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**COMMENTS BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Introduction**

*The position of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) was introduced by the 1993 Constitution of Russia. At the federal level, the activities of the Commissioner are regulated by the Federal Constitutional Law of February 26, 1997 No. 1-FKZ “On the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation”.
 The status of the Commissioner for Human Rights is determined by Law No. 1-FKZ. According to Part 1 of Article 1 of the aforementioned Federal Constitutional Law, the position of the Commissioner is established in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation (Article 103, paragraph “e”) in order to ensure guarantees of state protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens, their observance and respect by state bodies, local authorities and officials. The activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights extend throughout Russia. Thus, the Commissioner has the broadest powers in the promotion and protection of human and civil rights in the Russian Federation.*

1. **Information on paragraph 8, subparagraph “a” of the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee on the seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation (CCPR / C / RUS / СО / 7)**

Within the framework of its powers and in compliance with the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee, set forth in the HRC's concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation (CCPR/C/RUS/CO/7), **the Commissioner conducted awareness-raising campaigns to promote respect for human rights and tolerance for diversity.**

In **2020** **12 projects and 44 events were implemented, in 2021 - twelve projects and 66 events** (total coverage of **more than 5 million people**), and in **the first eight months of 2022 - 21 projects** and events were implemented, with **over 50 events** organized for various target audiences.

The work on legal education of socially vulnerable categories of population was carried out - **people with disabilities, pensioners, representatives of indigenous minorities, migrants, youth, etc.**

Between 2020 and 2022 **more than 20 events took place** under the aegis of the Commissioner **in the framework of the project "Integration Festival" for people with disabilities** - human rights master classes, trainings, lectures, film screenings, and free legal consultations.

In 2020 - 2022 annual events for the elderly took place within the framework of the socially oriented project of the Commissioner **"Legal Marathon for Pensioners"**. In the conditions of the pandemic, the project was digitized in 2020, and in 2021 it was already implemented in a combined format (450 events and over 3,000 consultations).

In 2021, at the initiative of the Federal Commissioner for Human Rights, a **Single Day of Free Legal Assistance for the Elderly** was held for the first time.

Since 2020 events have also been held as part of the socially significant educational project **"Days of Legal Literacy for Migrants"**. Its goal is the primary legal education of migrants coming to Russia from CIS countries and their adaptation in the legal space of the Russian Federation.

In 2020, in order to develop the interest of citizens in current issues of the rights of indigenous peoples, an **online quiz for indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation "Know Your Rights"** (over 2,000 people) and a **"Human Rights Dictation" for students** (over 300 participants) were held.

These annual **All-Russian Universal Human Rights Lessons** were conducted for students and schoolchildren (8 million participants in 2020 and 5 million in 2021, with a total of over **32 million** participants between 2017 and 2021).

An important event in 2021 was the creation of the **Youth Council under the Commissioner**, which is designed to help young people form an active civic position in matters of civil rights and freedoms and develop educational projects for young audiences.

**A website on legal education** operates on the Internet, where current information about changes in legislation, various memos, reference materials, and information about educational work at the regional level are posted.

**The Human Rights Map of Russia informational and educational project** is kept up to date.

1. **Information on paragraph 11, subparagraphs “a” and “b”, as well as on paragraph 12 of the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee on the seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation (CCPR / C / RUS / СО / 7)**

Throughout 2017-2020, the annual Reports on the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation paid great attention to the elimination of discrimination against women in the field of labor relations. The Commissioner's recommendations to the executive authorities of the Russian Federation regarding the need to revise the list of industries, jobs and positions that restrict women's labor were implemented.

A new list was approved and entered into force on 1 January 2021. It expanded the list of professions available to women, such as those related to air and water transport and lorry driving.

On the proposal of the Commissioner, the conditions for mitigation of punishment and application of conditional release from serving the sentence to pregnant women and women with children under 3 years old were specified.

The Commissioner received 17 appeals on the issue of domestic violence in 2022 (in 2021 - 46, in 2020 - 35). The Commissioner advocates for the creation of effective mechanisms to prevent domestic violence.

A draft federal law "On the Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Russian Federation" is currently being refined in the Federation Council.

The Commissioner’s annual report for 2021 included recommendations on improving criminal law in the sphere of domestic violence. A law aimed at protecting the right to personal inviolability and the right to protection of personal dignity against violence was adopted in July 2022. The Criminal Code of the Russian Federation was supplemented with provisions establishing increased responsibility for battery or other violent acts that caused physical pain against a person with a criminal record for a violent crime. In addition, a corresponding amendment was made to the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation under which criminal cases involving such crimes would be considered public prosecutions.

In the Report on Activity for 2021, the Commissioner recommended that the government authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation take measures to expand the network of crisis centers to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. Twenty-two regions reported on the need to expand crisis centers, on measures taken to do so, as well as to expand assistance to victims of domestic violence, and on support for the Commissioner's proposals on this issue. There are 16 crisis centers for women in 14 regions of the country.

The Commissioner supports the creation of special organizations to promote initiatives, projects and programs for women.

The Commissioner is a member of the Eurasian Women’s Forum – the largest international framework for discussing the role of women in contemporary society (the Forum is held once every three years).

The Commissioner is a member of the "Women's League", a mentoring project implemented under the auspices of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. This interdepartmental project for young girls studying at institutions of higher education and it is intended to be an effective tool for the informal transfer of best practices, experience and values by successful female leaders.