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Seminar “Inter-agency cooperation: models to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence” was held in Ekaterinburg

On February 18–19, the seminar «Inter-agency cooperation: models to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, including situations of social disadvantage, at the regional level» took place in Ekaterinburg.

The Council of Europe, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are currently implementing the project «Co-operation on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women (2017–2022)». The project is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The project focuses on developing knowledge and skills in two areas of the Russian National Action Strategy for Women (2017–2022): preventing social disadvantage of women and violence against women and fostering women’s participation in public and political life.

Within the project the partners organized the second seminar which looked at how actors at regional level could better co-operate to prevent and combat violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV), including situations of social disadvantage. The first seminar took place in April 2019 in Astrakhan. This second seminar was devoted to the implementation of the measures discussed in Astrakhan and promotion of local co-operation networks based on local needs.

More than 60 participants representing national and regional authorities, civil society organizations of different regions discussed specific topics on VAW and DV and social disadvantage; analyze international country models; identify good practices for combating VAW and DV and preventing social disadvantage in the regions. The seminar promoted mutual learning among CoE countries.

Tatiana Moskalkova took part in an extended meeting of the Board of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia

On February 26, High Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia Tatiana Moskalkova participated in an extended board session of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation.

During the event, the results of operatively-office activity of Russian Internal Affairs bodies for 2019 were summed up, and objectives for 2020 were set.

The event was attended by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, heads of legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

Tatiana Moskalkova held a meeting on observance of human rights during transportation of defendants and convicts

On February 27, High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatiana Moskalkova held an open board session entitled «Observance of human rights during the escort from a pre-trial detention center to a court, as well as during transportation to a place of serving a sentence».

The event was attended by representatives of legislative, executive and judicial authorities, human rights ombudsmen in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, chairpersons and members of Public Monitoring Commissions, representatives of the scientific community and members of the Expert Council under the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia.

During the event, the main problems in the field of escorting and transporting convicts to the place of serving their sentences were discussed, opportunities for their elimination and improvement of the conditions for the transportation of convicts were considered. Much attention was paid to the issue of strengthening the role of public control in this area. The proposed initiatives on this topic were supported by participants from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Tatiana Moskalkova participated in the meeting of ordinary and arbitrary courts of the Russian Federation

On February 11, High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatiana Moskalkova participated in the meeting of ordinary and arbitrary courts of the Russian Federation.

In 2019, the Russian Ombudswoman received more than 38 thousand complaints, 12% of which were dedicated to the justifiability and fairness of judgements and other courts' decisions, which is 10% lower than in 2018. More than 90% of those complaints against courts' decisions were connected with sentences. Following conducted investigations the majority of appeals were not confirmed.

There is a tendency towards reduce of the Commissioner's and her staff members' requests, including motions, to the judicial authorities (439 – in 2017, 332 –in 2018, 146 – in 2019).

At the same time, the number of complaints against selection and extension of restraint measures in the form of detention remained the same. The solution of this question goes together with the humanization of the criminal law. The initiative to establish the institution of "criminal misconduct" became an important step in this sphere.

It is worth noting, that the citizens often challenge a corresponding penalty and qualification of criminal offence while requesting the Commissioner with complaints against the legality and justification of the sentences

Following the event, Tatiana Moskalkova expressed her readiness for further fruitful cooperation with the judicial authorities within law-making, law enforcement judicial practice and protection of human rights in dispensing justice.

Tatiana Moskalkova visited Tagansky Court in Moscow (21 February, 2020)

The High Commissioner had a meeting with the court's Chairman and conversation with two defendants waiting for the court's hearing.

During her visit, Tatiana Moskalkova paid special attention to escort premises, conditions of detention and transportation from the remand center to the court.

“Although the courthouse is rather old, all premises in which defendants are waiting for the court hearing are clean, warm and bright. Everyone was provided with food and didn't have any complaints against conditions in escort premises. I will continue to get acquainted with the conditions of citizens' transportation” – declared the Russian Ombudswoman. “Many defendants and accused being transferred from demand facilities to courthouses say that sometimes transportation takes hours due to the lack of transport vans. Smokers and non-smokers are held together. I believe that such conditions are stressful for condemned persons and do not contribute to the preparation for the defense” – highlighted Tatiana Moskalkova.