

**Information of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights  
on issues for the 12th session of the UN Open-ended Working Group on ageing  
(1)**

**1. The contribution of the elderly to sustainable development**

Important preconditions for Ukraine's European integration are constant attention to ensuring equal rights and freedoms in all spheres of public relations and compliance with international and national legislation, which guarantees freedom from discrimination on any grounds.

Prevention and counteraction of discrimination in all spheres of public relations is one of the activities of the Commissioner.

Within the framework of parliamentary control, the observance of the principle of non-discrimination is constantly monitored. There is being carried the educational work on the prevention of discrimination as well as analysis of legislation on compliance with the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

**2. Economic security**

The Constitution of Ukraine guarantees everyone the right to a sufficient standard of living for themselves and their families, which includes adequate food, clothing and housing. It is also determined that pensions, other types of social benefits and benefits, which are the main source of livelihood, must ensure a standard of living not lower than the subsistence level established by law.

The subsistence level is determined per person, as well as separately for those who belong to the main social and demographic groups and is approved annually by the Law of Ukraine on the State Budget.

Lifelong learning in Ukraine is carried out within the limits set by the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 53), the Law of Ukraine "On Education", other laws in the field of education and regulations.

The practical implementation of these goals is also carried out by the universities of the third age, the number of which is growing every year.

Today there are almost 400 of them, where about 50 thousand elderly people study.

The realization of cultural rights and human freedoms is ensured by the norms of the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 54), the requirements of the Laws of Ukraine "On Culture", "On Libraries and Library Affairs", "On Museums and Museum Affairs", "On Architectural Activities", "On Protection of Cultural Heritage", "On Folk Arts and Crafts", "On National Minorities in Ukraine", etc. . The results of the analysis of official documents show the lack of a clear definition of cultural services intended for the elderly.

Poverty is not only a social but also an economic category, and therefore depends on indicators such as GDP, unemployment, inflation indices and real wages.

The Government has developed and approved a Poverty Reduction Strategy, as well as a corresponding Plan for its implementation.

The Commissioner's monitoring shows that the elderly experience a lack of cultural services more acutely than other socio-demographic categories, because for them the local cultural product, even if of poor quality, is often unalterable due to low mobility, low income, lack of access to information networks and so on.

The most pressing issue is the pension provision of the elderly. At present, the amount of pensions does not provide citizens with a sufficient standard of living guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine.

Such data are available in the Government's report on the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2016-2020.

Information on the level of pension provision for the elderly is reflected in the report on the distribution of pensioners by the amount of assigned monthly pensions, which is published quarterly on the website of the Pension Fund of Ukraine.

According to the Pension Fund of Ukraine, as of January 1, 2022, a pension of up to 4.0 thousand UAH (equivalent to 145 dollars), which is below the monetary poverty line set by the UN (150 dollars), receive 7.6 million (almost 70, 2%) retirees. The average size of the assigned pension with targeted cash assistance is UAH 3,991.53 (\$ 140).

The Commissioners have repeatedly stated in their appeals to the Government and the Parliament that the adoption of the subsistence level at almost twice the actual level violates the rights of millions of citizens to a decent standard of living and adequate social protection. , which are the main source of livelihood for the elderly.

The Parliament adopted in the first reading the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Regulation of the Subsistence Minimum and the Creation of Preconditions for Its Increase" (Reg. # 3515 of 20.05.2020).

In recent years, among the national development priorities of the state have been the reform of employment, wages and social guarantees, which overcomes poverty, increase the minimum state guarantees of wages and pensions, the introduction of a mechanism for funded pensions.

General principles of equality and, accordingly, non-discrimination established by the Constitution of Ukraine.

The Framework Legislative Act, which contains a general definition of "discrimination", provides clear definitions of its key forms and prohibits all forms of discrimination, is the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of Preventing and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine". In national legislation, this is the most complete and detailed legal act in the field of non-discrimination.

In 2021, the Government approved the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Space until 2030. The Commissioner participated in the development of this Strategy. The national strategy envisages the creation of a barrier-free space for all social groups, including the elderly.

The Law of Ukraine "On Basic Principles of Social Protection of Labor Veterans and Other Elderly Citizens in Ukraine" guarantees veterans of labor and elderly citizens equal opportunities with other citizens in economic, social, political spheres, favorable conditions for a full life.

At the constitutional level, the right to send individual or collective written appeals or to personally address public authorities, local governments, which are obliged to consider the appeal and give a reasoned response within the statutory period.

The right to apply for protection of one's rights to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights is guaranteed.

Everyone is also guaranteed the right to:

to appeal in court against decisions, actions or omissions of public authorities, local governments, officials and officials;

to appeal with a constitutional complaint to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on the grounds established by this Constitution and in the manner prescribed by law.