



VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE ON THE WAY TO CRIMEA'S DEOCCUPATION

Key efforts of Ukraine's Parliament to restore Ukraine's sovereignty over the Crimean peninsula and ensure the right of citizens on the occupied territories (2014-2022)

Major decisions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with regard to Crimea and Crimeans

97 LEGAL ACTS IN TOTAL. These include:

64

Resolutions

33

Laws

VRU adopted legal acts by areas:

26

International relations

24

Protection of rights of IDPs and other people affected by the occupation

20

Protection of rights of Crimean Tatars, Krymchaks and Crimean Karaites

17

State policy on de-occupation and repelling consequences of occupation

10

Nullification of decisions adopted by the occupying administration



Political and administrative dimension

- the Russian Federation was officially recognized the aggressor state and the date of the start of its military aggression was defined
- all decisions adopted by the occupying administration, as well as “elections” to Russia's parliament, Russia's presidential elections and referenda held under Russia's law in Crimea were recognized illegal
- legal terms regarding the borders of temporarily occupied territories and principles of state policy regarding the restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine were set the so-called “all-Crimean referendum” was recognized illegal
- powers of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea were terminated due to violation of Ukraine's Constitution
- Qurultay was recognized the supreme body of the Crimean Tatar People, and Mejlis was recognized its supreme executive body

International dimension

- the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has raised the issue of illegal occupation of Crimea in numerous appeals to the international community at meetings of parliamentary assemblies of international organizations, of which Ukraine is a member
- the Verkhovna Rada has sent an appeal to the International Criminal Court regarding the crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the Russian Federation's officials and terrorist organizations controlled by it

Ensuring the rights



- The Crimean Tatars, Krymchaks and Crimean Karaites were recognized indigenous peoples of Ukraine that had formed on the Crimean peninsula
- the rights of indigenous people of Ukraine with regard to their self-determination within Ukraine, their self-governance, prohibition of their discrimination, as well as preservation and study of their own language, history and culture have been enshrined in the law on indigenous people of Ukraine
- the term “internally displaced person” was introduced into Ukraine's legal environment; special protection was provided and basic rights were established for this category of people (re-issuance of lost documents, housing, voting rights, prohibition of discrimination, etc.)



The list of acts adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with regard to Crimea in 2014-2022 can be found following the link

- internally displaced persons were granted the right of preferential admission (special quotas) to institutions of higher education in the government-controlled territory of Ukraine



SPECIAL VRU COMMITTEE



A **Special VRU Committee** has been operating since 2019 (Committee of the Verkhovna Rada on Human Rights, Deoccupation and Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories in Donetsk, Luhansk Regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations, since 2022 - Committee of the Verkhovna Rada on Human Rights, Deoccupation and Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories, National Minorities and Interethnic Relations).

The **inter-faction deputy union “Crimea Platform”** (consisting of 42 MPs) was launched in 2020; it is aimed at promoting active cooperation within the parliamentary assemblies of international organizations.



THE CRIMEA PLATFORM

The **Crimea Platform**, the international coordination mechanism aimed at ensuring human rights in Crimea and facilitating the peninsula's deoccupation.

The Platform operates on several levels simultaneously, including **the parliamentary level and that of interparliamentary assemblies**.

The **inaugural summit** of the Crimea Platform took place on August 23, 2021 in Kyiv gathering representatives of 47 states and organizations, including two speakers of parliaments (Switzerland, Czech Republic).

The **second summit** took place on August 23, 2022 online. Poland's President visited Kyiv while representatives of 58 states and organizations joined the meeting online.

The document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The information provided in the document is not official U.S. Government information and does not represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government. The document is published as part of the USAID Rada: Next Generation Activity, which is a five-year initiative (2021-2026) implemented by the NGO "Internews-Ukraine.

