

# Ombudsman of Ukraine

## STRUCTURE OF SECRETARIAT OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman of Ukraine)
- 9 Representatives of the Commissioner
- 25 Representatives of the Commissioner in every region of Ukraine
- Head of Secretariat of the Commissioner
- First Deputy Head and 3 Deputy Heads of the Commissioner
- 19 structural departments
- Expert Council under the Commissioner
- Donors Council under the Commissioner
- Expert Council on the implementation of the NPM under the Commissioner
- Expert Council under Representatives of the Commissioner
- 12 Advisors to the Commissioner



## Representative of the Commissioner in the System of Bodies in Security and Defense Sector

Department for Monitoring of Rights in the Defense Sector and Rights of Veterans and Military Personnel, POWs and Members of Their Families:

- 1. Subdepartment for Observance of Rights of People Deprived of Liberty due to Armed Aggression against Ukraine and Missing Persons within Armed Conflict:
- 1) Unit for Rights of POWs and Monitoring of Places of Detention of POWs;
- 2) Unit for Observance of Procedural Rights of Ukrainian Citizens Abroad and in the Temporarily Occupied Territories;
- 3) Unit for Organizational and Analytical Provision.
- 2. Subdepartment for Observance of Rights of Military Personnel, Police, Veterans and Other Persons:
- 1) Unit for Rights of Citizens in the System of Law-Enforcement Agencies and National Security;
- 2) Unit for Rights of Military Personnel, Police, Veterans and Missing Persons;
- 3) Unit for Rights of Veterans.



#### **Oleksandr Kononenko**

Representative of the Commissioner in the System of Bodies in Security and Defense Sector

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**Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner** 

Participation in the Coordination center on the treatment of POWs (prisoners of war)

#### **Challenges:**

- increasing the number of appeals from families of prisoners of war and missing persons;
- Ukrainians in Russia assistance problem due to the lack of a patron country and consular services;
- politicization of release/return of civilians detained in the Russian Federation since 2014 process;
- improper material and technical support of the Department for full-fledged monitoring (vehicles, protective equipment);
- preventing violations of the rights of servicemen and women liable for military service during martial law;
- control over the material and technical support of the personnel of the power defence system to repel Russian aggression;
- ensuring proper control over the implementation of reintegration and rehabilitation measures for servicemen released from captivity.



## Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights

#### Department for Monitoring of Social and Economic Rights:

- Unit for the Right to Social Protection;
- Unit for Labour Rights;
- Unit for Rights to Health Protection, Education and Culture;
- Unit for Property Rights;
- Unit for Consumers Rights;
- Unit for Rights to Safe Environment.

#### **Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner**

#### **Challenges:**

- increasing the number of appeals;
- lack of access to the occupied territories of Ukraine, namely the impossibility of monitoring;
- the necessity to increase the staff of the Department due to the significant scope of authority;
- Ukrainians in Russia assistance problem due to the lack of a patron country and consular services;
- increase in the number of confirmed reports of human rights violations;
- suspension of the increase in state social standards (subsistence minimum, minimum wage) under martial law;
- an increase in the number of unemployed and a reduction in the number of vacant jobs;
- increasing the number of socially vulnerable people in need of state social support;
- reforming the system of compulsory state social insurance and housing subsidies;
- inability of regulatory authorities to carry out state control measures at business entities due to the moratorium on inspections.



#### Olena Kolobrodova

Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights

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## Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens, who are Victims of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine

## Department for Monitoring the Observance of the Rights of Citizens who Suffered as a Result of Armed Aggression against Ukraine:

- Unit for Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and Citizens, who are Victims of Temporary Occupation and Armed Aggression Against Ukraine;
- Unit for Rights of Citizens Affected by Aggression against Ukraine;
- Unit for Rights of Forcibly Deported Persons and Displaced Persons outside the Territory of Ukraine;
- Unit for Citizens' Rights in the Temporarily Occupied Territories.

### **Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner**

#### **Challenges:**

- increasing the number of compensation requests for destroyed/damaged property;
- information vacuum in the temporarily occupied territories;
- lack of access to the occupied territories;
- lack of access of the authorities to the territory of the Russian Federation and the temporarily occupied territories, as well as the information vacuum for Ukrainians who are there;
- a large number of beneficiaries (persons residing in the temporarily occupied territories and in the areas of hostilities, IDPs, deportees and persons who have left abroad on their own) and a wide range of problems they face;
- a limited number of bodies (institutions) abroad that can provide practical assistance to Ukrainians who have left Ukraine;
- the lack of adaptation of national legislation to the realities of today.



#### **Olga Altunina**

Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens, who are Victims of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine

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## Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Beliefs

Department for Monitoring for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Beliefs:

- Unit for Citizenship, Political Rights and Religious Beliefs;
- Unit for Rights of National Minorities and Indigenous Peoples;
- Unit for Observance of Equal Rights and Prevention of Discrimination;
- Unit for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.

#### **3 Expert Councils under the Representative of the Commissioner**

Expert Councils under the Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights on Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Views:

- 1. Expert Council on Equal Rights and Prevention of Discrimination;
- 2. Expert Council on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking;
- 3. Expert Council on National Minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

#### **Challenges:**

- lack of access to the occupied territories of Ukraine, namely the impossibility of monitoring;
- increasing the number of appeals from citizens of Ukraine, foreigners and stateless persons who were legally present on the territory of Ukraine until February 24, 2022 regarding their documentation, duration of verification, etc.;
- increasing the number of appeals for granting statuses to persons affected by human trafficking;
- increasing the number of appeals from persons who suffered from domestic violence and did not receive a proper response from the subjects of interaction.



**Mykhailo Spasov** 

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## Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Places of Detention

#### Department for Implementation of National Preventive Mechanism:

- Unit for Inspection of Control
  Objects in Law Enforcement and
  Judicial Sphere, Military Units;
- Unit for Inspection of Control
  Objects in Healthcare and Social
  Security Institutions;
- Unit for Monitoring Medical Care in Places of Detention;
- Unit for Analytics and Public Relations.

### **Expert Council on the Implementation** of the NPM under the Commissioner

#### **Challenges:**

- implementation of systematic training of persons who make regular visits to places of detention in order to perform the functions of the national preventive mechanism;
- improvement of material security for conducting monitoring visits;
- strict observance of the suddenness principle during visiting places of detention;
- systematic exchange of information with public institutions, and representatives of mass media about the national preventive mechanism activities;
- dissemination of awareness of the society and persons who are in places of deprivation of liberty about the activities and functions of the national preventive mechanism.



Vitalii Nikulin

Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Places of Detention

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## Representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights

#### Department for Monitoring of Observance of Information Rights:

- Unit of Legal Work and Monitoring of International Standards in the Sphere of Personal Data Protection;
- Unit for Consideration of Appeals and Interaction with Subjects of Personal Data Processing;
- Unit for Rights to Access to Information;
- Unit for Rights to Citizens Appeals.

#### **Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner**

#### **Challenges:**

- the necessity to facilitate the compliance of Ukrainian legislation with European legislation (or with European standards in the field of personal data protection).
- the necessity to increase the staff of the Department due to the significant scope of authority;
- improper application of legislation in the field of personal data protection, access to public information and appeals by citizens;
- illegal restriction of access to information (partial or complete closure of access to registers, refusal to provide information upon request, restriction of access to official websites);
- Illegal distribution of personal data, in particular on the Internet, in messengers and social networks;
- involvement of monitors in the field of personal data protection, access to public information and the right to appeal;
- low public awareness of the rights in the sphere of personal data protection, access to public information and the right to appeal;
- conducting an information campaign on personal data protection, access to public information and the right to appeal. Illegal or excessive collection of personal data in times of war. In particular, military, IDPs, etc.



**Yuliia Derkachenko** 

Representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights

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## Representative of the Commissioner in the Courts System and Rights to Fair Trial and Representation in the Constitution Court of Ukraine

## Department for Monitoring of Observance of Rights to Fair Trial and Representation in the Constitution Court of Ukraine:

- Unit for Rights in Civil and Administrative Process;
- Unit for Rights in Criminal Process;
- Unit for Legal Expertise of Procedural Legislation;
- Unit for Human Rights in the Places of Detention.

**Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner** 

#### **Challenges:**

- extended terms of court cases consideration;
- security of processes is violated;
- limited access to registers;
- difficulty in executing court decisions;
- rapid change of legislation in the conditions of martial law.



#### Olena Frolova

Representative of the Commissioner in the Courts System and Rights to Fair Trial and Representation in the Constitution Court of Ukraine

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## Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Children

#### Department for Monitoring of Observance of Child:

- Unit for Rights of Child;
- Unit for Children's Rights within the Martial Law;
- Unit for Legal Provision.

## **Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner**

#### **Challenges:**

- lack of access to the occupied territories;
- different legislation of countries in the field of protection of children's rights;
- a topic manipulated by politicians and the media;
- deportation to the Russian Federation and child abduction, genocide due to the transfer of children to another national group.
- destruction of the Ukrainian mentality of students in the temporarily occupied territories through the forced obligation to study and teach subjects in Russian;
- issuance of Russian-type birth certificates to Ukrainian children born in the temporarily occupied territories;
- closure of exit points from the temporarily occupied territories by the Russian occupation authorities and denial of humanitarian corridors.



**Iryna Suslova**Representative of the Commissioner

for the Rights of Children

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## Representative of the Commissioner for International Cooperation and European Integration

## Department for International Cooperation and European Integration:

- Unit for Cooperation with International Organizations;
- Unit for Rights of Ukrainian
  Citizens Abroad;
- Unit for Cooperation with NHRIs;
- Unit for Cooperation with Foreign Diplomatic Missions and Protocol.

## **Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner**

#### **Challenges:**

- increasing the number of appeals from Ukrainian citizens abroad;
- development of international cooperation with national human rights institutions;
- the necessity to draw wider attention of the NHRIs and Ombudsmen of the world to the human rights consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine;
- establishing contacts with international partners on the relevant issues dealt with by the Ombudsperson's Office;
- increasing the number of the Ukrainian Commissioner's offices abroad;
- creating a platform for international cooperation under the Ukrainian Commissioner's Office.



Olga Strepochenko

Head of International Cooperation and European Integration Department

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## Representative of the Commissioner in Every Region of Ukraine

- 1. Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Residents in the Temporarily Occupied Territory in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol
- 2. Representative of the Commissioner in Vinnytsia region
- 3. Representative of the Commissioner in Volyn region
- 4. Representative of the Commissioner in Zhytomyr region
- 5. Representative of the Commissioner in Zakarpattia region
- 6. Representative of the Commissioner in Zaporizhzhia region
- 7. Representative of the Commissioner in Dnipropetrovsk region
- 8. Representative of the Commissioner in Donetsk region
- 9. Representative of the Commissioner in Luhansk region
- 10. Representative of the Commissioner in Ivano-Frankivsk region
- 11. Representative of the Commissioner in Kyiv region and the city of Kyiv
- 12. Representative of the Commissioner in Kirovohrad region
- 13. Representative of the Commissioner in Lviv region
- 14. Representative of the Commissioner in Mykolaiv region
- 15. Representative of the Commissioner in Odesa region
- 16. Representative of the Commissioner in Poltava region
- 17. Representative of the Commissioner in Rivne region
- 18. Representative of the Commissioner in Sumy region
- 19. Representative of the Commissioner in Ternopil region
- 20. Representative of the Commissioner in Cherkasy region
- 21. Representative of the Commissioner in Chernivtsi region
- 22. Representative of the Commissioner in Chernihiv region
- 23. Representative of the Commissioner in Kharkiv region
- 24. Representative of the Commissioner in Kherson region
- 25. Representative of the Commissioner in Khmelnytskyi region

### **Expert Council under the Representative of the Commissioner**

#### **Challenges:**

- decentralization of the central office of the Secretariat;
- creation of a regional network through the development of representative offices in each region;
- control over the activities of local self-government bodies and authorities;
- impossibility of uninterrupted work by reason of power outage, due to the destruction of critical infrastructure in the regions of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;
- a large number of monitoring visits;
- opening of counselling centres with children's space;
- buildings of the Commissioner's regional offices destroyed by rocket attacks.





## STRUCTURE OF SECRETARIAT OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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## STRUCTURE OF SECRETARIAT OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- Department for Monitoring of Rights in the Defense Sector and Rights of Veterans and Military Personnel, POWs and Members of Their Families
- Department for Monitoring the Observance of Social and Economic Rights
- Department for Monitoring the Observance of the Rights of Citizens, who are Victims of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine
- Department for Monitoring the Observance of Equal Rights and Freedoms, the Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Beliefs
- Department for Implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism
- Department for Monitoring Compliance with Information Rights
- Department for Monitoring Compliance with the Right to a Fair Trial
- Department of Economic Support

- International Cooperation and European Integration Department
- Department for Monitoring the Rights of Children, Family, Youth and Sports
- Department of Information Policy, Communications and Protocol Events
- Department for Work with Personnel
- Department of Financial Security and Accounting
- Department for Documentation and Performance Control
- Department for Facilitating the Work of Regional Representative Offices
- Legal Department
- Sector for Occupational Health and Safety
- Sector for Prevention and Detection of Corruption



#### **Interaction with Civil Society**

#### **Principles:**

- Openness;
- Involvement;
- Effectiveness;
- Professionalism.

#### **Events:**

- 100 days of work of the Ombudsman of Ukraine;
- Opening of the Consultation Center of the Ombudsman of Ukraine;
- International conference"Human Rights in Dark Hours";
- 10 years of the National Preventive Mechanism;
- Meetings with reunions of relatives of prisoners of war, political prisoners, etc.

#### Forms of cooperation:

- Interaction through meetings of the Advisory Council of the Ombudsman of Ukraine, the Advisory Council of the National Preventive Mechanism, expert councils under the Representative of the Ombudsman from among civil society representatives;
- NPM+;
- Conducting joint monitoring visits with civil society organizations;
- Cooperation within the framework of memorandums and implementation of joint projects, including ITA projects;
- Involvement of human rights defenders as representatives of civil society in the positions of Advisers to the Ombudsman of Ukraine (on staff and on a voluntary basis);
- Conducting joint information campaigns;
- Holding thematic public events conferences, round tables, discussions, etc;
- Conducting joint training and educational events for the Secretariat staff with the involvement of experts;
- Interaction with representatives of Ukrainian civil society outside of Ukraine, engaging Ukrainians abroad to promote human rights values;
- Holding briefings, presentations, press conferences with the participation of the public;
- Constant interaction with the media;
- Open communication in social networks;
- Other forms of cooperation.



#### **International Cooperation**

#### **Principles:**

- Transparency;
- Efficiency;
- Openness;
- Involvement;
- Professionalism.

#### **Events:**

- International Conference 'Human Rights in Dark Hours';
- International Ombudsman Conference within the framework of the Crimean Platform;
- Participation in the International Conference for NHRIs in Ankara;
- Meetings with international partners
  Monitoring missions with Heads of NHRIs of foreign states;
- Visit of ENNHRI delegation to Ukraine;
- Visit of IOI delegation to Ukraine;
- International event on protecting children's rights in Iceland.

#### Forms of cooperation:

- International cooperation with NHRIs (GANHRI, ENNHRI, IOI, AOM, ENOC, ENO, EOI);
- Cooperation with international organizations (UN, ICRC, IFRC, Red Cross Society, Council of Europe, USAID, OSCE);
- Participation in the interactive dialogue on updating the situation with human rights in Ukraine within the framework of the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council on July 5, 2022;
- Participation in the presentation of the interim report of the Commission for Investigation of Violations in Ukraine of the UN Human Rights Council within the framework of the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council on September 23, 2022;
- Participation in the events of the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on October 4, 2022;
- Participation in the high-level OSCE ODIHR event for heads of NHRIs from the European region September 5-6, 2022;
- Opening of the Temporarily Representative Offices of the Commissioner in UK and Republic of Ireland.



## Consultation Centers of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

Currently, three such Centers have been opened. Our staff provide support to citizens of Ukraine online and offline regarding:

- clarification of possible ways of returning children or families with children to the Government-controlled territory of Ukraine;
- obtaining a child's birth certificate under martial law or its legalization, if the document was obtained in the non-controlled territory;
- establishing contact with a child taken abroad by one of the parents;
- filling out a form for tracing a child or an application for assistance to children who have been injured due to the war and other issues related to human rights violations.



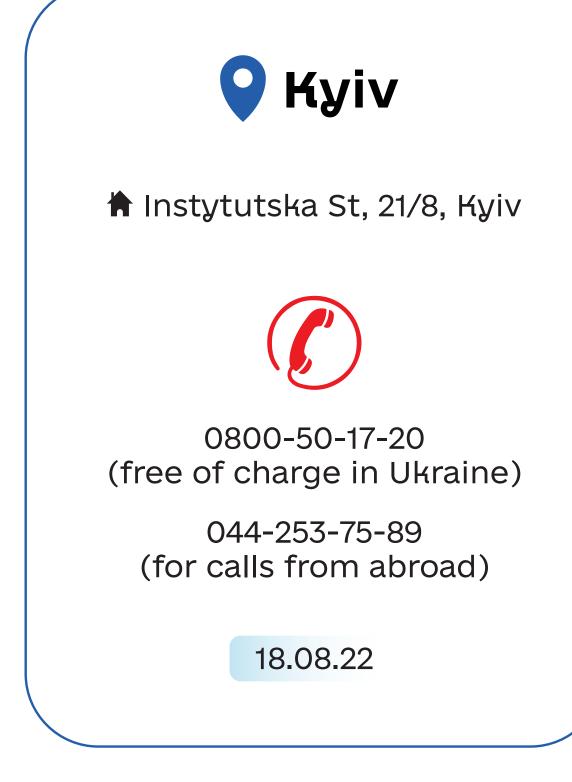




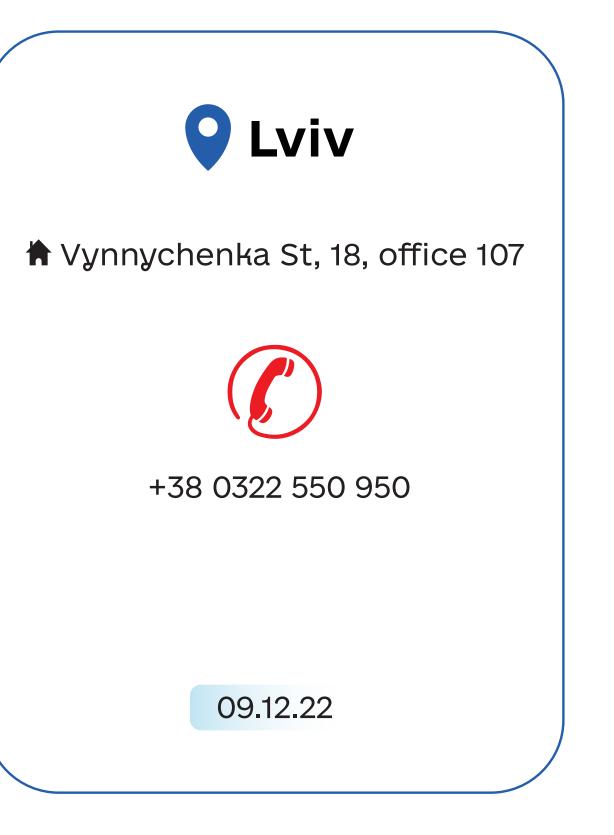


## Consultation Centers of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

Pilot project







Rooms for children are arranged in each of the Centers in order to organize a comfortable and friendly space for children and their legal representatives.



## Children's Spaces at the Consultation Centers of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights









story. Therefore, children's spaces have been opened in the premises of the Ombudsman Office and at the Consultation Centers. Here children can communicate informally with the professional representatives of the center. After all, when it comes to children, we want to show that we treat them in a family-like manner, without any bureaucracy.





## **Dmytro LUBINETS**

**Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights** (from July 1, 2022)

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**#StandWithUkraine** 



