

Rights and Freedoms of Crimean Tatars in the Republic of Crimea Information

In accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, all peoples living in the Republic of Crimea are provided with equal rights and freedoms in terms of meeting ethnic and religious needs, preserving and developing their national identity, traditions and languages.

The Constitution of the Republic of Crimea provides for three state languages (Russian, Ukrainian, and Crimean Tatar).

The traditional Christian and Muslim holidays, such as Easter, Holy Trinity Day, Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr are annual official non-working days for all residents of the Republic.

Under the patronage of the President of the Russian Federation, the Cathedral Mosque is being built in Simferopol (the facility construction is more than 85% completed), and the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral is being recreated.

In the period from 2014 to 2019, 11 mosques were built in the Republic of Crimea, and 2 more were reconstructed. Currently, 13 mosques are under construction.

According to the applicable legislation, the Crimean Tatars, as well as other peoples of the Russian Federation, are provided with equal rights to use their native language, to freely choose the language of communication, education, training and creativity.

Thus, Crimean Tatars, as well as representatives of other nationalities, are guaranteed participation in the social and political life of the Republic of Crimea.

In the Republic of Crimea, Crimean Tatars are represented in all state and municipal authorities (in particular, a representative of the Crimean Tatar people holds the position of Deputy Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea), are among heads and deputy heads of certain executive authorities of the Republic, thus playing an important role in making and implementing managerial decisions in the Republic.

According to the information of the executive state authorities of the Republic of Crimea, as of 01.03.2020, 1420 people (100%) hold positions in such authorities. Among them: 1068 are Russians (76%), 178 are Ukrainians (12.5%), 107 are Crimean Tatars (7.5%).

Other nationalities represented by Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Belarusians, Azerbaijanis, etc. make up 3.5% of the total number of officials.

In municipalities of the Republic of Crimea as of 01.03.2020: 1670 are Russians (78%), 304 are Ukrainians (14%), 173 are Crimean Tatars (8%). Other nationality representatives, such as Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Belarusians, Azerbaijanis, etc. make up 4% of the total number.

250 citizens from among the Crimean Tatar people were elected as deputies of local councils of Crimean municipalities based on the results of elections held on 08.09.2019, the single voting day. In 2014, about 100 deputies were elected from among the Crimean Tatars.

In the period from 2014 to the present, the Crimean Tatar community has seen a significant increase in the activities of public associations of the Crimean Tatar people, registered in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, with the primary goal of protecting the rights and representing the

interests of the Crimean Tatar people on the basis of a constructive stand in cooperation with state authorities.

In the Republic of Crimea, there are over 30 public associations of the Crimean Tatar people, with the number of members exceeding 30,000 people.

Active public associations of Crimean Tatars operate in all fields of public life: political, economic, social and cultural.

The authorities of the Republic of Crimea carry out a set of activities aimed at identifying persons adhering to extremist religious ideology, leaders and members of radical Islamic organizations that may operate in the Republic of Crimea. This work is not ethnically oriented and concerns both Russians and Ukrainians, as well as representatives of other nationalities and faiths who violate the laws of the Russian Federation.

Since Crimea became part of the Russian Federation, Crimean Muslims have obtained an unprecedented opportunity to satisfy their religious needs by performing the Hajj to Mecca, one of the five pillars of Islam.

A total of 2787 pilgrims were sent to the Hajj from the Republic of Crimea from 2014 to 2019, including:

- 150 pilgrims in 2014;
- 322 pilgrims in 2015;
- 365 pilgrims in 2016;
- 375 pilgrims in 2017;
- 600 pilgrims in 2018;
- 975 pilgrims in 2019;

The Hajj of Crimean Muslims contributes to meeting the confessional needs of Crimeans, preserving the traditions of good neighborly relations, and further successful integration of the Muslims of the Republic of Crimea into the Russian Federation ummah.

In the Republic of Crimea, there is a faith school, the Azov Madrasa of Islamic Sciences named after Haji Ihsan, Faith Professional Educational Organization, which is part of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea and Sevastopol.

By Order of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea No. 507-p dated 09.06.2015, pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On Measures to Rehabilitate Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Crimean Tatar and German Peoples and to Provide State Support for their Revival and Development", the Crimean Tatar Public TV, *Millet* radio company and *Vatan Sedasy* radio were created, that cover socio-political, economic and cultural life of the Republic of Crimea, promptly informing about events on the Peninsula and beyond in two official languages: Russian and Crimean Tatar.

On 02.04.2015, Media Center named after Ismail Gasprinsky was established.

Its primary purpose is to inform the population about activities of the Crimean executive state authorities with respect to implementation of the state national policy, as well as to organize events aimed at restoring historical justice, political, social and spiritual revival of the Crimean Tatar, Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek and German peoples who were subjected to unlawful deportation and political repression on ethnical and other grounds.

The main objective of the I. Gasprinsky Media Center is the production, release and distribution of mass media and other printed products in electronic format in the native languages of Crimean peoples. It annually publishes 9 periodicals (4 magazines and 6 newspapers), including those in the Crimean Tatar language:

- *Meraba* social and political newspaper (in Crimean Tatar and in Russian) published weekly (52 issues per year) in 1000 copies;
- *Yany Dyunya* newspaper (in Crimean Tatar) published weekly in 1083 copies;
- *Yildyz* magazine (in Crimean Tatar) published every 2 months in 765 copies;
- *Ana Tili Odzhalaryna* magazine (in Crimean Tatar) published every six months in 200 copies.

Over the entire period of I. Gasprinsky Media Center operation, 100 publishing projects have been released in native languages of the peoples of Crimea, namely:

- 11 books in 2015;
- 23 books in 2016;
- 33 books in 2017;
- 33 books in 2018;
- 33 books in 2019;
- Currently, 45% of all published books are in the Crimean Tatar language, and 55% are in the Russian and other languages of the peoples of Crimea (Armenian, Greek, Ukrainian, Bulgarian).
- In the period from 2016 to 2019, the following facilities were commissioned as part of Federal Target Program “Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol until 2020” No. 790 dated 11.08.2014:
 - - 72 apartments with a total area of 3832.05 sq. m.;
 - - 1040 places in pre-school educational institutions;
 - - 37.3 km of gas supply networks (supplying gas to 2100 families)
 - - 25.1 km of power supply networks (supplying power to 1750 families)
 - - 7.2 km of water supply networks (supplying water to 400 families)
 - - 3.4 km of water disposal networks (disposing of water used by 300 families)
- During the implementation of the “Republic of Crimea as the Territory of Interethnic Harmony” Republic-wide program, the following results have been achieved:
 - - 623 families from among the rehabilitated peoples of Crimea have been provided with their own housing;
 - - in 2016, the construction of secondary school No. 44 for 800 places named after Alima Abdennanova, Crimean Tatar Hero of Russia, was completed in Simferopol;
 - - 1000 families from among the rehabilitated peoples of Crimea have been provided with gas supply connection;
 - - in 2015, over 5 km of paved roads were built in the neighborhoods of Fontany and Ak-Mosque in Simferopol, where Crimean Tatars live;
 - - in the period from 2015 to 2019, 600 citizens from among the rehabilitated peoples of the Crimea received one-time financial assistance to complete the construction of individual housing;
 - - in the period from 2017 to 2019, compensation for connection to gas, electricity and water supply networks was provided to 90 citizens.
- In order to improve the living conditions of Crimean Tatars and provide opportunities for their further development, in the period from 2016

to 2017, 4355 land plots were allocated to citizens who chose a land plot for individual housing construction.

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- In accordance with the Law of the Russian Federation “On Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression”, the Law of the Republic of Crimea stipulates legal guarantees of social support for victims of political repression.
- The social support measures provided to these citizens are as follows:
 - 1) monthly cash payment of 500 rubles;
 - 2) compensation of expenses for payment of residential premises and utilities in the amount of 50 percent;
 - 3) payment in the amount of 50 percent for connection to water disposal, gas and power supply networks;
 - 4) free installation of a landline phone;
 - 5) reduced fare in buses, trolleybuses, trams on regular intracity routes within the Republic of Crimea;
 - 6) reduced fare in buses and trolleybuses on regular commuter routes; in general-use commuter railway transport within the Republic of Crimea;
 - 7) allowances, compensations and payments, social services for the disabled, medical services.
- These social support measures are provided to citizens regardless of their nationality, gender, age, social status, political beliefs and attitude to religion, and fully apply to Crimean Tatars.
- Every year in the Republic of Crimea, about 10 Crimean Tatar nationwide cultural events are held, and about 75 are organized annually at the municipal level.
- Today in the Republic of Crimea, there are 16 general educational institutions with 224 classes with the Crimean Tatar language of instruction. Moreover, 126 additional classes with Crimean Tatar language of instruction have been opened in 27 schools in Crimea with Russian as the main language of instruction.
- Compared to the 2013/2014 academic year, the number of students studying their native Crimean Tatar language has increased by 5 thousand people.
- In the period from 2015 to 2018, 110 original and translated educational publications in the Crimean Tatar language were published for students of grades 1 through 11 in 160 thousand copies.
- Higher educational institutions in Crimea, namely, the V. I. Vernadsky Crimean Federal University and the Crimean Engineering and Pedagogical University, train specialists in the Crimean Tatar language.
- The Crimean Engineering and Pedagogical University has a Research Institute of Crimean Tatar Philology, History and Culture of the Crimean Ethnic Groups.
- From 2014 to 2018, 428 specialists in the Crimean Tatar language and literature graduated from these universities.
- The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Crimea controls the activities of the following cultural institutions of Crimean Tatars: I. Gasprinsky Republican Crimean Tatar Library, Crimean Tatar State Academic Music and Drama Theater (the only one in the world), Crimean Tatar Museum of Cultural and Historical Heritage, *Khaitarma* Crimean Tatar

Song and Dance Ensemble, *Crimea* Crimean Tatar Folk Ensemble making part of the Crimean State Philharmonic.

- These cultural institutions work with the Crimean Tatar population of Crimea on a regular basis.

- In particular, the Crimean Tatar Museum of Cultural and Historical Heritage holds various thematic events: exhibitions, seminars, presentations of new books and magazines, meetings of schoolchildren and students with famous masters of fine and decorative arts, Crimean Tatar embroidery and traditional Ebru drawing workshops, organizes visiting exhibitions and lectures in educational institutions of Crimea. The Museum funds contain about 10 thousand items.

- In order to revive, preserve, develop and popularize the Crimean Tatar musical, vocal and choreographic arts, professional Crimean Tatar associations, namely, the *Kyrym* Folk Ensemble and the *Khaitarma* Song and Dance ensemble, operate in the Republic of Crimea.

- The said associations are regular participants and winners of large-scale international and all-Russian projects.

- 662 public libraries are available to the Crimean Tatar population in the Republic of Crimea, including the I. Gasprinsky Republican Crimean Tatar Library (Simferopol) and 2 of its structural units: the B. Choban-Zade Crimean Tatar Library (Belogorsk) and the O. Akchokrakly City Crimean Tatar Library (Bakhchisaray).

- Over 1 million people visit public libraries every year.

- The total volume of the library collection in the Crimean Tatar language in Crimea exceeds 110 thousand copies.

- Libraries regularly hold literary readings and organize Days of Crimean Tatar Writing and Culture.

- Within the framework of the Federal Target Program “Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol until 2020”, active work is being done to recreate, restore and preserve the cultural heritage of Crimea. In particular, funding is being provided for the preservation of the Khan’s Palace cultural heritage site, a masterpiece of medieval architecture (XVI - XIX centuries) located in the city of Bakhchisaray and including 16 objects in its architectural complex.

- The works are carried out strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Russian legislation on the preservation of cultural heritage and are controlled by the Crimean Tatar public.

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