

Reply Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine at the Working Session 12
“Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including address by the OSCE High
Commissioner on National Minorities – Rights of persons belonging to national
minorities” of the 2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(24 September 2019)

Ukraine, as a country with historical presence of many ethnic groups, pays a lot of attention toward the problem of tolerance coexistence between these communities.

At the same time, we feel misery for the Russian delegation, that misused controlled representatives of the national and religious minorities to promote its disinformation and propaganda at this Meeting.

Also we would like to stress that after acceptance of the new law On Education, which was mentioned today several times, and receiving, as a consequence, recommendations of the Venice Commission, Ukraine completely implemented all these recommendations.

Firstly, Ukraine has prolonged the time of implementation the law till 2023.

Secondly, the special law on the Secondary education has been prepared and adopted in its First reading for clarification some points of the already functioning Law on education.

So any statements that Ukraine refuses to follow the recommendation of the Venice Commission is an absolute incorrectness or even more – conscious lie.

After the Russia’s occupation of Crimea and intensive migration of Crimean Tatars from the peninsula, in the place of the mass settlement of Crimean Tatars in the south Kherson region a new secondary school with the whole cycle of education on the Crimean Tatar language was created in Novooleksijivka with around 300 students in it.

So it’s an obvious evident that Ukraine not just maintaining the already existing system of education on the languages of the national minorities, but also developing it.

Official representative of the Spiritual center of the Muslims of Crimea was trying to convince that the system religious institutions are increasing. But I would like to remind that before the Russian occupation around 1100 Muslim communities had been functioning – 500 communities with the state registration and around 600 without the state registration, what is allowed according to the Ukrainian legislation.

After the process of the reregistration, according to the Russian legislation, just less than 400 official Muslim communities are officially acting now. So, where and how more than 700 Muslim communities in Crimea have disappeared?

I thank you.