

Good afternoon!

Ukraine has ratified and undertakes to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which prohibit incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, shaping the policy of the central executive authorities that are part of its system, directs efforts to overcome hate speech, including those directed against minorities.

First of all, the National Police is instructed to carry out organizational and practical measures to identify, record such illegal facts and bring offenders to justice.

To this end, the National Police conducts daily monitoring of the media, social-networking groups on the Internet, and checks information on illegal actions committed due to racial, ethnic, religious hatred or on grounds of gender.

In 2020, about 130 criminal proceedings were launched involving offences under the Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, which provides for criminal liability for violation of the equality of citizens depending on their racial, national, religious beliefs, disability and other characteristics.

A part of them was launched based on the results of monitoring social networks and mass media.

In fact, the criteria for identifying hate speech are often ambiguous or contradictory.

It is necessary to clearly distinguish the line when the freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution ends and “hate speech” begins.

An important role in this matter is played by expert research, which, when investigating crimes, help to establish the facts of incitement, hostility, motives, and circumstances of crimes associated with “hate speech”.

The system of professional training of the police is focused on studying the provisions on the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms in national legislation and international legal enactments, including the practice of the European Court of Human Rights.

At the same time, the authorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs system carry out educational activities, including through institutional websites and social networks, in order to explain the essence and danger of hate speech to a wide range of the public.

The authorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are open to cooperation and together with national and international partners are ready to jointly combat the “hate speech” in any of its manifestations.