

# Newsletter concerning the activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation

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**"On this tragic day, we pay tribute to all those who were tortured by the Nazis and their accomplices in concentration camps and ghettos, we mourn for the millions who died in the fire of the bloodiest war in the history of mankind."**

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*27 January, 2022*

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Tatiana Moskalkova met with the Chief Rabbi of Russia – Berl Lazar

In honor of the memorable date, at the invitation of the Chief Rabbi of Russia, Berl Lazar, the Commissioner attended the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony, which was held at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center. On January 27, 1945, the Soviet Army liberated the largest Nazi death camp, Auschwitz, in which, according to various estimates, from 1.5 to 4 million people died.



During the meeting, Tatiana Moskalkova emphasized that it is a common duty and an urgent task for the entire world community to prevent the recurrence of such terrible tragedies.

The Commissioner also noted that attempts to split along national, racial, religious lines are not a thing of the past and anti-Semitism, Russophobia and aggressive intolerance towards other peoples, cultures and traditions continue to manifest themselves in the modern world.

*Commissioner for  
Human Rights in  
the Russian  
Federation,  
Tatiana N.  
Moskalkova, and  
Chief Rabbi of  
Russia, Berl  
Lazar*



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### **The Commissioner advocates for increasing guarantees of women's rights in the Concept of the Development of the Penal System**

In a joint interview with the Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation Konstantin Chuichenko, the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation Tatiana Moskalkova expressed hope for increasing guarantees of the rights of women in prison in the Concept of the development of the penal system of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030.

The Commissioner drew the attention of the Minister of Justice to the fact that women who are in the pre-trial detention center, after giving birth, return to the jail cell the next day, and the child remains in the maternity hospital.

In response, Konstantin Chuichenko reported on the preparation of a draft law, including an increase in the period during which a convicted mother can stay with her child, up to four years.

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**"What are we facing now? That people are released, need to solve many legal issues, and cannot get help because legal services are very expensive. Therefore, we support your proposal to create a special system of institutions for free**

### **The Commissioner supports the proposal of the Ministry of Justice on free legal aid**

The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, Tatiana Moskalkova, supports the initiative of the Ministry of Justice of Russia to create a network of state bureaus of free legal aid for the poor throughout the country.

In 2021, the Commissioner received a record number of appeals – 59 thousand. At the same time, as the federal Ombudsman noted, 40 thousand of them were of a reference and explanatory nature, when a person needed help with the preparation of documents and other procedures related to the protection of his rights.

During the past year, during personal receptions of citizens, 1,106 people were received by the Authorized and staff of the Office, more than 16 thousand calls were received to the hotline.

### **The Commissioner and the Financial Ombudsman will join forces to protect the rights of citizens**

**Yuri Viktorovich Voronin- Russian state official, financial ombudsman, the head of the Counting Chambre (2013-2018)**



The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, Tatiana Moskalkova, and the Financial Commissioner, Yuri Voronin, to signed a

cooperation agreement in order to combine efforts to protect the rights of citizens.

In particular, it is planned to conduct joint monitoring on consumer protection, develop proposals for improving legislation, as well as consider general issues within the framework of Expert Council meetings.

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### **Commissioner's comment on the draft law on torture**

This issue was the subject of discussion during a meeting of the Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, where President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin stressed the need to take systemic measures that would change the situation to eradicate this unacceptable phenomenon.

The bill brings the concept of torture into line with the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New York, December 10, 1984) and the European Convention on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Strasbourg, November 26, 1987) it is proposed to make a number of amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, forms torture as a qualified sign of an official crime committed by an investigator, investigator and other law enforcement officers.

<p>Note: Since 2019, a working group has been established under the Commissioner to prepare proposals for amendments to the current legislation establishing criminal liability for torture.</p>
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Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation T.N. Moskalkova supports the initiative of senators and deputies. Earlier, the Federal Ombudsman repeatedly raised the topic of torture in connection with high-profile events in the penal system that occurred in Saratov, Irkutsk and Kirov.

In addition, the Commissioner's Report for 2019 made recommendations establishing criminal liability for torture, namely, to introduce a special norm in the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, strengthen civil control and use one of the most effective means in world practice to counter violence - the introduction of the institute of a National Preventive Mechanism, which can be created at the federal level and assign its functions to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner's Report for 2020 also included the topic of torture, and in 2018 an alternative report of the federal Ombudsman on this issue was sent to the UN Committee against Torture.

It should be noticed that the legislators took into account the proposals submitted earlier by the federal Ombudsman in the draft law. At the same time, it seems advisable to clarify some of its provisions when finalizing it for the second reading.

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