In 2017, jointly with the international community Ukraine continued its persistent diplomatic work to counter the Russian aggression. As a result of the concerted efforts a number of resolutions and decisions at the highest international level aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of the inhabitants of Crimea were adopted. They should become a solid basis for freeing the Crimean Peninsula from the Russian occupation and restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine.
In February 2014, Crimea was illegally occupied by the Russian Federation. This lead to unprecedented repressions against all those who openly opposed the occupation: killings, abductions, political reprisals, show trials, searches of homes, mosques and churches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, illegal fines and interrogations, the prohibition of free movement, restrictions on education in the Ukrainian and the Crimean Tatar languages, etc. The indigenous people of Crimea - the Crimean Tatars are subjected to the worst oppression. Militarization of the peninsula and a deliberate change of its demographics take place against the backdrop of declining democratic principles and freedom of speech. By illegally annexing Crimea, the Russian Federation violated the principles of international law set forth in the UN Charter and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Neglecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the inviolability of its borders, Russia also violated the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation and the Treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the Russian-Ukrainian state border. The Charter of Paris, the Lisbon document, the Charter for European Security, the Astana Declaration, the agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the stay of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation at the territory of Ukraine, etc. were also not observed.

On 27 March 2014, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which emphasizes that the world community does not recognize the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. NATO in its statement of 02 March 2014, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe condemned Russia’s actions and supported the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The G7 countries suspended preparations for the G8 summit, which was to be held in Sochi in June 2014, expelling Russia from the club. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe supported the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and excluded the Russian delegation from its membership. There was no ambiguity in the position of international leaders and organizations regarding the events in the Crimea: by occupying the peninsula, Russia undermined the fundamental principles of the international order and the global security system the world had been building for decades. Therefore, the issue of restoring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine is the task of the entire civilized world.
**The most important decisions on the Crimea, adopted in 2014-2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Decision and Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>07 March 2014</td>
<td>The UN Security Council announced that it will not recognize the legality of the referendum on the status of the Crimea scheduled for 16 March 2014.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March 2014</td>
<td>The Venice Commission recognized the referendum in the Crimea illegitimate, and so violating the Constitution of Ukraine and the norms of international law.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March 2014</td>
<td>The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The document calls on all states, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any changes in the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of an illegal referendum and to refrain from any actions or behavior that can be interpreted as recognition of any change in the status of the peninsula.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 April 2014</td>
<td>The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Russia's pressure on the Eastern Partnership countries and, in particular, on the destabilization of the situation in Ukraine. The document considers acts of Russia's aggression as a flagrant violation of international law and its international obligations. The resolution also calls for the introduction of economic, trade and financial restrictions on the Crimea and representatives of the occupation authorities; confirms concern about the fate of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian communities in the Crimea.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 July 2014</td>
<td>The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted the Baku resolution, which notes that the Russian Federation has violated 10 Helsinki principles, as well as obligations under the Budapest Memorandum. The resolution also confirmed the recognition of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the illegitimacy of the Crimean “referendum”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 January 2015</td>
<td>The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on “The humanitarian situation with regard to Ukrainian refugees and forced migrants”. The document, among other things, speaks of the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Crimea. In particular, as related to intimidation, persecution and discrimination of ethnic Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar population.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 June 2015</td>
<td>PACE adopted a resolution on Ukraine — Russia is recognized as an aggressor and an occupying state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 February 2016</td>
<td>The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the occupation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia which contained a direct appeal of European parliamentarians to Russia to demilitarize the Crimea and to stop the persecution of Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian living on the peninsula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 November 2016</td>
<td>The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on human rights in the Crimea. The Russian Federation is called the state-occupier, and the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are recognized as temporarily occupied territories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 December 2016</td>
<td>The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in which Russia received the status of the occupation authority and is responsible for all violations of human rights on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and in Sevastopol.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Co-chairman of the Senate Ukrainian caucus, Senator from the State of Ohio Robert Portman, as well as vice-chairman of the caucus, Senator-Democrat of Ohio Sherrod Brown presented a resolution condemning the illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation. Almost a dozen senators from the Republican and Democratic parties co-authored the document.

Key positions

In the resolution on the third anniversary of the attempts of the Russian Federation to annex the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the illegal Russian military occupation of the Ukrainian region is recognized a contradiction of international norms, an act of unprovoked aggression and a threat to regional stability. The Senate also reaffirmed the US commitment to the provisions of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances and the policy of non-recognition of the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over the Crimea, its airspace or territorial waters.

Meaning

US lawmakers advocated further support for Ukraine, including by strengthening economic sanctions against the Russian Federation.

Rudolph GIULIANI,
US state and political figure, Republican Party representative:

The annexation of the Crimea is a violation of the basic international legislation. This is an illegal invasion of a sovereign country, which unfortunately happened because the United States and Western Europe did not react to Russia’s actions properly. It was a demonstration of our weakness. If we acted directly and very quickly, immediately imposed harsh sanctions, perhaps we could change the situation, and it did not turn into what Putin did in the east of Ukraine. If necessary, sanctions will be strengthened. Our ultimate goal is the reunification of Ukraine in the same state as it was before Russia seized the Crimea. Of course, there are different ways to achieve this goal, but there can be no compromise.
The decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe regarding the situation in the Crimea

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CMCE) in Strasbourg adopted a decision that recognized numerous violations of human rights in the illegally annexed Crimea and reiterated that "such an act (illegal annexation) is a violation of international law".

Key positions

The document notes that on the peninsula, along with human rights violations such as restrictions on freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, freedom of religion and belief, reprisals against those who disagree with the occupation regime, in particular, against the Crimean Tatars, continue. One of the key provisions of the decision is the call to ensure an unhindered access of international human rights organizations, in particular the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, to the temporarily occupied peninsula to monitor the human rights situation in accordance with their mandate. The document also calls to renew the work of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people illegally banned in the RF and allow access to the peninsula to the leaders of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people.

Meaning

The document contains a clear demand for Russia as an occupying power to do everything possible to ensure human rights in the Crimea.

Over the past year, the ongoing militarisation of the peninsula has continued to impact the security situation in the Black Sea region and the human rights situation in the Crimean Peninsula has deteriorated further. The rights of the Crimean Tatars have been gravely violated through the shutting down of Crimean Tatar media outlets, the banning of the activities of the Mejlis, their self-governing body, and the persecution of its leaders.... The European Union repeats its call for the immediate release of Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko and all those who are unlawfully detained and convicted. All cases of disappearances, torture and killings must be thoroughly investigated. The free and unrestricted access of international human rights defenders to the entire territory of Ukraine, including the Crimea and Sevastopol, is of paramount importance.
The decision to extend the “Crimean sanctions” until 23 June 2018

The meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers Council extended the economic restrictions on the Crimea occupied by Russia for a year without discussion.

Key positions
The sanctions concern the prohibition for companies and individuals from EU member states from carrying out trade, economic, financial and investment activities in the Crimea. In addition, energy, transport, telecommunications and tourism industries, oil, gas and mineral extraction activities have fallen under the restrictions. The document also prohibited the EU vessels from entering the Crimean ports.

Meaning
The extension of the Crimean sanctions continued economic pressure on Russia as a part of the comprehensive policy aimed at Russia’s containment.

The decision to extend the sectoral economic sanctions against Russia

The EU Council extended economic sanctions against Russia for another six months — until 31 January 2018. The decision was taken unanimously.

Key positions
Restrictions concern the financial, energy, defense sectors of the Russian economy, as well as dual-use items.

Meaning
Sectoral economic sanctions* is one of the most important levers the international community applies to the Russian Federation. In total, there are 152 individuals and 40 Russian organizations and companies on the EU’s sanctions list.

*Economic sanctions against Russia were imposed by the European Union in July 2014, in response to the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine for a period of 1 year. It was assumed that the restrictions would be canceled after the Kremlin would have implemented the Minsk agreements by the end of 2015. However, Russia has not fulfilled its obligations, therefore sanctions are extended every six months.
At the summer session in Belarus, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted a Minsk Declaration. The declaration included the total of 16 resolutions relating to security issues in the OSCE area, armed conflicts, combating terrorism, energy security, the death penalty, migration and gender equality. An important result for Ukraine was the resolution “Restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”, proposed by the Ukrainian delegation. It was approved at the meeting, despite Russia’s protest. 91 members of the Assembly voted for the document.

Key positions
The document calls Russia the occupying state of the Crimea and a sponsor of terrorist activities in the Donbass. Also, the resolution appeals to the Russian Federation to give the Donbass and the Crimea back to Ukraine.

Meaning
The resolution became an integral part of the big Minsk Declaration and articulated the pressing demands to Russia: withdraw the occupying forces from the territory of the Crimean Peninsula, provide unhindered access to the Crimea and Sevastopol to international organizations and independent experts of the OSCE, the UN and the Council of Europe, as well as independent media and human rights organizations.

Petition of indigenous peoples and non-governmental human rights organizations in support of Crimean Tatars, Karaites and Krymchaks

During the 10th session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva (Switzerland), the meeting participants expressed solidarity with the indigenous peoples of Ukraine — Crimean Tatars, Karaites and Tatars.

Key positions
The document stressed that the pressure on the indigenous peoples of Ukraine was impermissible and indicated that the representative organization of the Crimean Tatars, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, is subject to the most harassment and needs protection, respect and support.

Meaning
Attracted attention to the brutal repression and harassment of the Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of Ukraine on the part of the occupation authorities.

The decision to expand sanctions against the Russian Federation

Following the scandal over the supply of Siemens turbines to the occupied Crimea, the EU added three Russian citizens and three companies that had been involved in supplying the equipment to the peninsula to the sanctions list.

Key positions
In particular, the sanctions relate to Tekhnopromexport Company, one of its divisions and Interavtomatika firm. Also on the list were general director of JSC Technopromexport Sergiy Topor-Hilka, deputy minister of energy of the Russian Federation Andriy Cherezov and head of the department of the Ministry of Energy of Russia Evgeniy Grabchak.

Meaning
Attracted attention to the attempts to bypass sanctions by some companies and demonstrated quick reaction to violations of the sanctions regime.

Pavlo KLMKIN, Ukrainian Foreign Minister:

The scam around the turbines is not a misunderstanding, it’s a mistake. It is equated with violation of sanctions. Certainly and without any doubt, the Siemens concern should take the necessary legal steps for such an unusual violation, urgently and in full, to study the prerequisites for the delivery of turbines to the Crimea in defiance of the treaty and to cancel such a decision... Meanwhile, I will take the liberty to advise the Siemens and other concerns that deal with Russian enterprises: after shaking hands with them, do not forget to count your fingers after that.

In an interview with the German edition of Die Welt 31 July 2017.
UNESCO Report
“Monitoring the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)”

The report of the Director-General of the Organization has been prepared in response to the decision of the UNESCO Executive Board “Monitoring the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine)”. The document is based on information from the UNESCO Secretariat, as well as from the Ukrainian side and the institutional partners of the Organization — the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, ICOMOS, “Amnesty International”. It covers the period from January to June of 2017.

Key positions
The monitoring indicates that the human rights situation and the preservation of cultural property at the territory of Crimea temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation is constantly deteriorating. Russia uses repressive methods: improperly applies criminal and administrative legislation, false accusations, harassment and coercion by law enforcement agencies, propaganda of the pro-government media.

Meaning
UNESCO noted that within the framework of international law, Russia, is an occupying state, which fully controls the situation in the Crimea and is fully responsible for the blatant violation of human rights on the peninsula.
More than 15,000 historical and architectural monuments of world and national importance and 100 museums of Crimea remained outside Ukraine’s control with the occupation of the Ukrainian peninsula.

Three years after the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014, the human rights situation on the peninsula is rapidly deteriorating. The situation is exacerbated by the absence of any effective international monitoring mechanism that would have access to the peninsula. Thus, nothing restrains the Russian authorities and the actual leadership of Crimea from the inexorable suppression of the slightest signs of dissent. The first task of the international community should be the organization of effective monitoring of the human rights situation in the Crimea, including the harmonization of practical aspects of unhindered visits to Crimea by the appropriate mechanism.

**THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE OCCUPIED CRIMEA:**
- Crimean Tatars
- Ukrainians

**RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF MASS MEDIA:**
- Ukrainian national TV channels are replaced by TV channels of the Russian Federation
- Independent media in the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian languages are shut down
- journalists suffer from threats, intimidation and harassment. A large number of independent media workers were forced to leave for the mainland Ukraine — because of the threat to health and life
- As of the end of June 2017, several important independent media sites remained blocked in the Crimea:
  - Krym.Realii
  - Investigator.com.ua
  - Censor.net
  - Blackseanews.net
  - 15minut.org
  - QHA
  - pravda.com.ua

**SPHERES WHERE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IS OBSERVED:**
- freedom of expression, conscience and religion
- right to peaceful assembly
- freedom of the media and access to information
- the right to a fair trial and the use of remedies
- the right to receive education in their native language
- the language and cultural rights

**RESTRICTION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN NATIVE LANGUAGE**
- education in the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian languages is superseded by Russian-language education. The number of children who received education in the Ukrainian language fell from 12,694 in 2013 to 371 in 2016/2017.
- the number of the Ukrainian school dropped from 7 to 0.
- school principals, teachers, parents and children are under pressure to stop teaching in these languages
- This leads to a catastrophic limitation on the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian culture on the peninsula

**ILLEGAL TREATMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES IN THE CRIMEA**
- the movement of national cultural values (archaeological artifacts, paintings, etc.) from Crimean museums to the territory of Russia
- damage, unprofessional behavior and, consequently, the threat of destruction of monuments of world significance:
  - the complex “Chersonese Tavrichesky” (Sevastopol city)
  - the Genoese fortress (Sudak city)
  - Khari’s Palace (Bakhchisarai city), etc
- damage, unprofessional behavior and, consequently, the threat of destruction of monuments of world significance:
Thematic report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

“The situation with human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”

25 September 2017

Key positions

According to the UN, serious human rights violations are recorded in the Crimea, such as arbitrary arrests and detentions, enforced disappearances, cruel treatment, torture and at least one extrajudicial execution. Victims of the arbitrariness of the Russian state apparatus were Crimeans of different ethnic origins, but the Crimean Tatars were particularly harassed, the document says. Experts also state that the opportunities for public manifestation of Ukrainian culture and identity have also significantly narrowed on the peninsula.

Special attention was paid in the UN to the automatic provision of Russian citizenship to the inhabitants of the Crimea. “The imposition of citizenship on residents of the occupied territory can be equated with forcing them to swear allegiance to the enemy state, which is prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention”, the authors of the report write.

“The issues of citizenship had a significant impact on the lives of many Crimean residents”, said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein.

The authors of the report made 20 recommendations to the Russian government. Among other things, these are recommendations to respect the human rights of all the inhabitants of the peninsula, fulfill the obligations imposed on the occupation state in accordance with international humanitarian law; ensure proper and unhindered access to international missions and human rights non-governmental organizations for monitoring the human rights situation in the Crimea etc.

Meaning

The data and facts given in the report show that despite although international missions and human rights organizations cannot enter the territory of the Crimea, Ukraine and international organizations constantly monitor the human rights situation on the peninsula and still can document specific cases that will become irrefutable evidence during legal proceedings against Russia.

Dalia GRYBAUSKAITE, President of Lithuania:

We are witnessing attempts to forcefully redraw the borders in Europe, military aggression in Eastern Ukraine and the occupation of the Crimea, simultaneously with an attempt to compromise the powers of the European Court of Human Rights. As politicians and judges, we must defend the principles on which the rule of law is based. This is not a field for compromises. Therefore, we can not shake hands and welcome those who despise the rule of law, causing thousands of human tragedies.

During the opening of the IV Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice in Vilnius (Lithuania), where representatives of Russia were not invited — 12 September 2017.

Angela MERKEL, German Chancellor:

When I hear, for example, that we should just accept the Russian annexation of the Crimea, I think: what would have happened to us if we had used similar slogans in the GDR?

In an interview with Frankfurter Allgemeinen Sonntagszeitung 10 September 2017
COERCION TO CITIZENSHIP

- The automatic recognition of Crimeans as citizens of the Russian Federation led to the formation of three vulnerable groups: individuals who refused to renounce the citizenship of the Russian Federation in writing; persons who did not meet the legal criteria for obtaining Russian citizenship, because they had no registration at the place of residence in the Crimea; persons who had to renounce the citizenship of Ukraine in order to keep their employment.

- About 100 thousand people living in the Crimea (about 4% of the population) did not have the citizenship of the Russian Federation as of May 2015 as estimated by the Russian ombudsman.

- The quality of life of Crimeans who did not receive Russian citizenship deteriorated significantly: they face discrimination when seeking jobs, in medical care, getting education, cultural and social life etc.

IMPLEMENTATION OF JUSTICE, VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY

- Court decisions were made with a clear disregard for the right to be tried by a competent, independent and impartial court.

- Suspects were charged, and some of them convicted over the events that took place before the application of the legislation of the Russian Federation in the Crimea, contrary to the principle that criminal law cannot be applied retroactively, enshrined in treaties on international law in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law.

- There were also cases of intimidation of lawyers representing clients who were opposed to the presence of the Russian Federation in the Crimea.

- Since 2014, government entities of the Russian Federation in Crimea have committed numerous and severe violations of the right to physical and mental integrity. The investigation of such cases is not carried out.

- The FSS and the Crimean police were also accused of violating the right to physical and mental integrity of individuals holding oppositional views, including 14 Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainian.

- In two cases documented by OHCHR in 2016, FSS officers forced pro-Ukrainian activists to confess to committing crimes related to terrorism by using torture with elements of sexual violence.

- As a form of persecution of political opponents, compulsory placement in a psychiatric institution was applied, which amounts to torture or ill-treatment.

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

- Since the occupation of the Crimea, its inhabitants are subject to unlawful recruitment for service in the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

- Until 31 December 2016, they could perform military service only on the territory of the Crimean peninsula.

- Since 2017 conscripts can also be sent to serve in the territory of the Russian Federation.

VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

- Before the occupation, there were 2,083 religious organizations in Crimea, and 137 in Sevastopol. As of 17 August 2017, 722 religious communities were registered in the Crimea and 96 in Sevastopol.

- The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) has decided not to re-register under the laws of the Russian Federation, and therefore it is legally recognized. Since 2014, five churches of the UOC-KP have either been captured by armed formations, or closed due to an non-extended lease.
VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM AND SECURITY

- Arbitrary arrests and detentions.
- Enforced disappearances
- OHCHR documented 10 cases where the disappeared persons are still considered missing. These are six Crimean Tatars, three ethnic Ukrainians and one person of mixed ethnicity (Russian-Tatar); all of them were men. Seven persons disappeared in 2014, two persons — in 2015, one person — in 2016.

VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF THOUGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

- The analogue broadcasting of the Ukrainian television channels is switched off, and the Russian channels are broadcast on the freed frequencies. Journalists have been attacked and abused, but no investigations into these episodes have been conducted.
- In June 2014, the distribution of the only Ukrainian-language newspaper “Krymska Svitytsia” was banned.
- The closure of the media was often preceded by official “warnings”, intimidation.
- ATR and Avdet were among the Crimean Tatar media, which were denied re-registration under the laws of the Russian Federation and who had to stop their activities on the peninsula.
- In addition, other popular Crimean Tatar media, for example, the Lale TV channel, the Meidan and Leader radio stations, the QHA news agency and the “15 minutes” Internet site, also refused to issue a license for the activity.

RESTRICTIONS OF THE UKRAINIAN AND CRIMEAN TATAR COMMUNITIES ON THE RIGHT TO PRESERVE THEIR IDENTITY, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

- Communities actually do not have the opportunity to demonstrate state and cultural symbols and publicly mark dates, are important for these communities.
- Holding of holidays and meetings organized by minority groups was allowed only if these groups supported the position of the Russian Federation on the status of the Crimea.
- Activities of institutions that promote Ukrainian culture and traditions have been discontinued.
- In February 2015, the Museum of Ukrainian embroidery — traditional Ukrainian clothing with embroidery was closed, and from the library named after I. Franko in Simferopol, the books of modern Ukrainian authors were seized.
- Since 2016, the occupation authorities of Crimea have declared the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people outlawed.

THE RESTRICTION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

- In Crimea there is an acute shortage of medical personnel.
- In November 2016 in the Crimean state medical institutions there were 7,195 doctors and 17,283 other medical workers. It was employed only 62.3% of doctors.
- The shortage of medical personnel affected the quality of free health care services and led to the emergence of large queues, which resulted in delays in the treatment of the most economically vulnerable patients, jeopardizing their right to health.
- There is a catastrophic situation with the treatment of drug addicts.
Anyone who does not accept the so-called «reunification with Russia» becomes a victim of arbitrary detention, harassment, torture, extrajudicial executions and inhuman treatment. Systemic repression turned the Crimean Peninsula into an island of unfreedom and a land of fear. Therefore, I call on the members of the Assembly, the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General, the Commissioner for Human Rights and the relevant monitoring bodies to redouble their efforts to protect human rights and freedoms. I also appeal to the Honorable Assembly to continue to pay special attention to the issue of respect for human rights in the occupied Crimea and the Donbas.

Speaking at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 11 October.

Petro POROSHENKO, President of Ukraine:

"I strongly reject the statements of those who speak of the Crimea as of a fait accompli (completed case) ... The PACE tribune was created not for calls to bargain for money, oil or gas. This will never happen. This tribune was created to protect our foundations, our values and our principles, if necessary. Such a need has come today."

Speaking at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 11 October.

Stella KIRAKAIDIS, PACE president:

"During your visit in 2014, Ukraine was in a deep crisis, which had a huge impact on its citizens and the stability of the entire European continent. We hoped that this time we will be able to celebrate the end of this crisis. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Now you come to us with a very strong statement - the conflict in Ukraine can be overcome only through dialogue. The situation in Ukraine remains one of the main issues on the PACE agenda. We will further support the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine."

Speaking at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 11 October.

During the opening session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
Updated draft resolution on human rights in the illegally annexed Crimea

Key positions
The draft resolution contains a direct demand on Russia to implement the order of the International Court of Justice to abolish the ban on activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, and also stresses the need to provide access to the territory of the occupied peninsula for international organizations and requires training in Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar in the educational institutions of the Crimea.

“"The speech of the document is quite powerful and tough, with clear, unambiguous wording”, said Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Sergiy Kyslytsia, who worked in New York to promote the new version of the resolution.

Meaning
The purpose of the document is to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens on the Ukrainian Peninsula, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

We are grateful to the authors of the resolution and all our allies for the powerful signal to the Russian occupation authorities on international unity and solidarity in the matter of Crimea’s de-occupation.

I told the Russians: we will never return to normal until we resolve the issue with Ukraine.

The Problem of Ukraine is very complicated. But we can not give up on the fact that they (remarks - Russian Federation) made in the Crimea. It was the sovereign territory of a European state. And Russia took it. We need to stand on our own principles.

Petro POROSHENKO, President of Ukraine.

Rex TILLERSON, US Secretary of State.

Boris JOHNSON, British Foreign Secretary.
OVER THE THREE YEARS OF OCCUPATION, THE WORLD LEADERS ALSO REPEATEDLY CONDEMNED RUSSIA’S ACTIONS AND DECLARED THAT CRIMEA IS A PART OF UKRAINE

It is absolutely unacceptable to forcefully change the borders of Russia, on the basis of a fictitious referendum conducted at the barrel of a Russian pistol. President Putin should not doubt that Russia is expected to have more serious consequences.

Said in a statement on the actions in Crimea of President Putin in London on 18 March 2014.

David CAMERON, Prime Minister of Great Britain in 2010-2016.

Germany does not recognize the annexation of the Crimea by Russia and considers this a dangerous violation of the international order established after the Second World War. This happened in violation of territorial integrity in Europe. If we accept this approach, then such actions will begin to take place throughout Europe. Then it will affect not only Ukraine and the Crimea. Each European country can claim certain territories and regions which destroys peaceful coexistence in Europe and a very important principle of recognition of territorial integrity established after the Second World War and with which Europe has lived to this day.

during a press conference in Kyiv on 23 August 2014 has stated.

Angela MERKEL, German Chancellor

The latest actions of the Russian Federation regarding the status of the Crimea are considered a violation of the fundamental obligations within the OSCE and are incompatible with international law. These unilateral actions also contradict the Helsinki Final Act. OSCE countries pledged to form a security community in which each participating state has an equal right to security, and no OSCE country should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of other states.

Declared in a statement in Bern as of 18 March 2014.

Didier BURKHALTER, Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman

Unfortunately, throughout history, the right of the Crimean Tatar people to a decent, free life in the world in their homeland was interrupted by collective deportation and repression. And today we are witnessing the illegal annexation of the Crimea and similar events causing sympathy. At this difficult time, we must not forget that success and the key to victory is the preservation of unity and cohesion... Turkey does not recognize and will not recognize the annexation of the Crimea.

In his address to the participants of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars in Ankara on 02 August 2015 has said.

Recep ERDOGAN, President of the Republic of Turkey

Even against the backdrop of countless crises and security challenges that the world is facing today, the annexation of the Crimea and military aggression in eastern Ukraine stand out for their consequences for the future of international peace and security. These actions violate the foundation of international law and generally accepted norms of behavior that have allowed the world community to live without world wars for seven decades.

In her statement to the UN General Assembly in New York on 29 September 2015 said.

Dalia GRYBAUSKAITE, President of the Republic of Lithuania

All peoples must have the right to sovereignty. That’s that. In the 21st century, countries can not and we can not allow them to reshape borders by force. This is the main rule. Russia violated these rules and continues to violate them. And today it occupied the territory of an independent Ukrainian state. The United States note that it will never recognize Russia’s attempts to occupy the Crimea. There is no excuse for such actions. Russia continues to transfer its soldiers, tanks across the border, and all this is controlled by Moscow, but the US will continue to resist Russian aggression. We support the exercises of the UAF. We have united the world and support Ukraine.

in a speech in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in Kyiv on 08 December 2015 said.

Joe BIDEN, Vice President of the United States of America in 2009-2017.

In relations with Russia, it is necessary to seek a return to the geopolitical realities that existed before the annexation of the Crimea. This means Russia’s withdrawal from this Ukrainian peninsula. The annexation of the Crimea was carried out in violation of international law, and it became a very dangerous precedent, which should be taken seriously by NATO.

During a speech in Washington on 30 March 2016 said.

Andrzej DUDA, President of Poland

I want to be extremely clear: Canada, neither now nor in the future, recognizes the Russian illegal annexation of the Crimea.

In a statement on 26 March 2017 said.

Chrystia FREELAND, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada