



Омбудсман України  
Ombudsman of Ukraine



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Ombudswoman

**Declaration of the Conference of Ombudspersons and NHRIs within the  
framework of the First Parliamentary Summit of Crimea Platform  
"Battle for Human Rights. Crimea. Ukraine. World."**

**Zagreb, Croatia**

**October 26, 2022**

**We**, the representatives of the ombudspersons and national human rights institutions of the states participating in the Conference within the framework of the First Parliamentary Summit of Crimea Platform **"Battle for Human Rights. Crimea. Ukraine. World."** have gathered in the City of Zagreb, Croatia and online on October 26, 2022, to confirm our common goal; the need to observe and prevent further human rights violations in the context of the ongoing Russian armed aggression against Ukraine and the violation of its territorial integrity, through the creation of an international consultation platform for cooperation.

**Guided** by the Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions Engaged in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris Principles) of December 20, 1993, the Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Ombudsman Institutions (Venice Principles) of March 16, 2019, Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the development of the Ombudsman institution, Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the development and strengthening of effective, pluralist and independent national human rights institutions, UN Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2020 on the role of ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law, UN on National Human Rights Institutions, the United Nations Charter of June 26, 1945, the Paris Charter for a New Europe of November 21, 1990, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of August 1, 1975, as well as the principles of international law, including human rights law and international humanitarian law;

**Referring** to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948, UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of December 14, 1974 "Definition of Aggression", which inter alia, states that no territorial possessions or special advantages obtained as a result of aggression, shall be recognized nor be recognized as legitimate;

**Taking into account** the UN General Assembly Resolution ES- 11/1 dated March 2, 2022, the UN General Assembly Resolution ES- 11/2 dated March 24, 2022, the UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" dated March 27, 2014, and the following resolutions on the state of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, and on the issue of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black and the Azov Seas;

**Considering** that national human rights institutions play a leading role in ensuring an appropriate independent response to human rights violations by, inter alia, disseminating information on human rights and raising awareness in the field of human rights, especially in international conflicts and post-conflict situations;

**Taking into account** that ombudspersons and national human rights institutions can sometimes be criticized by public authorities in connection to their drawing attention to state obligations in the field of human rights protection in accordance with the international and the regional standards and providing relevant recommendations;

**Recognizing** that the Russian Federation's unprovoked war against Ukraine and the violation of its territorial integrity is causing gross, systematic violations and abuses of human rights which has resulted in an ongoing humanitarian human rights crisis in Ukraine and in the world;

**Reaffirming** that it is our common goal to consolidate our efforts as independent national institutions in the field of human rights protection in preventing violations and restoring human rights in the context of the ongoing armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the violation of its territorial integrity;

We, national human rights institutions and ombudspersons of the states participating in the Conference within the framework of the first Parliamentary Summit of the Crimean Platform "**Battle for Human Rights. Crimea. Ukraine. World.**"

#### **HAVE AGREED TO:**

1. Call upon our countries' legislative bodies to independently initiate the drafting and adoption in our national parliaments of laws, strategic and public policy documents, and other legal acts aimed at the protection and observance of human rights and the prevention of their violations, including the rights of Ukrainian citizens currently residing in the territories of our respective states; as well as at providing space for the strengthening of the capacities of ombudspersons and national human rights institutions to do so.

2. Call upon the governments of our countries to take all possible measures to help ensure and protect human rights and to prevent their violations, including the rights of Ukrainian citizens in their countries.
3. Contribute, within our mandates, to the continuation of the policy of our states regarding the non-recognition of the temporary occupation and attempted illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.
4. Support, within our mandates, the notion of the territorial integrity of Ukraine.
5. Engage with the appropriate mechanisms of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other global and regional international organizations to respond to the problems related to the human rights violations in the conditions of the temporary occupation of certain territories of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and to consider the possibility of engaging other mechanisms, if appropriate.
6. Consult and exchange regarding our efforts within our mandates, within the framework of international organizations, at international conferences, fora and other events where the subject of the attempted illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, as well as the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine are discussed.
7. Respond to the appeals of Ukrainian citizens to ombudspersons and national human rights institutions and to take all necessary measures for the effective restoration and protection of their rights.
8. Consider the possibility of reporting in the annual reports or – in accordance with national legislation and the institution's practice in special reports to the relevant body or bodies on the situation of the observance of human rights of Ukrainian citizens currently residing in the territories of their countries.
9. Raise awareness, conduct informational and educational campaigns, and training events on human rights in the context of international conflicts, in particular for military personnel and law enforcement officers; as well as to

monitor compliance with international standards in the field of human rights and the principles of humanitarian law in the context of international conflicts.

10. Establish international cooperation on issues of human rights violations in the conditions of war and violations of territorial integrity, including exchanges of experience in taking effective measures to respond to such challenges.

11. Advise and contribute to the promotion, protection and observance of the rights of refugees, displaced persons and internally displaced persons as a result of international armed conflicts and wars.

12. Carry out systematic monitoring of the observance and the protection of the rights of the citizens finding refuge outside of Ukraine in all spheres of public life, the results of which should be reported to the relevant national authorities.

**DONE** in the city of Zagreb on October 26, 2022. The declaration is open to accession by ombudspersons and national human rights institutions by sending a letter of notification to the address of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights within one year from the date of its adoption.