

To: United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

From: Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ref: Inputs for the report “Establishing effective mechanisms at the national and regional levels for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People”.

We, herewith, provide the following information on the activities of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter HRCA) on the issues of protection of the rights and freedoms for all segments of the population and the ethnic groups in Azerbaijan. Under the Article 8 of the Constitutional Law on the Ombudsman the HRCA examine complaints on violations of human rights and takes various actions, in that vein, to eliminate the problems as fully as possible within her mandate.

It should be noted, that Azerbaijan is known for its national and ethnographic diversity society where persons with different ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious affiliations live together in a spirit of tolerance and respect. One of the state’s highest priority objectives is to ensure human rights and freedoms. These main principles and rights are fixed and protected at the legislative level, contained in the Constitution of the country (Article 12 – “The highest priority objective of the state”, Article 25 – “Right to equality”, Article 44 – “Right to national identity”, Article 45 – “Right to use native language”) and other legal acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan¹. Guided by the mentioned provisions of the Constitution, national legislation, international instruments to which Azerbaijan is a party conditions were created for the free exercise of constitutional rights and freedoms for all segments of the population and the ethnic groups².

Azerbaijan is proud of its long-standing tradition of living together in a multicultural society and the authorities promote the concept of “Azerbaijani multiculturalism” both at national level and in the international community. Today, the representatives of different ethnic groups who live in the country, speak different languages and belong to diverse religions are equal citizens of Azerbaijan, and at the same time keep the elements of their culture and traditions. The Baku International Multiculturalism Center is ensuring the preservation of tolerance, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity in accordance with the ideology of Azerbaijanism, as well as represents Azerbaijan as the center of multiculturalism in the world, explores and promotes existing multicultural models³. Persons belonging to different ethnic groups are represented in the central legislative, administrative, executive structures of the Republic of Azerbaijan, senior civil service positions and the judiciary as well as in the Ombudsperson Institution.



Azerbaijan cooperates with various international organizations in the field of human

Azərbaycan Respublikasının İnsan Hüquqları üzrə Müvəkkil (Ombudsman) Aparatı

İmzalayan şəxs: Aytən Tarverdiyeva

İmzalanma tarixi: 27.02.2023

Qeydiyyat nömrəsi: 2-5/3-6-31/2023

İmzalanmış sənəd : <https://qr.ombudsman.az//Download/DownloadSignedFile?code=KtDSEu2W243BRw19tUQNNQ==>

Qoşma sənəd : <https://qr.ombudsman.az//Download/DownloadFile?code=+5C1Jk6hJmR9JxrwuvhhHQ==>

rights protection and has ratified various international treaties on the protection of human rights and persons belonging to the ethnic groups such as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and other major international and regional legal human rights instruments.

From the very beginning, the HRCA closely cooperates with state bodies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and media outlets to promote a spirit of tolerance, intercultural dialogue and mutual respect in the country⁴. Every person regardless of their race, nationality, religion and language can appeal the Commissioner⁵. In this regard it should be noted that there have not been any complaints to the HRCA relating to discrimination on ethnic or linguistic grounds. We would also like to highlight that the Constitutional Law regulating the activities on expanding the powers of the HRCA is currently under review in the Parliament⁶. According to the new amendments, the Ombudsman will get the mandate for independent mechanism on monitoring and promoting the provision of the right to equality and prevention of discrimination according to the national legislation.

Various events are held on the initiative of the HRCA in Baku and the regions within the framework of the “Human Rights Month” campaign, as well as on the eve of the International Day of Tolerance on November 16, which contribute to promotion of human rights and strengthening of ethnoreligious tolerance approach as a factor of determining the sustainability of multicultural policy in Azerbaijan.⁷ In the framework of the national implementation of the European Union and the Council of Europe “Partnership for Good Governance Project II” on “Strengthening Access to Justice for Victims of Discrimination, Hate Crime and Hate Speech” the staff of the Ombudsman Office, the civil society members had the opportunity to increase their knowledge and capacities in combating discrimination and learning international experience⁸.



Azərbaycan Respublikasının İnsan Hüquqları üzrə Müvəkkili (Ombudsman) Aparatı

İmzalayan şəxs: Aytən Tarverdiyeva

İmzalanma tarixi: 27.02.2023

Qeydiyyat nömrəsi: 2-5/3-6-31/2023

İmzalanmış sənəd : <https://qr.ombudsman.az//Download/DownloadSignedFile?code=KtDSEu2W243BRw19tUQNNQ==>

Qoşma sənəd : [https://qr.ombudsman.az//Download/DownloadFile?code="+5C1Jk6hJmR9JxrwuvhhHQ=="](https://qr.ombudsman.az//Download/DownloadFile?code=)