

Discrimination in the educational sphere by the Russian Federation on the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula



Regional Center for Human Rights

TRANSITION
Transition Promotion Program

Following the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the Russian Federation, in violation of the international humanitarian law status quo ante bellum principle, extended its legislation, including educational legislation, to the Peninsula. Consequently, the educational process is conducted in accordance with Russian educational standards, concepts, programs, and operating textbooks from the federal list. Thus, Ukrainian children are under the influence of Russian educational narratives, which have a destructive impact on their consciousness and ultimately alter their national identity.



The Russian educational system is based on:

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| Federal educational standards approved by the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (until 2018) and the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation | Federal educational programs of secondary general education |
| Educational concepts (e.g., concerning educational policy, educational growth, teaching) | Model curricula for general education approved by the decision of the federal educational and methodological association for general education (curricula for certain classes and levels of mastery of a particular subject - advanced and basic) |
| Federal educational programs of basic general education | Federal list of textbooks |

The foregoing items are designed to form a «pan-Russian civic identity» in students, foster «patriotism» and contribute to the militarization of students

The key bodies responsible for the illegal implementation of educational policy at the federal level are:

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| The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (until 2018) and the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation (after 2018) | Council on Federal State Educational Standards for General Education and Special Vocational Education |
| Relevant departments within the Ministry of Education | Scientific and Methodological Council on Textbooks |

The following occupation structures responsible for implementing federal educational policy have been established on the territory of the Crimean Peninsula:

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| «Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Republic of Crimea» (Department of General Education and Quality Assessment, Sector of Education in the Mother tongue within the Department of General Education) | «Department of Education and Science of Sevastopol» (General Education Department of the Department of Education, Division for Monitoring of Education Quality Assessment, Analysis and Forecast of the Department of State Policy in the Field of Education Quality Assessment) |
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The textbooks included in the federal list of textbooks approved by the order of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation No. 858 of 21.09.2022 contain the following narratives aimed at eradicating the Ukrainian identity and militarizing children in the occupied territory of the Crimean Peninsula:

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| Russian ethnicity is the basis of the unity of the Russian multinational people | There are constant "interethnic conflicts" in the "CIS countries" and the "former USSR countries" |
| Performing military duty in the Russian Armed Forces is a «sacred duty» | Interference in the internal affairs of neighboring states is an integral part of Russia's policy |
| Self-sacrifice is the highest manifestation of «sacred duty» | NATO and the United States are a global threat |
| Colonization of territories is the essence of the Russian Federation's existence | |

By implementing its educational policy in the occupied Crimea, the Russian Federation violates the following norms of international human rights law and international humanitarian law:

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| RESPECT THE LAWS | Hague Convention (IV) respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its annex: Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, 1907 (Article 43 - the principle of status quo ante bellum) |
| RESPECT THE RIGHTS | Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949 (Article 27 - prohibition of discrimination, Article 50 - obligation to provide education for children, if possible by persons of their own nationality, language and religion, Article 51 - compulsion of protected persons to serve in the armed forces of the occupying power) |
| RESPECT CHILDREN | UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (Article 8 - the child's right to identity, Article 29 - directing the child's education to foster respect for, inter alia, his or her cultural identity and language) |

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War crimes:

Article 8(2)(a)(v) of the Rome Statute - complicity in compelling a prisoner of war or other protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile Power

Article 8(2)(b)(xv) of the Rome Statute - complicity in compelling the nationals of the hostile party to take part in the operations of war directed against their own country

Article 8(2)(b)(xxi) of the Rome Statute - committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment

Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) of the Rome Statute - using, conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen into the national armed forces to participate actively in hostilities



Crime against humanity:

Article 7(1)(h) - persecution of any group or community identifiable on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, or other grounds in connection with any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court



Crime of genocide:

Russia's implementation of an educational policy that contains the above narratives may serve as evidence that its top political leadership has a special intent to destroy the Ukrainian national group as such