

Ladies and Gentlemen

I represent the Hungarian minority from Transcarpathia, Ukraine.

Ukraine is involved in an armed conflict, and a large number of people had to leave eastern Ukraine. However, there are severe human and minority rights violations also in the western part of the country, in Transcarpathia as well.

The Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association would like to kindly request your assistance to improve a series of laws either being in force, or in a stage of discriminatory drafts on the rights of linguistic and ethnic minorities living in Ukraine.

A cause for concern is the fact that the Constitutional Court of Ukraine has set on the agenda the revision of constitutional validity of the Law "On Principles of the State Language Policy". This issue is highly probable to result in a complete abolition of the language rights acquired by non-native speakers of Ukrainian and persons belonging to national minorities. This would be contrary to the international legal obligations of Ukraine.

The Law on Education is also under change. Sadly, the law which is being drafted, would further restrict the education in minority languages. It would just "offer the possibility" to teach some subjects in Hungarian, while a series of subjects should be taught in Ukrainian.

We would respectfully like to ask you to express - through diplomatic channels - your protest against and take actions to prevent the forward-looking Ukrainian Language Law and Education Law to be accepted in the spirit of and in line with European aspirations and standards.

We believe that ensuring constitutional rights and proper implementation of laws as well as protection of minorities in line with the best practices in Europe, should be implemented in Ukraine as well

Thank You Mr. Chairperson.