudice and stereotypes, and therefore free of discrimination,” said Ms Zemfira Kondur, head of the Council of Europe project for the protection of the rights of national minorities, on the occasion of the launch of the “Community Without Prejudice” campaign.

That is why the Council of Europe is initiating, together with many stakeholders and partners at the national and local levels, the information campaign “Community without Prejudice”. The Council of Europe project “Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine”, through ambassadors of the information campaign, will talk about the benefits of ethnic diversity for the flourishing of Ukraine. “Within a few months, we will show how different cultures and ethnic identity enrich the lives of communities and contribute to the prosperity of a large community throughout Ukraine today,” said the project consultant and campaign coordinator, human rights activist Olha Vesnianka. She added that the campaign “Community Without Prejudice” uses good practices regarding respect for diversity that campaigns “Media Without Prejudice” and “Diverse Roots – Shared Opportunities” (#RootsofTolerance) have in partnership with other projects of the Council of Europe in Ukraine.

Follow the link to watch the video:
<https://www.facebook.com/NationalMinoritiesAndRomaCoE/videos/2058210434329004>

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalMinoritiesAndRomaCoE/videos/579163556552496>

SECTION 3

ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LOCAL INITIATIVE GROUPS

Consultation on the topic “Ethnically motivated hate crimes: “Right to Protection”



As part of the implementation of the Council of Europe project “Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine”, participants of the initiative group of national communities of Melitopol held a legal hour on the topic “Ethnically motivated hate crimes. Right to Protection” in the conference hall of the Centre of Administrative Service Provision on 18 August this year.

Many questions were raised, including the following:

- How to resolve the issue of the impossibility of acquiring Ukrainian citizenship due to the inability to prove that a person does not have the citizenship of another state due to the threat to life in case of returning to the country of previous residence or the inability to pay for renouncing another citizenship?
- How to overcome unequal treatment on the part of law enforcement officers and employees of the Migration Service of Ukraine to certain

ethnic groups?

- How to overcome employment inequality due to unequal market entry conditions and discrimination?
- How to combat domestic anti-Semitism at the legal level?
- How to counteract hate speech in the media, on social networks at the legal level?

All these questions were raised by representatives of national communities during the meeting.

Professional legal consulting support was provided during the meeting by:

- Mr Andrii Hnapovskyi, representative of the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Policy and Freedom of Conscience;

- Ms Olena Kolobrodova, representative of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, de-occupation and reintegration of temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, national minorities and interethnic relations;

- representatives of the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

A number of pressing issues were discussed by:

- Mr Dmytro Shostak, head of the Judicial Affairs Office of the Legal Support Department of the executive committee of Melitopol City Council, Zaporizhia region;

- Ms Natalia Hlebova, professor of the Department of Sociology, Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Melitopol State Pedagogical University.

- Ms Svitlana Romanenko, consultant of the Municipal Enterprise “Centre of pedagogical professional development” of Melitopol City Council of Zaporizhia region and representative of Nizhyn City Council.

Based on the meeting results, it was planned to prepare an appeal to the relevant authorities, as well as prepare information for the representatives of national communities with contacts from departments and agencies to address in case of violation of their rights.

SECTION 3

ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LOCAL INITIATIVE GROUPS

Training on “Writing project proposals for the EU and Ukrainian Funds”



The first training for participants of the “Local Initiative Group of National Minorities of Krasnosilska ATC” was held in August of this year. Namely, in the period from 9 to 11 August 2021, the activity was held within the framework of cooperation with the Council of Europe project “Strengthening the protection of the rights of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine”.

At the request of the “Initiative Group”, the first such training on “Writing Projects. EU and Ukrainian Funds” raised great interest because the skills of writing projects and attracting resources are critical for national communities and society as a whole.

SECTION 3

ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LOCAL INITIATIVE GROUPS

International Day of the World's Indigenous People



On 9 August 2021, on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples which is celebrated for solidarity with indigenous peoples, a meeting of the interactive round table "Law on indigenous peoples of Ukraine as a guarantee of sustainable development of the country" was held in Melitopol – the intercultural source of Ukraine and the intercultural heart of Zaporizhia. This year's event was held on the basis of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Melitopol State Pedagogical University under the supervision of Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov and the project "Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine".

Active participants of the event include both representatives of indigenous peoples of Ukraine and MPs, experts, civil servants, educators, scientists, representatives of national and cultural societies, journalists, etc. This time, except for intercultural cities of Ukraine, the

event was joined by representatives from initiative groups of ethnic communities of the Council of Europe project "Strengthening the protection of national minorities, including Roma and minority languages in Ukraine".

During the round table, an initiative was presented to create a Research Centre for the History and Culture of the Crimean Tatar People at Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Melitopol State Pedagogical University.

During the event, participants proposed the following:

- from the head of the International Congress of Ukrainian Cossacks: to hold a solemn meeting and Round Table on the celebration of an important conclusion of the first-ever high-level agreement of government representatives in the history of state relations between the Crimean Khanate and Ukrainian Cossacks and in

honour of the 500th anniversary;

- in November this year, to publish the fifth issue of the national almanac "Ukrainian Patriotic Cossacks" with relevant materials and scientific and public political articles in the period of the Middle Ages and the modern struggle.

Event agenda can be found here: <https://rm.coe.int/agenda-rt/1680a37609>

SECTION 3

ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LOCAL INITIATIVE GROUPS

Local Initiative Groups meetings in Melitopol, Nizhyn, Lutsk, Krasnosilskaya TC and Turya Remety.





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