

Aleksandra Nazrova - Social Action Centre Ukraine on Item V

Madam Chairperson, I also would like to thank Minority Rights Group International for the opportunity to take part in this Forum.

My name is Aleksandra Nazarova and I represent the Social Action Centre Ukraine and I wasn't to point out the situation of realisation of economic rights for ethnic and religious minorities, in particular refugees and asylum seekers in Ukraine. The ban of discrimination is ensured in both the Constitution of Ukraine and the Labour Codecs and International Law ratified by Ukraine. However, in practice the accessibility to legal employment seeking is very difficult for many categories of minorities.

First of all, for those who differ with financial type or language proficiency. There is a high level of intolerance in the Ukrainian society in regards to those minorities leads to them belonging to illegal workers or those workers who have been deprived of basic social guarantees. This is the outcome also of numerous gaps in coalition of Ukrainian decision-making bodies. This is the way it is phrased in the Law on Refugees that a person who is in any stage of the refugee status procedure has the right to temporary employment, without any special permission. This happens when in the Law on Aliens and Persons without Citizenship is noted that only persons who are recognised as refugees have this right to employment. And this leads to practically impossible official employment for these groups of workers because the problems with law enforcement bodies. It is unsatisfactory the situation of social security of minorities who are seeking asylum in Ukraine. Within the domestic legislature they are guaranteed medical emergency services, but instances of illegal refusal in hospitals and policlinics are very frequent. Constant problems are also apparent in pension services and other social payments.

We recommend the government of Ukraine to completely ratify European Social Charter, International Convention on the Rights of Workers and their Family Members, to join UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; to lead the national legislature in accordance with international standards on human rights in spheres of economic and social rights; to take measures of warning in discrimination by private persons and government bodies of ethnic or religious minorities when they are realising their economic and social rights; to assist refugees who seek asylum through recognising education documents that are not given out in Ukraine and to improve their access to programs of professional development for adults; and also to provide guarantees when accessing social benefits on unemployment and other benefits. We recommend the UN Human Rights bodies to pay particular attention to question of realisation of economic rights of minorities who are also refugees seeking asylum. Thank you.