

**SPEECH OF DIRECTOR OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION “INSTITUTE OF LEGAL POLICY AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION NAMED AFTER IRINA BEREZHNYAYA” ELENA
BEREZHNYAYA**

**AT THE PLENARY MEETING
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 (10 am -13 am)
(TOPIC: HATE CRIMES)**

Our Institute monitors facts of violations and infringement of rights and freedoms in Ukraine since 2014 (in particular, incidents associated with hate crimes).

Ukrainian radical nationalists, closely intertwined with the state structures, incite ethnic hatred in Ukraine, imposing leaders of the OUN-UPA and other Nazi collaborators on Ukrainian society as national heroes.

Attacks characterized with impunity constantly occur in the modern Ukraine. Organized groups, consisting of members of neo-Nazi parties and organizations, carry out attacks on participants of various peaceful events, including representatives of LGBT communities, of ethnic minorities (Roma Pogroms, anti-Semitic protests, in particular, destruction of Holocaust victims' memorials, etc.). Representatives of the abovementioned and similar nationalistic groups openly promote Nazi symbolic, conduct numerous marches and rallies, where they chant anti-Semitic, Russo-phobic and Nazi slogans and greetings.

In 2014 - 2019, ultra-right extremist groups “C14”, “Right Sector”, “Carpathian Sich” and others repeatedly launched multiple attacks in different cities of Ukraine: against Roma communities, against anti-fascist demonstrations, against events organized by Amnesty International, against public actions of LGBT communities, as well as other peaceful actions, including human rights protests. From January 2017 and up to 2019, radical organizations members tried to disrupt or disrupted more than 37 events organized by the LGBT community.

On March 8, 2018, in the city of Uzhgorod neo-Nazis attacked a rally held for the rights of women, dousing its participants with paint.

On June 18, 2019, a rally dubbed “Anniversary of a gay pride parade on blood” was held on Bankova Street (Kiev) near the building of Presidential Administration of Ukraine: participants demanded from President of Ukraine to cancel the March for Equality.

On June 19, 2019, four balaclava-clad neo-Nazis attacked guests of the film screening conducted as a part of Kiev Pride 2019.

On June 23, 2019, right-wing radicals brutally attacked the column of participants of March for Equality in Kiev (former European parliament MP Rebecca Harms took part in this march).

Since the beginning of 2014, a number of xenophobic incidents and crimes, in particular, anti-Semitic ones, has drastically increased in Ukraine. According to Ministry of Diaspora Affairs of the State of Israel, the number of anti-Semitic incidents is growing annually in Ukraine. This happens amidst the full-blown campaign of glorification of individuals responsible for persecution and mass murdering of Jews in Ukraine in the 20th century.

518 acts of demonstratively overt vandalism, of desecration of synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and memorials to victims of Holocaust, other victims of the Second World War, and soldiers who liberated Ukraine from Nazi occupation with Nazi and anti-Semitic slogans and symbols were registered since February 2014.

There are numerous cases of attacks on citizens of Jewish nationality associated with infliction of especially severe bodily harm with a clearly expressed anti-Semitic implication.

The church named in honor of the icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" located near the Holocaust victims monument in Babi Yar in Kiev survived 11 arson attempts since 2014.

On October 22, 2018, Israeli Cuisine café premises burnt down in Odessa. On November 18, 2018, in the city of Kiev on Mikhailovskaya Square, a people's assembly was held. Those present condemned the "scabby Kikes, Jewish gang, Masons, Habad", protested against the "Khazar Kaganate and the new Israel in Ukraine".

On January 20, 2019, in the city of Uman, an anti-Semitic rally was held: "Kikes discredit our faith and our country."

On June 3, 2019, militants of the National Corps (a division of the "Azov" battalion) attacked Ukrainian Jewish Committee office in Kharkov. The Israeli Cultural Center and Consular office of the State of Israel is in the same building. Based on the foregoing, I ask the organizers of this Meeting to add data on numerous hate crimes in Ukraine to the General Resolution.

All participants who wish to receive the monitoring report on violations of rights and freedoms in Ukraine and on infringement on access to justice in 2014-2019 can contact me after conclusion of the Plenary Meeting.