

REPORT

ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSIONER IN MOSCOW CITY,
ON OBSERVANCE AND PROTECTION
OF RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF MAN AND
CITIZEN IN 2018





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Opening Statement of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City

Dear Friends!
Dear Muscovites!



Year 2018 has come to its end and it was a year of political and sports events significant for each inhabitant of Russia, for each Muscovite.

Elections of President of the Russian Federation (RF) and of Mayor of Moscow took place in this year, the successful World Football Championship was conducted too; these events are directly connected with the activity of the Human Rights Commissioner and of his Staff in Moscow City.

Our work was structured in such a manner during the electioneering that the Muscovites' electoral rights should be realised according to the Russian Federation's Constitution, its legislation and other normative legal enactments. The great preparatory work of the Election Headquarters whose member I also was, the work of the monitoring group conducted to the

undisturbed conduction of the elections practically without violation of the rights.

The World Football Championship gathered millions of fans, tourists, guests in the capital. The Commissioner prepared and led a number of round-table discussions and discussion panels on non-discrimination in football while co-operating with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and the City Government. We prepared a resolution on the legacy of the World Football Championship together with colleagues from 11 cities receiving the World Championship.

Its main legacy lies in the geniality, hospitality of the Muscovites, the atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. Of course it is also important today to think of rational use of the stadiums, training grounds and other facilities in the interests of the Muscovites.



The renovation program continued to be realised in 2018. Muscovites began to move into new dwellings with all modern conveniences. We analyse very attentively all applications to the effect that come at our address and react without delay to solve separate problematic questions. And those exist, of course.

It is important for us to leave no application without being attended. Other questions of providing our citizens with living accommodations are controlled by the Commissioner.

Questions connected with Muscovites' social rights were and remain among our priorities as always. The City Budget is socially oriented. It is very important. Privileges concerning fares, concerning payment for services remain, targeted social assistance is rendered.

Problems of caring for orphaned children and for children deprived of parental care, assistance to large families, questions of barrier-free environment, support of elderly persons occupy an important place in the activity of the Staff of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City as before.

The "Moscow Longevity" Program was started at the initiative of Moscow Mayor S.S.Sobyanin in 2018. This unique program is a distinct indication of the observance of the older generation's right to enjoy easy and interesting life on pension.

The Commissioner and his Staff have been working in close interaction with the Education Department while making suggestions as to improvement of school catering, of the Moscow Electronic School, suggestions concerning the criteria of evaluating educational institutions in the rating of the Moscow schools, and were also mediators of conflict situations.

Moscow school-goers won 906 diplomas at the All-Russian Skills Competition and we take pride in it.

2018 was a record-holding year in road-building. But inhabitants and deputies also apply to us to the effect. We consider debatable questions together and try to find compromises. The process of renovating hospitals and

polyclinics and providing them with modern high-technology equipment was not stopped during the year. It is important to us that every Muscovite who has applied for medical aid should receive necessary medical services.

The Commissioner's Staff has been working very closely with civic advocacy organisations. Our watchers are always in the street during rallies, various processions (both sanctioned and unsanctioned ones).

The Commissioner paid special attention to the protection of prisoners' rights as well as to the quality and timeliness of medical aid rendered to them.

The subject-matter of violence in families with regard to women, children, old persons became topical in 2018. A serious investigation has been carried out in this connection; it will be useful afterwards while making up a plan of elaborating a strategy of actions in the interests of women in 2017-2022.

The report on the results of their activity during 2018 has been prepared by the Commissioner and his Staff Members on the ground of filed complaints and applications of Muscovites. This is our reaction to the violation of rights and liberties that still takes place in our life unfortunately.

We carry out an analysis of all problems that cause Muscovites' anxiety and expound our suggestions in this report; the suggestions are directed to the State authorities that should take measures of State reacting to the violation of Muscovites' rights and liberties.

I want to thank all those who worked with us, helped us to solve complicated problems, who reacted immediately to the Commissioner's applications.

I express gratitude all the Muscovites who were not indifferent, who drew our attention to systemic issues requiring solution.

I thank all those who conducted to restoration of violated rights of Muscovites inhabiting such a beautiful city as our Moscow although it is not very easy to live in it.

I am grateful to you for having being with us.

*Human Rights Commissioner
in Moscow City
T.A. Potyayeva*



2. Development of the Human Rights Commissioner Institution in Moscow City

Systematic and expedient steps of the Commissioner with regard to law enforcement's monitoring, improvement of business communication with all interested parties of the rights protection process have achieved positive results in the domain of citizen's rights and legal interests protection and raised the grade of the Muscovites' perception of the Commissioner's activity to a new qualitative level, which is a significant stage in the development of the Moscow Ombudsman Institution.

The practice of co-operation with the Moscow Government, the Moscow City Duma (Parliament) has been significantly enlarged; constructive work and mutual understanding have been achieved with the executive authorities, the Public Prosecution Office, the judges' community of the city while determining the blots in the domain of the Muscovites' rights protection and immediate reacting while solving the acutest problems in 2018.

The international and interregional co-operation of the Commissioner was especially accentuated in the past year.

Task meetings with representatives of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, of the embassies of the USA, France, Italy, the Ukraine, the Children's Rights Commissioner of Finland became one of the forms of the international co-operation in 2018.

The embassies' representatives took part in big events conducted under the auspices of the Commissioner. The accomplished experience exchange brought about innovative elements that will be used in the Commissioner's further work lying in rendering legal aid to Muscovites.

The co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights permitted to conduct important human rights advocacy events on the eve of the World Football Championship on the subject-matter of creating a discrimination-free medium as well as

on the subject-matter of "non-discrimination legacy".

It is important to remark in its turn the established practice on the interregional level as the Commissioners of the Russian Federation's constituent territories make thematic reports in interregional panels, by means of which regions exchange positive human rights advocacy experience.

In order to form favourable and effective legal framework, the Commissioner continues to co-operate with the Presidential Council of Developing Civic Society and Human Rights, with the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation, the Children's Rights Presidential Commissioner of the RF in 2018.

Co-operation with the Human Rights Federal Commissioner Moskalkova T.N. at preparing informational analytical materials on the criteria of the effectiveness of the executive authorities' activities in the constituent territories of the RF in the domain of human rights and liberties protection began in the past year.

It was suggested at the initiative of the regional Commissioners that questionnaires should be introduced among participants of arrangements (conferences, forums, round-table discussions, seminars) as to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the executive authorities' activities in the domain of human rights and liberties protection.

The format of expert councils under the Commissioners was being developed further in the past year.

The Social Expert Council and the Youth Expert Council are reinforced by most qualified and acknowledged specialists and therefore the Councils are able to discuss topical issues of the society on a professional level and to shape the agenda for establishing the feedback between the capital's inhabitants and the executive and legislative authorities of Moscow City.



Another form of the feed-back with the city inhabitants is constituted by the informational-legal bulletin “The Moscow Ombudsman” supplemented by new sections concerning renovation and the “Moscow Longevity” Program in 2018.

It is important to note that the Commissioner’s petition to the Moscow Governmental Departments with the suggestion that the Departments should direct informational analytical materials to the Ombudsman for further publication in the “The Moscow Ombudsman” found a lively response, which permitted to enlarge and to make actual the thematic materials of the bulletin.

The present-day realia show that one of the system-building directions of the Commissioner as institution lies in preparing legislative suggestions and in law enforcement’s monitoring in the domain of regulating and protecting citizens’ rights.

The Commissioner worked actively at the following issues in 2018:

- Federal Draft Act “On Introducing Changes into Article 322.1 of the Russian Federation’s Penal Code and Article 150 of the Russian Federation’s Criminal Procedure Code” establishing criminal liability for persons encroaching criminally on the procedure of administrative regulations actual in the Russian Federation while rendering intermediary services for unlawful receiving of migration documents;

- on tightening the procedure of receiving authorising documents for acquiring firearms, of medical examination for issuing a medical references only by State organisations for receiving a licence for acquiring firearms;

- on introducing changes into the Federal “Psychiatric Assistance Act and Guaranties of the Citizen’s Rights While Rendering It”; the draft provides for heightening the age of receiving voluntary consent to medical interference, psychiatric examination, hospitalisation and suggested treatment and refusal of it up to eighteen years.

- on introducing changes into Part 5 Article 63 of the Federal Act “On Education in the

Russian Federation” that binds the parents (legal representatives) of children to inform the local authority of the rural or urban municipal unit of their residence of the choice they have made with regard to the form of the children’s would-be general education;

- on introducing changes into the Federal Act “On the Main Guarantees of Children’s Rights in the Russian Federation” as to the organisation of the activities of children’s playrooms in shopping centres and safety measures in them;

- on introducing changes into the Federal Act “On Health Safety” providing engaging medical persons into the activity of the penitentiary institutions’ infirmaries and creating favourable conditions for them on the part of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia;

- on introducing the regulation of establishing the duty of investigatory isolation prisons’ administration to conduce to issuing personal identification documents to suspected and accused persons on the analogy of the norm contained in Part 4 Article 172 of the Correction Code of the RF;

- on introducing fines in Moscow for involving under-age persons in using devices imitating tobacco consumption (vaping).

The Federal Draft Act “On General Organisational Principles of Human Rights Commissioners’ Activities in the Constituent Territories of the Russian Federation” was presented to the State Duma in October 2018.

The Human Rights Commissioner of Moscow contributed to the preparation of the Draft Act.

The Draft Act is meant for improving the legal fundamentals of the status, for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Human Rights Commissioners’ activities in the constituent territories of the Russian Federation. The Draft Act’s aim lies in establishing uniform general organisational principles of Human Rights Commissioners’ activities and in fixing the general bases of their interaction with State power authorities and civic society institutions.

The main novelties of the Draft Act vest the Commissioner with the following rights:

- to submit an administrative claim statement (suit) for the sake of protecting rights and liberties of man and citizen that have been violated through decisions or actions (inaction) of State or municipal authorities, organisations, office-holders, State or municipal employees;

- to apply to relevant competent State or municipal authorities with a petition to begin to start disciplinary and/or criminal proceedings with regard to an office-holder, municipal authority, organisation whose decisions or actions (inaction) show signs of violating rights and liberties of man and citizen as well as to begin proceedings with regard to an administrative offence committed by an organisation and/or an office-holder whose decisions or actions (inaction) show signs of violating rights and liberties of man and citizen;

- apply to the Public Prosecutor's Office with a petition to check a court sentence that has come into force; the public prosecutor should apply to the relevant court while using his right to do so in cases provided in the criminal procedure legislation in order to revise the court sentence that has come into force.

It is very important to note that a package of draft acts is under consideration at the State Duma beside the main the Draft Act; the package concerns introducing changes into:

- the Administrative Offences Code of the RF (in the part establishing liability for interference with the Commissioner's activities as well as non-fulfilment of the Commissioner's lawful requirements by an office-holder);

- the Criminal Procedure Code of the RF (the decision of starting criminal proceedings against the Commissioner is suggested to be rested with the head of the Investigation Com-

mittee body for the relevant constituent territory);

- the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code of the RF (the right granted to the Commissioner to refuse to bear testimony in a criminal or civil case about circumstances that became known to him in the discharge of his functions).

All these changes are meant for securing the guaranty of the regional Commissioner's independence.

A new direction of the Commissioner's development as institution lay in legal seminars on questions of the protection of citizen's rights held for State civil employees of Moscow City in 2018.

Training seminars are conducted for employees of the Moscow City Government's structural divisions since December at the initiative of the Commissioner at the facilities of the Moscow City Administration University of the Moscow Government.

This work has begun with the Labour & Social Protection Department of the Moscow City population and its subordinate institutions on the subject-matter: "Human Rights and Liberties Protection: Cases from the Practice of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City". The training seminars will be continued in 2019.

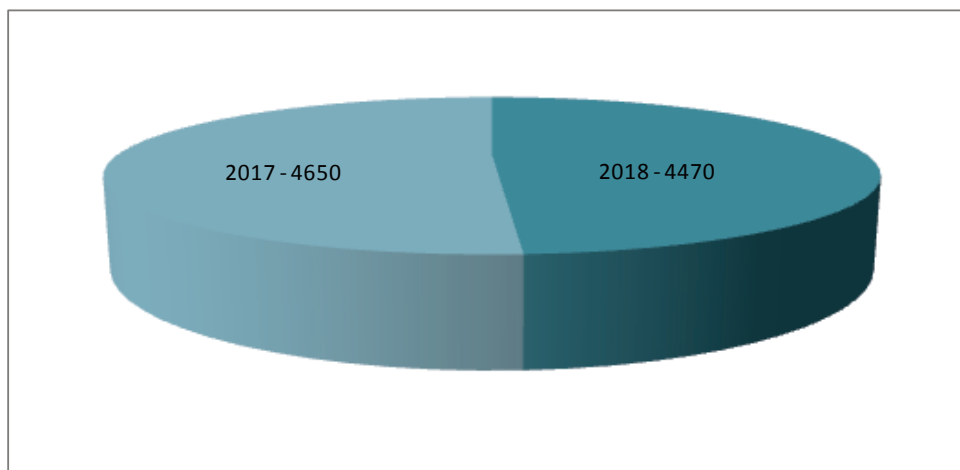
The mechanism of reception of citizens received further development in 2018, namely mobile (visiting) receptions in the territory of administrative circuits of Moscow City, which considerably facilitated the access to the lawyers of the Commissioner's Staff for such categories of citizens as pensioners, handicapped persons and large families.



3. Statistical Analysis of Considerations of Citizens' Applications

4470 applications about violations of rights and liberties of man and citizen reached the Commissioner including 57 collective petitions as well as 97 petitions from citizens received personally by the Commissioner with regard the acutest and most difficult questions in 2018.

General Information on Petitions Submitted in 2017 and 2018



The application quantity diminished by 3.8 % when compared with the past year.

This is connected with the intensification of the Commissioner's public activity with regard to the education in law of the capital's inhabitants due to throwing more light on questions agitating Muscovites on the pages of the informational-legal bulletin "The Mos-

cow Ombudsman", due to the fruitful work of the Councils (the Expert, the Youth, the Children's ones) under the Commissioner, due to the topicality of the information from the Commissioner's official website for the capital's inhabitants as well as due to the enhancing of the effectiveness of the Moscow City power bodies.

Ways of Submitting Citizen's Applications to the Commissioner's Staff

Ways of Reaching the Staff	Quantity in 2018	%
Personal Reception by the Commissioner	97	2.06
Personal Reception by a Staff Member	362	8.10
By Mail, Fax	1915	42.84
By E-Mail	570	12.75
Filed to the Staff Parlour	541	12.10
By Phone	7	0.16
From Mass Media	2	0.04
Visiting Reception	131	2.93
From the Website of the Human Rights Commissioner	820	18.46
Duplicate	25	0.56

It is necessary to note while considering the ways of submitting the applications that the quantity of the applications received personally by the Commissioner and his Staff Members from citizens grew considerably in 2018 (29.66 %).

It became possible thanks to the introduction of a new Regulation on organising personal reception at the Commissioner's Staff.

The harmonisation of the work with applications and establishing personal contacts while receiving documents has permitted to retain the qualitative level of interaction with citizens during the primary reception of complaints and applications.

The quantity of applications that arrived from citizens by e-mail increased by 9.3 % when compared with 2017. This index testifies to the enlarged scale of the electronic form of document circulation and to the mass proportions of the citizen's usage of the electronic form of submitting applications by means of the Commissioner's official website (14.16 % from the total number of applications in 2018). The quantity of visitors at the Human Rights Commissioner's official website in Moscow City <http://ombudsman.mos.ru/> equalled about 89000 users in 2018. That comprises 7416 users monthly and 243 users daily on the average.

Categories of Applicants Who Submitted Written Applications

Applicant Category	Quantity	%
Citizen	1862	41.66
Collective	57	1.28
Pensioner	211	4.72
Solicitor	23	0.53
Labour Veterans	6	0.13
Servicemen/Former Servicemen and Their Family Members	16	0.36
Orphanage Leavers and Boarding-School Leavers	12	0.27
Deputy of the RF State Duma, Moscow City Duma	32	0.72
Orphaned Children, Children Deprived of Parental Care	21	0.47
Foreign Citizen, Apatride	11	0.25
Person with Disabilities (Handicapped Person)	271	6.06
Migrant, Refugee, Resettler	5	0.11
Large Family	192	4.30
Under-Age Person	25	0.56
Civic Organisations	38	0.85
Tutorship and Guardianship Authority	1	0.02
Executive Authorities of the RF	3	0.06
Executive Authorities of a Constituent Territory	2	0.04
Suspected, Accused, Convicted Person	565	12.64
Sufferer	8	0.18
Enterprise, Institution, Organisation, Individual Entrepreneur	23	0.51
Representative by Proxy	19	0.43
Representative by Law	966	21.61
Draftee	6	0.12
Court, Public Prosecutor's Office, Police, Bailiff	3	0.07
Human Rights Commissioner, Children's Rights Commissioner in the RF and Constituent Territories of the RF	69	1.54
Participant and Veteran of Hostilities	15	0.34
Educational Institutions	8	0.17



The intensive visiting of the investigatory isolation prisons and detention prisons subordinate to the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia for Moscow City by the Commissioner and his Staff Members as well as the continued distribution of the Informational Directory for Persons Kept in Places of Punitive Detention enabled such persons to apply personally to the Commissioner to seek protection of their rights and thus the quantity of applications from persons belonging to this category increased by 9.56 % up to 565 when compared with 2017.

2128 applications were considered with positive results alias 56.12%, and 7 with negative results (0.18%) in 2018.

It is worthwhile to note that applications for explaining forms and ways of protecting citizens' rights comprised 1483 (39.11%).

1262 (33.28%) written applications were directed to the relevant Federal or Territorial bodies including State authorities to be controlled later on as well as to the address of Human Rights Commissioners and Children's Rights Commissioners in the Russian

Federations' constituent territories, Presidential Children's Rights Commissioner's and the Human Rights Commissioner's in the Russian Federation.

The total number of questions put in the considered applications in Moscow City equalled 4221, which is by 18.54 % less than in 2017.

Housing questions remain the acutest ones for the capital's inhabitants – 16.89 % (* of the total number of the put questions).

The number of questions relating to criminal proceedings got reduced by 6.46 % when compared with Year 2017 but it still remains high – 13.72 %*. Questions concerning education occupy the third place – 9.93%*.

Violation of rights in the domain of social protection is also among the most agitating topics for the city inhabitants – 7.82 %*, questions of civil proceedings – 6.49 %*.

Economical and property rights of man, private ownership remain in the focus of social vulnerability – 6.21 %*; a considerable part in the domain of rights protection is connected with disputes concerning children's upbringing – 5.66 %*.

Topics of the Greatest Number of Applications in Moscow

Topics of Applications	Total Number in 2017	Total Number in 2018
Housing Rights	999	713
Criminal Proceedings	619	579
Education	398	419
Social Protection	273	330
Civil Proceedings	398	274
Economical and Property Rights of Man, Private Ownership	414	262
Disputes Concerning Children's Upbringing	322	239
Faulty Parenting	118	149
Enforcement of Human Rights in Places of Punitive Detention	114	141
Healthcare	226	139
Housing and Utility Sector	137	122

* of the total number of questions put in the considered applications.

In order to realise their powers, the Commissioner and his Staff Members carried out 32 visiting inspections in 2018; the inspections were both planned ones and organised with a

view to check the arguments expounded in the applications of citizens.

The Staff specialists received 131 citizens during 5 mobile receptions.



4. Protection of Citizens' Rights during the FIFA World Football Championship of 2018. Situation with Non-Discrimination in the Football Medium

Year 2018 is marked by a bright, significant and large-scale event, namely the FIFA World Football Championship led in Russia.

V.V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation stated: "We undoubtedly may take pride in the way we have organised this tournament. We have done it for the sake of our fans, of Russia's amateurs of sports, of all amateurs of sports in the whole world. And we have succeeded from every viewpoint on this grandiose event. Our aim is to do so that our guests including football stars and rank-and-file fans should feel the cordiality and benevolence of our people, should penetrate into the spirit of our original multinational culture and the unique nature of Russia and should wish to visit us again".

The Organisational Committee for preparing and conducting the Confederation Cup of 2017 and the matches of the World Football Championship of 2018 in Russia's capital as well as of concomitant events was created by an instruction of the Moscow Mayor S.S.Sobyanin. The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City was also included into the Organisational Committee (Instruction No. 744 from 27.10.2016 of the Moscow Mayor).

According to the final information of the Capital's Organisational Committee Moscow was visited by about 4.5 million of tourists and fans during the month of conducting the World Football Championship, and half of the number was comprised by foreigners. Holders of Fan Passports used buses, trams, the Moscow Central Railway ring, the metro and even the monorail railway free of charge and made 5 million free trips during the Championship. The guests admired the metro most of all, and many of them descended into it as if it were a museum.

The soul of the festivity and the City's face were 5 thousand volunteers as it was remarked by the Moscow Mayor S.S.Sobyanin in an interview, and the festivity's centre was comprised by the stadiums where the new world champions fought for the victory and the fan-zones as well. 12 matches in the "Luzhniki" and the "Spartak" were visited by 670 thousand spectators and the festival of fans on the Vorobyovy Mountains gathered 1.9 million persons.

The activities of the Human rights Commissioner during the preparations of the World Championship of 2018 was oriented to assisting to create a discrimination-free zone with Moscow as a model where numerous events in terms of the World Football Championship of 2018 took place, first of all the opening and closing of the Championship. Initially it was to create a dialogue and connections with various groups of the civic society, monitoring of the situation and tendencies in this medium, prevention by means of enlightening, making use of the resources

of the Ombudsman as institution as to education in law on questions of non-discrimination and a great deal of other things.

The Ombudsman's Staff organised a dialogue with football clubs, fans, representatives of the LGBT community, great work was done with separate civic organisations.

While getting ready for the World Football Championship in order to secure non-discrimination medium, it was very important to evaluate and sum up that really gigantic and large-scale work of preparing the World Championship of 2018 on the scale of the whole country. Of course it is an additional pretext to accentuate the attention of sportsmen, football associations, rank-and-file fans, and the public on the eternal human values.



The central event of 2018 was the round-table discussion held at the Moscow City Parliament Centre on the 31st of May. It took place at the initiative of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City together with the Moscow Government and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) with participation of representatives of 11 cities of the Russian Federation where matches of the World Championship of 2018 took place, of the Human Rights Commissioners from those territories, representatives of international organisations, the UNO, the UNESCO, Federal and Moscow executive authorities, representatives of the Russian Football Union, of football fans' associations, leading sportsmen and cultural professionals. Magnus Magnusson, Director of Department for Social & Human Sciences of the UNESCO, John Morrison, Executive Director of the Human Rights Institute and Human Rights Platform in Terms of Big Sports Events, Patrick Charlier, Director of the Interfederal Centre of Equal Opportunities, Rashid Aluash, Responsible for the mutual Program of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights in the RF, Yuriy Boychenko, Head of the Section on Non-Discrimination of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Robert Ustian, Initiator of the Movement "Fans of the Central Army Sports Club-Moscow against Racism" also participated in the round-table discussion.

The work of the discussion summed up the job of preparing the World Football Championship of 2018 that had taken place on the scale of the whole country. Of course the participants accentuated the attention of sportsmen, football associations, rank-and-file fans, of the public and of us all on the eternal human values – tolerance, toleration, respect lying in the basis of struggling against manifestations of racism and discrimination.

A resolution was made according to the discussion's results; the resolution was meant to assist to diversity and to creating a discrimination-free medium in the Russian Federation's cities receiving the FIFA World Football

Championship of 2018 as well as before and after the event.

The resolution was titled "Acceptance of the Legacy of the FIFA World Football Championship of 2018 that took place in the Russian Federation as to Creating a Discrimination-Free Medium".

The preparation for the exclusive sports football event became really an all-national task. Meetings, round-table discussions were held in all 11 cities receiving the Championship, and the uniting general aim of them lay in understanding that discrimination was not admissible.

Football lessons "We Greet the World Championship of 2018" for school-goers were held in all the 11 organising cities just a month before the Championship's opening; those lessons contributed to creating the atmosphere of tolerance and benevolence. The lessons were organised by the Organisational Committee "Russia 2018", the FIFA and the organising cities themselves. The lessons were meant to popularise football and active way of life among young people of Russia and told about the preparing work for the World Championship-2018 and its principles to the largest public.

The ambience of amiability and concord during the matches of the Championship were also contributed to by the monitoring system of cases of discrimination manifestation as special watchers were distributed about stadiums to conduce to the work of the referees and the FIFA commissaries.

The subject-matter of the results of the World Football Championship 2018 and the creation of the discrimination-free medium being under discussion, one has to understand clearly that the World Championship must leave a positive legacy.

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City discerns his mission in continuing the monitoring of the situation and tendencies as well as in reacting measures to cases of racism and all forms of racial discrimination in sports including football. Besides the further work of the Commissioner's Staff will accentu-

ate the usage of the resources of the Human Rights Commissioner as institution on education in law of the local authorities and population in general on the issue of non-discrimination.

In order to elaborate concrete measures together with the Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in the RF, the Russian Football Union and

the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation, and other concerned parties, the Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in Moscow City will continue to conduct to introduction of suggestions made by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights referring to the legacy of the FIFA World Football Championship-2018 of creating a discrimination-free medium.



5. Development of International Co-Operation in the Domain of Human Rights

The work of developing international co-operation on the issues of rights and liberties of man and citizen, on forms and ways of the protection was continued in 2018; it is a significant direction of the Commissioner's activities in the domain of education in law.

A large-scaled event was the International Forum "Human Rights and Social Guarantees under the Conditions of the 21st Century Challenges: International and National Experience" that was held on the 28th of November of 2018 at the Commissioner's initiative.

The Forum took place in the President Hotel and had been prepared together with the Institute of Supplementary Professional Education of the Labour & Social Protection Department with participation of the UN representatives, the European Section of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW).

The event took place also under the auspices of the 25th anniversary of the RF Constitution and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These jubilees are a nice pretext to pay attention once again to the founding documents securing human rights in Russia and in the world.

The Forum considered the effectiveness and efficiency of the main documents on human rights in the present-day established social relations. The event became an expert-analytical platform for exchanging experience and comparative analysis of different models of securing human rights and basic social guarantees in the Russian Federation, the CIS and European countries under the conditions of present-day global challenges. Problems of securing social justice, gender equality, rights of handicapped and elderly persons were also discussed.

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City marked the main problems agitating Muscovites as well as ways of their solving in her report that was the main one.

One of the acutest social problems, namely the realisation of citizens' housing rights was considered. All the more reason that the program of housing renovation has already started and Muscovites begin to move into new houses.

The analysis of housing applications filed to the Commissioner's Staff shows that the capital's inhabitants are still agitated by questions of the transparency of the housing queue, conclusion of contracts of social rent in former departmental hostels transferred in the City's ownership, eviction of citizens from former departmental hostels. In spite of the positive tendency of providing those in the queue with living accommodations, many housing problems remain and require their solution in the capital.

Speaking on maximal integration of handicapped persons into public life, on their effective rehabilitation one cannot do without touching upon the early interference and early assistance to handicapped children. This problem is directly connected with the children's health, with creating necessary comfortable conditions for fulfilling life in the society and all-round development of their personality.

The subject-matter of the Internet and various gadgets refers unconditionally to the issue of children's safety – this is also one of the challenges of our time. One-fourth of all school-goers' parents state according to results of sociological investigations that their children spent all their spare time in the gadgets (the Internet) and this time increases as the children grow older. And the control on the parents' part becomes less strict. Children plunge into the networks as result and it leads sometimes to tragic consequences including suicides.

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City noted in her speech that it should be necessary to introduce lessons of human

rights at educational institutions and also suggested that the role of school psychologists should be revised because monitoring and creation of programs of developing important personal qualities of children make part of the psychologists' competence.

The Forum participants paid attention to the problems of adoptive families, support of handicapped people with mental disorders, protection of women's rights in the context of socio-economical development of the society, observance of rights and liberties of persons advanced in years and other problems.

Panel discussions were conducted in terms of the International Forum on the subject-matters: search of co-operation bridges in the interests of protecting rights and liberties of man, protection of children's rights in the focus of the "Childhood Decade", rights and social guarantees of young people under the conditions of the civilisation challenges.

The International part of the Forum participants' number was represented by: Daniel Mathieu, Social Adviser of the Embassy of France in the RF, Aldo Spallone, Science Attaché of the Embassy of Italy and others.

A resolution was made according to the results.

Great attention was also paid to continuation of bilateral international co-operation including contacts with embassies and delegations from a number of countries and in the form of participation in international-scale events in 2018.

Tatyana Potyayeva, Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City appeared at the International Forum "Active Longevity" on the 12th of March, 2018.

Vladimir Putin, President of the country marked one of the tasks in his Yearly Missive to the Federal Assembly, namely to make the average life span equal 80 years. Moscow has approached this index quite close. The average life span reached 77 years in the capital during past several years.

Social support of elderly Muscovites and veterans has always been among the priorities of the Moscow social policy and of the Mos-

cow Government too. Its character is systemic and meant for making Moscow comfortable for persons advanced in years.

Taking into consideration the new social challenges, the Moscow Mayor set the qualitatively new and ambitious task to realise a pilot project meant for active longevity for elderly Muscovites. The question lies in creating a special infrastructure for the people of the older generation, which would permit them not only to receive the necessary social services but also to spend the "best" third part of their life while being active, brisk, thirsty for knowledge, and keen on many things.

The solemn ceremony of awarding the winners of the Tenth Jubilee Season of the International Skills Competition "Unity in Difference" took place on the 21st of March, 2018 in the Museums of the Moscow Kremlin. The Museums of the Moscow Kremlin are the general partner of the Competitions since 2012; the Competitions constitute a format of project works with fulfilling creative and conditionally creative tasks.

The aim of the joint Competitions lies in stimulating the school-goers' interest in the history, culture, economy of English-speaking countries, and the participation in the Competitions grants the school-goers an opportunity to develop their creative potential and to heighten their socio-cultural level.

The Competitions' central idea was the exhibition "The Potentates of the Ocean. The Treasures of the Portuguese Empire of 16-18th Century". The participants wrote essays on the subjects: "The Age of Explorations and the Shaping of the World Economy", "Europe and the World in the Age of Explorations: a Meeting of Civilisation", "The Image of a European in the Art of Asia, Africa and the Far East", "Representatives of "Other Civilisations" in European Art" as well as "An Oriental Fairy-Tale for the Potentates of Europe: Exotic Objects in the Art and Everyday Life of Europe".

The Educational Company "RELOD" acts as the founder of the Competitions while the patrons of the Competitions are: Tatyana Potyayeva, Human Rights Commissioner in Mos-



cow City and Prince Michael of Kent (Great Britain).

The Welfare Fund “Bolshaya Peremena” together with the Institute of Childhood, Family & Upbringing of the Russian Educational Academy held the VIth International Scientific-Practical Conference “Social Partnership: Pedagogical Support of Educational Entities” on April 19, 2018. The most part of the Conference was devoted to orphaned children’s problems and their inclusive education. The Conference became a platform for experience exchange between scholars, specialists in the domain of education and adoptive parents.

The main directions of the Conference’s work were: “Problems of Self-Organisation in Education”, “Possibilities of Social Partnership while Solving Educational and Social Problems”, “Theory and Practice of Pedagogical Support”, “The Potential of Preceptors Used for Solving Educational Problems”.

The International Conference “Childhood – Territory of Safety” was held at the Moscow City Pedagogical University’s Juridical Institute on April 26, 2018. Representatives of the Association of Lawyers of Russia, of State bodies and civic organisations, lecturers, post-graduate students and students of the Moscow City Pedagogical University’s Juridical Faculty, representatives of juridical higher education institutions of Moscow and of a number of Russia’s regions as well as jurisprudents from other countries took part in the Conference’s work.

The Children’s Rights Commissioner in Moscow City devoted the opening statement to the experience of joint work with lecturers and students of the Institute while creating and conducting legal quests for school-goers, of the experience of legislative and practical work of the Children’s Ombudsman; it was also told about the correlation between legal acts and the public’s ideas in the sphere of children’s rights protection; the problems of the decriminalisation of beating, of inclusive education, of problems of children’s recreation, of the peculiarities of cyberbullying and of securing children’s safety in the Internet-space were

touched on, and questions of the Conference participants were also answered.

The Commissioner appeared in Baku on the 20-21st of June, 2018 at the XVth Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen; the Conference was devoted to the role of national human rights institutions in securing equality and in equality propaganda.

The Conference was also devoted to the Day of Human Rights in the Azerbaijanian Republic, the 100th anniversary of creating the Democratic Azerbaijanian Republic, the 95th anniversary of the national leader Geydar Aliyev and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The capital’s Ombudsperson told the Conference participants about the main directions and results of the Commissioner’s activities in Moscow City in the domain of human rights and liberties protection. She remarked that Moscow was a city with an especial rhythm and dynamics. Muscovites and the capital’s inhabitants following the city’s rhythm find themselves in the thick of things – in the centre of sports, political, juridical events. The topicality of Muscovites’ problems is characterised first of all by the themes of the applications coming to the Commissioner. Housing and economical issues and property rights remain the most topical subjects of civil proceedings.

As the Moscow Ombudsperson told, the subject-matter of family everyday violence had become more topical in the past year. This public problem remained under the Commissioner’s special control in 2018 too.

The Commissioner remarked that nine legislative suggestions were initiated through subjects of legislative initiative in the past year including a Federal Draft Act determining preventive measures with regard to family everyday violence and to its medical, psychological and social consequences.

Task meetings of the Commissioner and the Staff Members were held with representatives of the embassies of the USA, France, with Children’s Rights Commissioner of Finland, experts of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe, etc. with a view to ex-

change experience in rights protection. The Commissioner took part in the International Ombudsman Conference at the invitation of the United States Ombudsman Association in San Antonio City, State of Texas. A program of insuring labour migrants against accidents has been started in the RF and the Jubilee Xth International Skills Competition “Unity in Difference” took place in terms of the Commissioner’s co-operation with the Foundation of Prince Michael of Kent.

Active and substantial interaction with State bodies realising right protection activities is one of the priority tasks of the Commissioner in the current year. The joint efforts will be directed towards solving systemic and particular problems relating to securing citizens’ rights and liberties as before.

The Commissioner took part in a live coverage in a morning program of the Azerbaidjani television in terms of the second day of the Conference on the 21st of June, 2018.

The coverage was devoted to the role of national human rights institutions in securing equality and in equality propaganda. The Commissioner underlined that Ombudsmen’s activities must be structured in touch and in interaction with power bodies and civic society institutions.

The Commissioner noted that the problem of refugees was discussed systemically at the Conference. There are no refugees in Moscow but many migrants reside in the city and they also have a whole number of arising problems. The Commissioner’s Staff tries to solve these problems.

An International Scientific-Practical Conference devoted to the rights of parents and family education in Russia and abroad took place in the main building of the Moscow City Pedagogical University on the 17th of May, 2018. Experts and specialists representing almost all the continents appeared at the Conference, including those of the USA, Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Great Britain, the European Union countries, the South African Republic, Kenya, China; these countries marked the international viewpoint on the

key problems connected with family education.

The Children’s Rights Commissioner in Moscow City appeared at the opening ceremony and told about the capital’s achievements in realisation of family education in Moscow and of problems in this domain.

A round-table discussion “The Gender Resources of Economy and Forming of a New Gender Order” took place in terms of the XIXth International Gender Dashkova Readings on the 30th of May, 2018. It was organised by the Sociology, History, and Philosophy Departments of the Financial University of the Russian Federation’s Government as well as by the “Gender and Economical Sociology” Scientific School. Representatives of the scientific and higher education communities, State bodies, civic organisations as well as young scholars participated in the organising.

The round-table debated questions relating to the evolution and influence of gender equality and equality of rights on the functioning of the most important social institutions of the 21st Century; results of some sociological investigations in this field were furnished, political-juridical problems of gender equality were marked, and suggestions with regard to forming a new gender order and with regard to realising “The National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women for 2017-2022” were made.

A representative of the Commissioner’s Staff appearing at the round-table discussion noted that all problematic issues are of gender character to a certain extent, for instance in the domains of housing, family, and property rights, children’s rights because all of them influence men and women, families, motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood. It was also imparted that a sociological investigation of the gender profile of the socio-economical problems of Moscow City was been prepared then in terms of the Commissioner’s activities. The aim of the investigation lay in monitoring the state of things in the city’s territory and in elaboration of suggestions meant to realise the Strategy in the capital’s region.



The XXIInd Annual Conference and General Assembly of the ENOC – European Net of Ombudspersons for Children took place in Paris on 19-21st of September. The main subject-matter of the meeting became the protection of rights of children with mental health problems, their therapy, education and development. The plenary sessions, round-table discussions, panel discussions presented the experience of different countries in the domain of mental health problems in children and adolescents, juridical, medical, educational and social aspects of the problem, the possibilities of the Ombudspersons for Children in solving these problems, the nearest tasks and prospects in this domain.

The Children's Rights Commissioner in Moscow suggested the problem of interaction with parents, families for the colleagues' discussion; the topic evoked an active response and debating because it is characteristic of many countries irrespective of the peculiarities of their legislation and the national models of rendering psychological and medical aid.

There are cases when parents whose child needs professional diagnostics and specialised aid that might improve the mental state of the child, conduce to his or her development and socialisation, refuse the aid, do not apply to a specialist; some of them do so out of negligence of their parental duties and some because of mistrust and prejudices with regard to consulting a professional psychotherapist or psychiatrist.

The Moscow International Forum "City of Education" was opened on the 30th of August, 2018 in the edifice of the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy – it was one of the most important events in the educational life of the capital and the whole country.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin told its participants about the main achievements of the city's educational system and new prospects of developing preschool, general and professional education in Moscow in his speech of welcome.

Speaking on the development of general education, the Mayor dwelled in detail

on the progress of the Moscow Electronic School (MES) that secures the technological leadership of the city's educational system when compared with many countries of the world.

The Mayor dwelled separately on the importance of rendering support to form-masters while imparting: "Today I signed a decree of the Moscow Government about additional payments to form-masters". Every form-master shall receive a monthly additional payment in the amount of 12.5 thousand rubles according to this decision.

The Commissioner took part in the Forum's opening, discussed the problematic issues and the prospects of the capital's city's educational system in the dialogue with school-goers and teachers and took part in the work of the round-table discussions.

The International Scientific-Practical Conference "Childhood – Territory of Safety" took place at the Juridical Institute of the MCPU (Moscow City Pedagogical University) on October 18, 2018.

The Conference discussed issues of the sphere of children's rights protection as well as of forming directions of improving the legislation securing children's rights and interests. Scholars from Russia, Israel, Great Britain, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine as well as lecturers, post-graduate students and students of the MCPU took part in the Conference. Directors of Moscow schools participated in the Conference by means of distance communication.

The Children's Rights Commissioner in Moscow City appeared at the plenary session with the report: "Safe Childhood in the Realia of the 21st Century: Ethical and Juridical Collisions"; he told about topical problems of children's rights protection, changes in the legislation and in the practice of law enforcement and answered the questions of the audience in terms of the subject-matter.

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City took part in the meeting with the delegation of the World Jewish Congress at the Parliament-Public Centre of Moscow City on October 30, 2018.

The event took place in terms of the Second Moscow International Conference on counteraction to anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racism “Let Us Protect the Future”.

The Ombudsperson underlined in her speech that the issues of discrimination on grounds of nationality or religion were always under the Commissioner’s control. The main direction of the Congress’s activities coincided completely with the tasks and aims of the Commissioner’s Staff in this domain: struggle against present-day anti-Semitism, various manifestations of xenophobia and interethnic discord.

The number of complaints and applications concerning national and religious issues to the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City has been next to nothing during the past 6 years and their quota varies from 0.06 % to 0.18 % of the total number of applications.

It is to be noted that the level of anti-Semitism in Russia is one of the lowest in

the world and it declines steadily. Such are the results of sociological investigations carried out in 2016 and in 2018 in the whole country at an order from the World Jewish Congress.

Sociological polls show that 75 % of Muscovites assess interethnic relations in the capital as peaceful ones and almost 90 % feel no hostility towards persons of other nationalities.

An agreement about commercial-economical, scientific-technical and cultural co-operation was concluded between the Governments of Moscow and of the Jewish Autonomous Region in June 2017.

All-city ethno-cultural and public events are conducted under the auspices of the Moscow Government; those events exert complex educational influence, they are meant for bringing up to culture of interethnic communication and patriotism, for preventing extremism in the youth medium.

Women’s Rights Protection

T.A. Potyaeva, Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City is an active participant of the civic advocacy movement “The Forum of Moscow Women”.

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City took part in the work of the International Forum “Woman Who Matters” at the Moscow House of Unions on the 15-16th November, 2018.

The Forum discussed questions of social entrepreneurship, gender discrimination and State support of women’s business-initiatives. Successful business-ladies shared their personal success stories, Russian and international companies presented their best practices and initiatives.

The Moscow Ombudsperson told about women’s applications to the Human Rights Commissioner’s Staff in Moscow City in her speech during a panel discussion devoted to problems of family violence and she also supported the Draft Act on prevention of family everyday violence.

She noted among other things that it was necessary to elaborate complex preventive

measures for families where the peril of resorting to violence exists. She told that it was very important for children not to witness the deviating behaviour of their parents because every child takes on his behaviour patterns from his or her parents. All basic characteristics of a personality are founded in the family from the early childhood.

The Forum gathered more than 5 thousand guests and more than 200 experts, renowned individuals, owners and share-holders of big Russian and international companies.

The International Round-Table Discussion “Family Violence is One of the Forms of Discrimination with Regard to Women” took place at the Saint-Petersburg Branch of the National Research University (NRU) “Higher School of Economy” on November 22, 2018. It was devoted to the experience of counteraction to family everyday violence and the mechanisms of protecting the sufferers.

The event’s organisers were: the Human Rights Commissioner in Saint-Petersburg, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Norway



in Saint-Petersburg, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Saint-Petersburg, and the NRU “Higher School of Economy”.

The Round-Table Discussion participants paid attention to the aggravation of the problem in the sphere of the sufferers’ rights protection as amendments had been entered into Article 116 “Beating” of the Russian Federation’s Penal Code.

The Commissioner dwelled on issues of gender equality in her speech as well as spoke out her mind on the necessity of adopting an Act on family everyday violence prevention and on further realisation of the National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women; the Strategy is meant for improving the situation of women in the political, economical, social, and cultural sphere.

Commissioners from 11 regions of the North-Western Federal Circuit and Moscow took part in the Round-Table Discussion. Representatives of the Program Office of the Council of Europe in Russia, of the Office of the Responsible for the Joint Program of the Russian Federation and the Office of the Higher Human Rights Commissioner, experts from Norway and the Netherlands were among its foreign participants.

The Commissioner’s Staff will continue close interaction with the Russian Federation’s constituent territories as well as with foreign Ombudspersons and embassies for the sake of further fortification of the international and interregional connections and for the sake of joint discussion and promotion of questions of intensifying the protection of citizens’ rights and liberties.

Children with Disabilities

39.9 thousand children with disabilities reside in Moscow, of which about 6.0 thousand suffer from infantile cerebral paralysis. The number of children with disabilities has been growing steadily during the past years whereas the total number of all handicapped persons is relatively stable.

The VIIIth Interdisciplinary Scientific-Practical Congress “Infantile Cerebral Paralysis and other Mobility Disabilities in Children” with foreign participants took place on the 1st of November, 2018.

The protection of handicapped persons’ and handicapped children’s rights is a priority of the Commissioner’s intensive and systemic activities that have been carried out for many years by means of serious monitoring, research works as well as by means of organising public discussions of the problem.

The number of the handicapped persons and handicapped children residing in Moscow being taken into consideration, innovative reforms are conducted in all structures of the city for the sake of the handicapped persons’ and children’s social integration and realisation of their provided rights and liber-

ties. The reforms comprise creation of a new type of “rehabilitation & educational” institutions, introduction of the newest modern rehabilitation methods and software-digital technologies as well as realisation of the principle of early interference and development of the early aid service.

Creation of a barrier-free city infrastructure is one of the most important constituents of handicapped persons’ life, especially of those with infantile cerebral paralysis. The degree of a disabled person’s freedom, of his integration into the city’s life and consequently his competitiveness depend directly on it.

The Human Rights Commissioner realises constant control of this sphere on the ground of citizens’ applications and of monitoring the observance of handicapped persons’ rights. Applications from handicapped persons and from parents of handicapped children to the Human Rights Commissioner’s Staff make an insignificant part of the whole correspondence. However each letter is quite moving and the Staff specialists do their best to render concrete assistance to the applicants.

About 900 specialists from more than 67 constituent territories of the Russian Federation became participants of the Congress.

The Russian-French Forum “Aid and Patronage of Families in France and Russia” took place on the 21st of November, 2018 in Moscow.

Representatives of State bodies of both countries as well as leaders of non-commercial and civic organisations of Russia and France discussed patronage of families in complicated living situations, problems of protecting their rights, told about variants of ways of solving the problems.



6. Education in Law with regard to Rights and Liberties of Man and Citizen

Education in law with regard to rights and liberties of man and citizen as part of the Commissioner's duties, forms and methods of their protection are fixed in Article 2 of Moscow City Act No.6 from April 15, 2009 "On the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City".

The utmost importance of education in law for the activities of the Ombudsperson is confirmed by the fact established in the result of analysing complaints and applications to the Commissioner that 70 % of cases on the average did not require the Ombudsperson's interference. It was necessary just to explain to the persons in what way they might protect their rights.

The topicality of the subject-matter being taken into account, the Interregional Conference "The Role of the Human Rights Commissioner in Citizens' Education in Law: the Experience of Regions" took place in Vologda on January 18 under the auspices of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation. Commissioners from 26 regions of the country including the Moscow Ombudsperson took part in it.

The Conference noted that absence of legal competence influences not only the impossibility to assert one's rights but also causes increase in crime. The low legal competence and incomplete awareness are deemed with reason to be a threat to the country's safety because it prevents from effective implementation of legal means of citizens' competent participation in administration of State and public affairs, which leads inevitably to corruption phenomena.

The heightening of the level of legal competence is especially important for vulnerable strata of the population: elderly citizens, persons with disabilities and those in places of punitive detention. But the Commissioner holds the education in law of young people for the most important direction in this domain.

Special events led by the Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in terms of the Unitary Lesson of Human Rights and the large-scale socio-legal action "Legal Marathon for Pensioners" initiated by the Federal Commissioner in 2018 are concrete examples in this sphere.

A mobile reception of representatives of the Veterans' Council of the State Budget Institution No. 6 "Assisted Living Residence for Labour Veterans" of the South-Western Administrative Circuit of Moscow City was conducted under the auspices of Moskalkova T.N., Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation in terms of the action "Legal Marathon for Pensioners".

The visit's aim lay in familiarising the inmates with the main directions of the Moscow Ombudsperson's activities and legal fundamentals of citizens' rights protection.

The question of reducing the list of medical preparations offered at the Assisted Living Residence during several past years was touched upon separately during the personal reception.

A number of the inmates got explanations of issues that they wanted to ascertain, namely housing questions, pension issues and issues concerning the title "Veteran of Labour".

Lessons "Human Rights" were led in 10 Moscow schools by the Commissioner and the Commissioner's Staff Members in terms of the Unitary Lesson of Human Rights. The adolescents were told about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, about the RF Constitution, classification of the main rights and liberties, about entities realising the protection of rights and liberties of man. It was explained to the adolescents simultaneously that the realisation of one's rights and liberties must not infringe on the rights and liberties of other persons. Special attention was paid to such administrative offences as crossing a road at an unauthorised place, drinking alco-

holic beverages, participation in unsanctioned rallies. Active and vivid discussions took place on these issues.

The Human Rights Commissioner's Staff will continue the practice of similar events that evoke a positive response of the audience.

The Commissioner participated in the All-Russian Scientific-Methodological Conference on the subject-matter: "Education in Law and Education in the Domain of Human Rights: the Experience and Prospects of Present-Day Russia". It was held at the initiative of T.N. Moskalkova together with the Moscow State Juridical O.Ye. Kutafin-University.

The Conference's participants that gathered on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration and the 25th jubilee of the Russian Federation's Constitution stated that considerable experience in the sphere of education in law had been accumulated in Russia and prerequisites of its propagation had been created but there was no distinct and consecutive State conception, no program of national actions of teaching human rights up to then.

The Federal Commissioner suggested that human rights should be taught in terms of State educational standards and programs of all specialties and at all levels of education as well as that a National Educational Plan in the Domain of Human Rights should be elaborated and introduced stage by stage in the Russian Federation.

The Moscow Commissioner remarked in her speech that she believed in the necessity of elaborating approaches of education in law that would correspond to the present-day realia. The Moscow Ombudsperson dwelled also on the necessity of State employees' education in law, including those of law enforcement authorities. The Ombudsperson accentuated the necessity of compulsory publishing and propagating of juridical literature. The Capital Commissioner concluded her speech while supporting the recommendations of adopting Acts on the population's education in law by the Russian Federation's constituent territories.

The Commissioner's Staff elaborates and confirms the Annual Plan of events meant for the population's education in law in terms of legal enlightening; the Commissioner's official website www.ombudsman.mos.ru is being improved by introducing new rubrics such as "The Renovation", "The Moscow Longevity".

Pieces of news referring to the Commissioner's activities are published regularly at the official website. To provide Muscovites with a wide access, results of special investigations and monitoring of problems connected with citizens' rights protection continue to be placed; those investigations and monitoring are carried out at the initiative of the Commissioner.

Interaction with mass media is an important element of citizens' education in law. The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City structures the education in law according to "The Fundamentals of the State Policy of the Russian Federation in the Sphere of Developing Legal Competence and Feeling for Law and Order of the Citizens"; "The Fundamentals" have been approved by President of the RF.

The co-operation of the Commissioner with mass media was fruitful in 2018; the interest taken in the activities of the Commissioner and her Staff grows.

The system of interaction with mass media included interviews of the Commissioner on different topical issues of rights protection, participation in live coverages, comments at television and radio studios. More than 100 publications and live coverages of the Commissioner were released in the past year; there were more than 4 thousand references in the press and appearances in the frame at television studios.

The Commissioner took part in programs of the Channels "TV Centre", "Moscow 24", "Russia 1"; she collaborated with such mass media as the Agency of City News "Moscow", informational agencies "Russia Today", "Interfax", "TASS", "RBK", with various news websites, newspapers "Evening Moscow", "Moskovskiy Komsomolets", "Government Facility", the "My Moscow" Magazine.



The Commissioner was marked two times in the top of the Yandex News in 2018.

The Commissioner's Staff monitors mass media publications referring to citizens' rights in the capital every day. The publications are then analysed and studied.

Materials on the activities of the Commissioner and his Staff are placed regularly at the official website of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City.

The website has its audience and enjoys popularity; it is visited by more than 89 thousand persons yearly. The possibility of submitting a complaint or application to the Commissioner is also provided at the website, its online reception office functions.

It was suggested in 2018 to introduce an official page of the Commissioner in the Facebook Social Net for permitting those who have found themselves in a difficult living situation to attract the Commissioner's attention to their arisen problems in a prompt manner and to receive a professional legal consultation and necessary support.

An important role is assigned to the informational-legal bulletin on human rights in Moscow City "The Moscow Ombudsman" in the field of education in law; it is issued quarterly at the initiative of the Moscow Commissioner. Each issue of the bulletin has constant rubrics "Legal Enlightenment", "Legal Practical Work", "Question – Answer" where questions most frequently put to the Commissioner are touched on and possible ways of solving problems are adduced.

A press conference took place on October 22 at the Multi-Media Press Centre of the International Information Agency "Russia Today" on the eve of the Interregional Forum "Present-Day Tendencies of Handicapped Persons' Rights Protection: Monitoring, Balance of Interests, Innovations".

The Commissioner marked that protection of handicapped persons' rights was a priority task of the Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in Moscow City. The task is fulfilled intensively and systemically: serious monitoring, research works are carried out, public

discussions are held; working interaction between civic organisations and power bodies of different levels has been established.

Construction of residential and public buildings, designing of the environment are realised nowadays according to modern technologies and while taking the handicapped persons' needs and wants into account. Nevertheless the problem of accessible environment remains the main one as before and much is still to be done in this direction.

The Commissioner took part in a press conference at the TASS Press Centre on the eve of the International Forum "Human Rights and Social Guarantees under the Conditions of the 21st Century Challenges: International and National Experience" on the 26th of November.

It was underlined at the Press Conference that the problems of human rights and liberties protection were suggested to be discussed directly in the context of present-day challenges evoked by life itself and under the present conditions of providing social guarantees.

The Commissioner and his Staff Specialists take part yearly in events of education in law of children and young people at educational institutions (colleges, higher education institutions), visit investigatory isolation prisons for interlocations with minors detained there.

Personal reception of citizens refers undoubtedly to forms of education in law; the Commissioner's Staff Specialists familiarise the applicants with statutory norms and ways of rights protections in terms of this form of education in law.

97 Muscovites applied to the Moscow Ombudsman for personal reception in the past year.

A hotline functions constantly at the Staff; legal consultations, advice is given in terms of its work.

The mobile reception is a looked-for form of education in law; the visits are paid not only in Moscow boroughs situated far from the city centre but also in terms of various forums, conferences, congresses.

An important constituent of education in law is creation of "Juridical Literature" Sec-

tions by Ombudsmen in libraries. We are working now at supplementation of the Moscow City Duma's juridical library created in the past year.

Large-scale events important to the public are open platforms for education in law; large public participates in them and discusses issues of protecting established rights and liberties. Two forums were held by the Commissioner's Staff in 2018: the Moscow Interregional Forum "Present-Day Tendencies of Handicapped Persons' Rights Protection: Monitoring, Balance of Interests, Innovations" and the International Forum "Human Rights and Social Guarantees under the Conditions of the 21st Century Challenges: International and National Experience".

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City will pay special attention to using modern information technologies in the process of education in law in the coming year.

The fact that 2019 is the 10th anniversary of the Ombudsman as institution in Moscow City

being taken into consideration, the work of the Commissioner and his Staff will be directed to creating a museum display at the Museum of Moscow and of a video film about the main directions of the Commissioner's activities, and this will also be meant for the population's education in law.

The Commissioner deems it necessary to participate in elaboration of the following directions in order to heighten the effectiveness of the population's education in law in 2019:

- introduction of human rights into the State standards of academic disciplines (or sections into already existing subjects);
- creation of special programs of refresher course and advanced profession training for pedagogues, State officials, functionaries of law enforcement authorities, etc.;
- publication and wide free-of-charge distribution of the main international and Russian enactments in the domain of human rights and liberties, etc.



7. On observance of Human Rights in Places of Punitive Detention

The issues of securing the guarantees of State protection of rights, liberties and legal interests of man and citizen in places of punitive detention occupy a special place in the activities of the Commissioner.

The structure of the Federal Penitentiary Service Administration for Moscow City (hereinafter called Administration) includes 7 investigatory isolation prisons whose limit of filling equals 8657 persons (during the analogous period of the past year (hereinafter called APPY) – 8657 persons). As on January 1, 2019, 9590 persons (APPY – 10375 persons) were detained in the institutions of the Administration; it is the historical minimum for the latest 5 years. Among the indicated number of persons detained the investigatory isolation prisons: 8712 men (APPY – 9374 men), 878 women (APPY – 1001 women), 44 minors (APPY – 51). The size of the overcrowdedness was 10.8 %, which is lower than the index at the beginning of the last year as it was 19.8 %.

The Commissioner received 565 complaints from suspects, accused and convicted persons, which comprised 12.9 % of the total number of the received applications (year 2017 – 511 complaints (10.9 %) in 2018).

The largest number of letters is connected with violation during the inquiry and preliminary investigation, groundlessness of criminal prosecution, revision of judicial decisions (352 applications when compared with 304 in 2017), securing of human rights in places of punitive detention (141 complaints when compared with 86 in 2017) of them: provision of medical aid – 66 complaints when compared with 51 in 2017.

According to statistics every eighth application received by the Commissioner is connected with the problems of timeliness and quality of medical aid in the institutions of the Federal Penitentiary Service Administration of Russia for Moscow City.

Many medical issues can be solved positively in co-operation with Federal State Budgetary Healthcare Institution «Medical and Sanitary Unit No. 77» of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia whose tasks include medical and sanitary provision of suspects, accused and convicted persons detained in the Administration's investigatory isolation prisons.

Timely execution and submission of documents to judicial authorities in accordance with the procedure provided in Decree No. 54 of the Russian Federation Government from February 6, 2004 «On Medical Examination of Convicted Persons Suggested for Exemption from Punishment Because of Illness» permitted to release 8 convicts in 2018 because of serious illnesses, which corresponds to the total number of persons sent to the court – 8 (APPY: serious illnesses – 14, released persons – 13).

In terms of executing Decree No. 3 of the Russian Federation Government from January 14, 2011 “On Medical Examination of Suspects or Accused of Crimes” materials concerning 23 badly ill persons are submitted to court (of them two persons were condemned), 21 persons were released (APPY: serious illnesses – 20, released persons – 17) because of serious illnesses.

No lethality cases were registered before the judicial decisions of releasing in 2018.

Thus the situation in the domain of activities of the Administration's institutions for the release of badly ill prisoners remained under control.

The Commissioner could also achieve positive decisions in the domain of criminal proceedings by sending applications to relevant authorities.

As result of the consideration of complaints the Commissioners assisted in protecting the rights of 143 suspects, accused and convicted persons. Measures of the Prosecutor's reacting have been taken due to applications of the Commissioner in 23 cases.

In order to verify the observance of the rights and liberties of detainees and convicted persons, the Commissioner carried out 11 visits to institutions of the Penitentiary System in the past year and 3 visits were carried out on behalf of the Commissioner by his Staff Members.

The Commissioner visited the capital's investigatory isolation prison No. 2 "Butyrka" to check the conditions of detention of a foreign citizen in whose interests the People's Lawyer of the Republic of Moldova Mihail Cotorobai applied to the Moscow Ombudsman in June.

During the conversation the citizen of the Republic of Moldova informed that the conditions of his detention in the prison were satisfactory but there were some problems with his health.

At the request of the Commissioner the foreign citizen was promptly examined and got the necessary treatment. The People's Lawyer of the Republic of Moldova thanked the Commissioner for his active participation in the fate of the citizen of Moldova after some time.

Close public attention was paid to the conditions of detention and health of the Ukrainian sailors in the investigatory isolation prisons "Matrosskaya Tishina" and "Lefortovo" located in Moscow City at the end of the past year. The Commissioner visited all the Ukrainian citizens captured in the Kerch Straits in connection with it and interviewed each of them about their health and conditions of detention. Despite the fact that complaints of conditions of detention and quality of medical aid were not received, the Commissioner in working order carried out constant control over observance of the rights and liberties of the detained Ukrainian sailors in co-operation with the Administration, investigatory isolation prisons and Federal State Budgetary Healthcare Institution "Medical and Sanitary Unit" No. 77 of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. This necessity was connected with the fact that publications about the violation of their rights in the Moscow investigatory isolation prisons appeared periodically in mass media but the verification did not confirm the publications.

At the same time in order to maintain social ties within the international co-operation at the request of the First Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukraine Nina Karpacheva, the Commissioner organised the transfer of correspondence to the Ukrainian participants of the incident in the Kerch Straits from their relatives and friends in the prescribed manner in a short time.

Priority in the activities of the Commissioner is the protection of rights, liberties and legitimate interests of children including in the places of punitive detention.

One of the issues with which the Commissioner addresses to detained children is the work of the educational institution of Moscow City with school-goers who are in the investigatory isolation prisons. During the conversation children often answer this question that after they were placed in a place of punitive detention nobody from the educational institutions took interest in their further fate, teachers did not lead any work with them.

First of all and unconditionally the blame for the crime rests with those who have committed the crime. However in connection with happened offences a certain responsibility rests with the parents (legal representatives) and pedagogical workers whose activities are aimed at positive development of the personality. In other words the fact that school-goers commit crimes is the result of pedagogical and administrative insufficient efforts in the domain of crime prevention which is one of the indices of the rating of educational institutions of Moscow City.

Traditionally in terms of the Week timed to the all-Russian «Day of Legal Aid to Children» on November 22, the representative of the Commissioner conducted legal consultations in Investigatory Isolation Prison No. 5. Speaking to the minors, the employee of the capital's Ombudsman Staff spoke about the activities of the Commissioner, answered the questions of the minors regarding criminal procedure legislation, and also touched on other topics related to the realisation and protection of children's rights.



The public control has the great importance for the proper realisation of rights of man and citizen in places of punitive detention; the control is entrusted to the Public Monitoring Commissions of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation. Active members of the Public Monitoring Commission of Moscow City (hereinafter called Moscow PMC) revealing violations or shortcomings in the activities of institutions of the Penitentiary System inform the Commissioner about them by sending copies of reports on the visit or separate application.

The Commissioner's Staff carried out work on 8 received reports compiled as result of visits the places of punitive detention by members of the Commission in 2018. Besides the Commissioner received 15 applications from the members of Moscow Public Monitoring Commission in the interests of persons detained in Moscow investigatory isolation prisons.

In special cases connected with the provision of medical aid to suspects and accused persons and based on the results of relevant reports, the Commissioner personally visits the investigatory isolation prison for evaluation of the existing situation and taking measures to assist to prisoners who are in need of medical aid.

At the same time it is necessary to note the progress in resolving the problem of providing the investigatory isolation prisons with video surveillance systems; the problem was repeatedly raised by the Commissioner not only at various meetings and conferences and in the Commissioner's Report for 2017 but also during the personal reception of him by the Moscow Mayor S.S.Sobyanin. According to the available information the issue of allocating funds in the amount of 119 million rubles for the providing the capital's investigatory isolation prisons with video surveillance systems was resolved by the Moscow Government. It is very important both for the safety of the employees of the institutions and the prisoners including those who are stressed and might be inclined to suicide.

5 lethality cases have been registered as result of suicide among detainees in the

Administration's institutions during the past year (4 deaths in 2017).

Another important issue that cannot be ignored is the heightening of accessibility of the Administration's accommodations to handicapped persons.

On the whole measures are being taking by the Administration for creating conditions for the accommodation of persons with restricted mobility. Nowadays the most part of the investigatory isolation prisons have wards outfitted for handicapped persons. However the repair and re-equipment of three wards has not been completed in Investigatory Isolation Prison No. 2 of the Administration. It is planned to equip Investigatory Isolation Prisons No. 6 and No. 7 of the Administration for suspects and accused persons having difficulties in independent movement and handicapped persons with relevant sanitary outfit, handrails and support elements in 2019.

The participation of the Commissioner in solving the problem of escorting convicted wheelchair users in special railway carriages has been developed. Taking into account the fact that this problem requires solutions at the Federal level, the Commissioner applied to T. N. Moskalkova, the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation, back in May 2017 with a request to consider the possibility of assistance in resolving the issue of providing the special railway carriages for escorting while taking into account the needs of wheelchair users.

As it became known from open sources, the Justice Ministry of Russia supported the suggestions of the Federal Commissioner; normative documents for improvement of the equipment of special railway carriages for escorting handicapped persons were prepared and sent to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia just according to the same suggestion of the Moscow Commissioner.

The problem of employment of former convicts is still topical despite the fact that the Moscow Government conducts an active employment policy for this category of citizens.

According to data from the Department of Labour & Social Protection of Population of Moscow City, 705 persons released from institutions executing punishment in the form of imprisonment applied to the Employment Service of Population of Moscow City in search of work, 164 persons were employed in 2018. The number of citizens who applied for assistance in finding work equalled 789 in 2017; of those who

found work – 209.

The Commissioner carried out extensive work in 2018 in order to ensure the rights and legitimate interests of convicts and detainees. At the same time the number of tasks has not been reduced, and the society and the State have to pay attention to the real remaining problems of observance of prisoners' rights in 2019.



8. Realisation of Housing Policy in Moscow City

Applications relating to the realisation of housing rights composed the basic part of the total number of applications received by the Commissioner's Staff in 2018 as well as in the preceding years.

Thus as on January 1, 2018, the Commissioner's Staff received 999 applications on housing issues, and as on January 1, 2019 - 713 applications (in 2016 - 896). The issues related to the improvement of housing conditions and housing registration are still the most urgent ones.

The realisation of housing rights of Moscow inhabitants is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Russian Federation Housing Code, Moscow City Act No. 2 from January 27, 2010 "Fundamentals of Housing Policy of Moscow City", Moscow City Act No. 29 from June 14, 2006 "On Ensuring the Rights to Dwellings of Moscow City Inhabitants" and the State Program of Moscow City "Dwelling" for 2012-2018 approved by Decree No. 454-III of the Moscow Government from September 27, 2011 (as amended by Decree No. 237- III of the Moscow Government from March 23, 2018).

According to the information of the authorised body of the executive power in the housing sector as on December 31, 2018, 62 365 families/211 290 persons (as on January 01, 2018 - 67 939 families /227 784 persons) had housing registration in Moscow City.

It follows from the presented information that the gradual reduction of the number of families having housing registration continues; the queue decreased by 8% in 2018 when compared with the past year's indices.

According to the active housing legislation of Moscow City, housing conditions are improved for Moscow City inhabitants having housing registration in the following ways:

- granting subsidies;
- provision of compensation payments for the purchase or construction of dwelling for large families of different years of housing registration;
- provision of residential accommodations under purchase-and-sale contracts including the mechanism of housing mortgage lending;
- provision of residential accommodations under various contracts free of charge.

In order to take additional measures of social support to separate categories of Moscow City inhabitants, the Moscow Government made a decision according to which handicapped citizens with persistent disorders of the musculoskeletal system who have housing registration and use wheelchairs are provided with specialised living accommodations since 2016. The Disabled Persons' Individual Rehabilitation Program recommends them to dwell in specially equipped residential accommodations, in specialised residential accommodations under social rent contracts according to the queue priorities and while proceeding from the date of the housing registration of the handicapped person using a wheelchair.

In addition since August 2018 Moscow City inhabitants having housing registration (regardless of the year of housing registration) and having three or more minor children, upon their application, are provided with a compensation payment for the purchase or construction of dwelling in return for providing them with a land plot in their ownership free of charge.

Since the issues related to the realisation of housing rights of Moscow City citizens are the most topical ones during recent years, they will continue to remain under the control of the Commissioner in this year.

On Realisation of the Renovation Program of Housing Stock

The Renovation Program of the Housing Stock in Moscow City was approved on August 1, 2017 by Decree No. 497- IIII of the Moscow Government (hereinafter called Renovation Program) in order to prevent the growth of failing housing stock in Moscow City and to provide the development of the residential territories and their improvement. The approved Program includes 5 171 houses where located about 350 thousand apartments with the total area of 16.3 million square meters where about 1 million inhabitants dwell. The term of the Program's realisation equals 15 years.

Within the Renovation Program the Moscow Government approved the target list of 308 "starting" sites with the capacity of 4.6 million sq. m. in all administrative circuits of Moscow City for designing and constructing during 2017-2021 of "starting" houses securing the wave resettlement of citizens (Moscow Government Decree No. 708 - IIII from September 26, 2017) according to the information provided by the Urban Development Policy Department of Moscow City as on January 1, 2019.

The selection of the additional «starting» sites continues.

The former inhabitants of 47 apartment buildings moved into 31 "starting" new houses on January 1, 2019 from the date of approval of the Program.

"Starting" houses are located in the area of residence within walking distance from the resettled houses.

The construction of 61 new houses was started in 2018 as part of the Renovation Program, which is more than 14 thousand apartments. The works are carried out practically in all the administrative circuits of Moscow. More than 220 houses are in the design stage.

Housing conditions improvement for citizens having housing registration in Moscow City is provided by the Renovation Program in extraordinary order.

Participants of the Renovation Program who having no housing registration possess

the right to purchase residential accommodations of a bigger space floor than equivalent residential accommodations allotted to them for an additional payment with 10 percent discount.

According to the results of 2018, 201 families expressed the desire to improve their housing conditions for an additional payment, among them 112 families have already made contracts, and 89 contracts are in the process of making.

In 2018 averagely 7% of the resettling persons expressed a desire to make a purchase and to buy an apartment of a bigger space floor.

Information centres for resettlement working with the resettling citizens are organised for the convenience of inhabitants in "starting" houses meant for inhabiting. Information centres are created for comprehensive legal, psychological and informational support of citizens whose houses are included in the Program of Renovation.

Besides the Public Headquarters for monitoring the realisation of the Renovation Program which carries out the public monitoring of the Renovation Program, conducts thematic receptions with the executive authorities: Moscow City Architecture Committee, the Department of Urban Property of Moscow City, the Moscow Housing Renovation Fund, the Department of Urban Policy of Moscow City, the Department of Construction of Moscow City.

The Commissioner monitors the situation related to the renovation of the housing stock in Moscow City.

The Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in Moscow City organised a hotline for receiving applications concerning the realisation of the housing renovation program, promptly receiving applications from city inhabitants on these issues and feedback via e-mail.

The received questions are systematised, and the answers to them are placed in the informational and legal bulletin of the Commissioner "The Moscow Ombudsman".



Employees of the Commissioner's Staff and members of the Public Expert Council under the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City participate in thematic receptions organised by the Public Headquarters for monitoring the Renovation Program realisation.

The Commissioner will continue to monitor the realisation of the Renovation Program and control the observance of the citizens' rights during the relevant events in 2019.



9. Realisation of the Right of Being Allotted a Living Accommodation by Orphaned Children and by Children Deprived of Parental Care

The issue of residential accommodations' provision to orphaned children and children deprived of parental care (hereinafter called orphaned children) in Moscow City is in constant control by the Commissioner.

The Commission on housing issues of orphaned children and children deprived of parental care, adult persons-former orphaned children and children deprived of parental care (hereinafter called the Commission), made 876 positive decisions on the provision of residential accommodations to orphaned children and children deprived of parental care in 2018.

It should be noted as well that the situation with the residential accommodations provision to this category of citizens in Moscow City is the most favourable in the country. Moscow is practically the only constituent territory of the Russian Federation where all obligations to provide housing to this category of citizens are annually fulfilled, and this is a great merit of the Moscow Government.

The Commissioner's anxiety was caused by

the situation with the allocation of too many apartments (up to 40% of apartments) in one house for orphaned children by the Department of Urban Property in 2018.

The question was resolved positively according to the results of the application to the Moscow Government.

It is necessary to take into account that the concentration of a large number of adult persons-former orphaned children in one house not only complicates their socialisation but also can lead to the occurrence of unfavourable conditions in the house and in the adjacent territory.

The Commissioner believes that the standard (legislatively recommended from January 1, 2019) of the total number of residential accommodations provided to this category of persons in one apartment buildings in the amount not exceeding 25% of the total number of apartments in the same building, can be set to 15% for Moscow that will contribute to better integration of orphaned children into the society.



10. Assistance in the Protection of Handicapped Persons' Rights

Nowadays more than 1.07 million handicapped persons reside in the capital including 39.9 thousand (3.7%) handicapped children (1.17 million handicapped children in 2010).

Among the total number: handicapped persons 6.9% - Group I; 55.3% - Group II; 34.1% - Group III. Muscovites of the pension age (women over 55 and men over 60) make up 75.4%.

During many years the Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in Moscow City systematically and consistently protects the rights of handicapped persons for several years conducting serious monitoring, scientific research works and organising public discussions of the problem. The Moscow Interregional Forum "Modern Trends in the Protection of the Handicapped Persons Rights: Monitoring, Balance of Interests, Innovations" held at the initiative of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City on October 25-26, 2018, where the Human Rights Commissioners from 27 constituent territories of the Russian Federation took part, can be an example of particular attention to this topic. It illustrates the immediacy of the problem of protection the rights of handicapped persons and the fact that this topic does not leave anyone indifferent and evokes keen interest.

The past year was also marked by significant events. The election of the Mayor of Moscow took place on September 9, and the Commissioner's Staff was actively concerned themselves with in voter rights and saw its priority task in ensuring the principles of "equal suffrage" and "direct suffrage". First of all it concerned socially vulnerable categories of voters and, above all, handicapped persons. Here we have marked two priority vectors in our work: control over securing the accessibility of polling stations to citizens with restricted mobility and participation on the day of elections as independent watchers at closed stations in

in-patient institutions of social protection and healthcare where the majority of residents are handicapped persons.

The importance of digital technologies being taken into account, modern methods and high-tech equipment are being introduced into the work of urban rehabilitation centres. An example of the new approach to work is the State Budgetary Educational Institution of Moscow City "Centre for Rehabilitation and Education No. 7 of the Department of Labour & Social Protection of the Population of Moscow City" that was transferred from the Moscow City Education Department several years ago. The innovative finding is that children receive education and rehabilitation support simultaneously in this institution. The newest methods and technologies including digital ones are actively introduced in the institution. This includes rehabilitation equipment: "Hardware and Software Complex Medskaner BIOROS-05", Devirta "Delphi 1.0", Devirta "Accuracy", the Light - Acoustical Bed INTONA, etc., as well as the latest equipment that forms accessibility of the environment: VR-laboratory, AR-reality, neurotechnology "Communication without Borders", children's smart watch "Button of Life" and much more.

Several years ago not only the specified centre was transferred from the educational system to the social protection system but also a number of educational institutions where handicapped children had been educated. Thus a new type of institution appeared in Moscow - "rehabilitation and educational", in other words, a new terminology was introduced and a new unified and continuous rehabilitation and educational space was created for handicapped persons from 3 to 45 years old. Today there are 8 such institutions in the capital, 2080 handicapped children and children with disabilities study and receive rehabilitation services at them.

One of the most remarkable goals of the reform of Moscow education is the introduction of individual educational directions that is very important for handicapped children.

The positive results of combining the educational institutions into complexes have had a positive impact on the academic progress of handicapped children and their creative achievements. Only in 2018 the number of winners and prize-winners of Moscow Skills Competition of handicapped school-goers equalled 100, and the final stage of the All-Russian Subject Skills Competition of school-goers equalled 10. Leaders of the General Medal Test of the III^d National Championship of professional skills among handicapped persons equalled 114 Muscovites.

Special attention should be paid to the certification and advanced training of the teaching staff in the educational system.

There is a unique rehabilitation and educational institution - School No. 1 for blind children in the city system of social protection of the population. This school entered the number of the best 200 educational institutions of the city; it received a grant from the Moscow Mayor for developing the institution and new technologies. We believe that it is necessary to involve other rehabilitation and educational institutions into this process. The Commissioner's Staff sets the task together with the Departments of Education and Social Protection of Moscow City to this process.

It should be noted that applications coming to the Human Rights Commissioner's Staff in Moscow City from handicapped persons, handicapped children's parents are few – no more than 5% of the total number of the correspondence from the beginning of this year. At the same time it can be noted that often the problem most raised in them is that a handicapped child for one reason or another does not keep up with its healthy coevals in class and the school follows the path of least resistance while sending such children to home schooling. This topic is under special control of the Commissioner because the child's desocialisation takes place, and the Commissioner's Staff

aims at correcting the situation on the whole; besides we provide support to each child in each specific case.

An opportunity to go in for sports plays an important role in the rehabilitation of a handicapped person. The Centre of Sports Innovation Technologies and Training of Representative Teams of the Moscow Sports Committee has been created to heighten the effectiveness of Moscow sportsmen's training and fulfils the tasks of practical introduction of innovative methods of investigation of sportsmen's functional abilities including those of sportsmen with restricted abilities. The result of the Centre's investigations is the complete idea of sportsmen's abilities; a thorough analysis of the result permits to reveal additional reserves of each sportsman's organism and to elaborate recommendations for his trainer.

The Commissioner believes that a system of analogous centres must be developed in the capital.

It is necessary to develop a system of early interference and early aid to handicapped children. The early aid is connected directly with the handicapped children's health, with creation of necessary comfortable conditions for their fulfilling life in the society and all-round development of their personality. The Scientific-Practical L.I. Shvetsova-Centre of Medico-Social Rehabilitation is an example of a correct approach to children's rehabilitation; the Centre was the first to create a unique Department in Moscow for little Muscovites aged from 0 to 3 years and having grave health disorders. The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City and his Staff are keen on supporting the process of creating Early Aid Departments at analogous institutions.

The Association of Early Aid Specialists created in Moscow is the basic element of creating the Service of Early Aid. The Association united medical persons and medical assistants, speech therapists, psychologists, specialists in physical training and sports, social protection, patients and their relatives, representatives of volunteer and civic organisations. The Commissioner deems necessary to activate the As-



sociation's work including involving of new members.

The Co-Ordination Council of Affairs of Handicapped Persons and Other Persons with Restrictions of Life-Sustaining Activity has been working as a subdivision of the Office of the Moscow Mayor for a number of years already. The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City is member of the indicated Council. The Ombudsperson took part in the ordinary session of the Council on the 27th August 2018 at the State Budget Institution of Moscow City "Butovo-Centre of Handicapped Persons' Rehabilitation" – a new institution created by an initiative spoken out at the Forum of Handicapped Persons in 2016 and supported by the Moscow Mayor. The main issue suggested for discussion concerned the results of the rehabilitation system's development in Moscow and determination of the development's prospects.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Semyonovich Sobyenin said while opening the session that the Moscow Government held improvement of the quality of handicapped persons' life for one of the priorities of the Government's activities. Thus subventions for caring of a handicapped child were doubled this year; support payments for a child under 18 years of age were also doubled if the child's both parents or the sole parent did not work and were handicapped persons belonging to Disability Group 1 or 2; a new form of payments for acquiring clothes worn by children at school was introduced; 3.5 milliard rubles were allotted additionally for health resort vouchers, which permitted to double the number of the rehabilitated and suchlike.

There are 11 rehabilitation centres, 8 rehabilitation & educational institutions, 97 rehabilitation hospital departments, 38 of which are for handicapped children. More than 67 thousand rehabilitation services were rendered to handicapped persons in 2018; 10.5 thousand handicapped children and young handicapped persons were directed to health resorts for rehabilitation (with accompanying persons). It is planned to direct more than 1 milliard rubles

for equipping rehabilitation institutions and another sum in the same amount is meant for repairing and adaptation of rehabilitation institutions in 2019.

The Moscow experience of introducing rehabilitation by means of "mobile brigades", "distance rehabilitation" is in demand; the experience is based on innovative digital technologies.

The development of private-State partnership is now a necessary link in rendering rehabilitation services to handicapped persons. The Moscow Government purchases rehabilitation services by tender at the best rehabilitation centres of the capital, namely: "Surmounting", "Three Medical Nurses", the Federal Rehabilitation Centre on the Ivankovskoye Highway, etc.

One may note innovations in the organisation of the summer resort rehabilitation of handicapped children and young handicapped persons. The innovations demonstrate clearly the efficiency of the slogan of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: "Nothing Is Done for Persons with Disabilities without These Persons' Participation!" Additional target budget means are allotted for organising handicapped children's rehabilitation in the Crimea by the parents of the children – by a decision of Moscow Mayor S.S. Sobyenin and at a suggestion from the Labour & Social Protection Department of Moscow City and at a request of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City in terms of the activities of the Moscow City Association of Handicapped Children's Parents" (MCAHCP). It is to be noted that no unfavourable comment came to the Commissioner's Staff either from parents or from children who had their recreations according the program. The Commissioner believes that this practice is to be continued.

The Commissioner's Staff has carried out fundamental researches (by tender) of evaluation the realisation of the handicapped person's rights with regard to granting them privileges and preferences established by the active legislation and the degree of their integration into the society.



One of the researches' vectors was the accessibility of the city infrastructure to handicapped persons. It appears from the results that 70 % of the handicapped persons believe that the city facilities became more accessible to handicapped persons during the past years. It is not bad.

Nevertheless the Commissioner's Staff will continue to study and improve the accessibility of the ambient to handicapped persons in the capital while taking into consideration the special topicality of barrier-free space for integration of persons with mobility impairments of into the society, for independent life activity.

The City Ombudsman also believes that the Public Prosecutor's Authorities must pay constant attention to monitoring the situation with accommodating non-State facilities objects with elements of social, transport and engineering infrastructure for handicapped persons.

The Moscow Government takes comprehensive measures of supporting veterans. The creation of the free-of-charge service of invalid tenders was one of the important decisions, and now all veterans without exception receive the relevant aid at home.

Of course one has to note specially the unprecedented project "The Moscow Longevity" elaborated and realised at the initiative of the Moscow Mayor. It is really a time of new opportunities for Muscovites older than 55 years. More than 3 million pensioners reside in Moscow. About 200 thousand persons took part in the pilot project of the Moscow Mayor and invalids comprise a considerable part of them.

The project is at the same time meant to a greater extent for those elderly people who are active enough and can be independently engaged in the activities of the offered sports groups and hobby circles. The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City believes that it is necessary to pay attention to Muscovites

older than 80 years while realising "The Moscow Longevity" Program and to elaborate target measures for this very age category. The Commissioner's Staff assumes the task of dealing with the issue and will monitor the "The Moscow Longevity" Program's realisation to elaborate suggestions concerning the category of those persons who are older than 80 years.

The Ombudsman and His Staff Members attach great importance to interaction with handicapped persons' civic organisations. The Commissioner holds constant meetings with handicapped persons, takes part in special events organised by them and assists in projects important to the public. For instance, an exhibition of participants of Zurab Tsereteli's maser-class "Lessons of a Great Master" took place at the Moscow Scientific-Practical Gerontological Centre in Peredelkino in the past year. The exhibition's organiser was the Regional Welfare Fund for Supporting Socially Vulnerable Categories of Citizens.

The Ombudsman thinks that this practice must be continued because the experience of such exhibitions of young artists' works at institutions and entities for veterans not only permits elderly persons to take pleasure in communication with young talented artists and grants an additional opportunity to pass their life experience on to the young generation but also inspire the veterans with the wish to live a fulfilling active life.

The Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City attaches great importance to interaction with the civics society in the domain of citizen's rights and liberties protection and will continue active interaction with civic organisations of handicapped persons and mutual monitoring of the situation in this sphere as well as elaboration of suggestions for further improvement of the quality of life of handicapped Muscovites.



11. The Moscow Electronic School

Development of the present-day society, large-scale introduction of interactive technologies into different spheres of its life conditions the changes of the form of work of many of the society's system. The issue of developing the Moscow Electronic School (MES) as an effective auxiliary technical means of teaching and patronising school-goers in the educational space of a supercity makes all interested parties discuss suggestions for its further improvement.

Adolescents are of the opinion that lessons with the MES demanded a combined way of teaching: the technical means (interactive blackboard) should work for no more than 10-15 minutes during a lesson, and the teacher should communicate with the pupils directly for the whole rest of the time. This will permit to master the educational material better, to develop and strengthen new skills; it will also conduce to correct organisation of lessons while taking into account the individual peculiarities of each pupil of the class. Representatives of the parental community also believe that the modern educational process is impossible without live communication between the pupils and the teacher whose personality influences the child's perception of universal human values, the forming of the child's consciousness of his responsibility to the society.

The members of the Children's Public Council affiliated with the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City suggested to create an individual protected health page of each pupil in terms of developing the multifunctional possibilities of the MES; the health page of each pupil would be conducted from the preschool link of an educational organisation to the secondary one (college) or to the higher link (higher education institution). It is suggested that this page should reflect the results of periodic health examinations, doctors' recommendations conditioned by the results; the possibility of controlling the fulfilment of

concrete medical recommendation from specialised professionals is also provided in the page. This initiative of school-goers found support and technical possibilities of its realisation are being studied now.

Taking the fact that the MES might function as a universal system of teaching and communication into consideration, the Commissioner supported the adolescents' suggestion that the MES should be used as a resource of education in law. Children's and adolescents' education in law, forming of civic-legal culture are one of the tasks of our society and of the modern school in particular. The Commissioner has organised education in law for all the categories of the inhabitants of the capital. It is conducted during personal and visiting reception of citizens, at the official website of the Commissioner, on the pages of "The Moscow Ombudsman" Magazine. Lessons of legal competence are organised at Moscow schools in terms of the All-Russian Day of Legal Aid to Children. Since it is not the first year of conducting similar lessons, it was suggested by those Moscow school-goers who are simultaneously members of the Children's Council to use thematic presentations, lessons of education in law that had been created by school-goers themselves for school-goers of different ages. The communication "in the same language" in a free, accessible and absorbing manner might develop an interest in the subject-matter "Rights and Duties" of a lot of school-goers. The open discussion of the rights and in particular duties and liabilities of minors for this or that action is also meant for early socialisation of school-goers and for their forming an idea of what action is a delinquency and of the punishment provided for it. This work is meant to prevent various negative tendencies in the children's-adolescents' community including mobbing, bullying, hazing, cybermobbing, cyberbullying or any other forms of violation of children's rights. This



project in the educational line of the Moscow Electronic School might be used as a seminar or practical lesson as well as serve a model for preparing analogous projects in each educational organisation of Moscow.

Constructive interaction of all interested parties in improvement and development of

the Moscow Electronic School, its contents, its technical outfit will permit to declare with all responsibility that the MES is unique combination of traditional education and digital technologies that grant a possibility to teach and learn in a new way.



12. The Gender Profile of Socio-Economical Problems in Moscow City

The Sociological Investigation “The Gender Profile of Socio-Economical Problems in Moscow City” in “The National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women for 2017-2022” was carried out in terms of the competence of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City

The Investigation’s aim lay in diagnostics of the gender problems in the socio-economical space of the capital, in revealing factors influencing the acuteness and significance of the problems for different categories of women and men as well as in preparing corresponding suggestions to executive authorities for possible elaboration of measures meant for realising “The National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women for 2017-2022” in the territory of Moscow City while proceeding from the Investigation’s results.

The Investigation ascertained the profile of gender problems in the capital’s region.

A rating of gender equality/inequality of Russia’s regions was made up proceeding from the situation in the economical, social and cultural sphere; Moscow found itself in the group of leaders while giving place only to Saint-Petersburg.

The demographic context of suggestions concerning the realisation of “The National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women for 2017-2022” in the capital’s region has been analysed. It was shown that the demographic structure was favourable for creating families, giving birth to children and their upbringing in the capital on the whole but reproductive intentions and plans of Muscovites were oriented for the most part to a family with 1-2 children (with a statistically small preference of two children).

Differences between the educational levels of women and men in Moscow City, the existing gender segregation in educational specialties and educational levels were evaluated; women’s participation in receiving and reno-

vation of professional knowledge and skills, in special programs of refresher course/advanced profession training for women in childcare leave was shown.

The gender asymmetry of employment (including non-wage and salary labour, in the informal sector, under unfavourable labour conditions), non-realised want of salaried work, unemployment and differences in the salary level of men and women in the capital’s region were analysed and compared with the situation in whole Russia. The possibilities of increasing the employment of women in the sphere of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship were analysed. Obstacles met by female and male entrepreneurs while realising their business, level of their legal competence, expected measures of State/regional support were appraised. The experience of some CIS countries in supporting women’s entrepreneurship was analysed.

General characteristic of the health state and situation of women in the healthcare sphere of Moscow City is given on the ground of statistical and sociological indicators and from the viewpoint of gender approach. The accessibility and quality of medical aid rendered to women are evaluated; the barrier of accessibility to necessary services of the healthcare system are analysed. The possibilities of increasing the satisfaction of women of all ages with medical attendance are appraised on this ground and measures of heightening the accessibility of qualified medical aid are suggested while taking into consideration the gender factor in the context of developing and reforming the healthcare system of Moscow City.

The realised evaluation of women’s and men’s representation in the Moscow legislative, judicial, and executive authorities showed that in spite of the high percentage of women among the decision-making persons of the



capital, the vertical segregation remained significant.

It was shown that the criminal situation in Moscow was better than in the whole RF. Criminal actions were committed much more frequently by men but crimes with women's participation were committed in Moscow a little bit more frequently. A steady positive tendency of diminishing the scale of criminality coupled with physical violence was observed; the tendency's rate was more intensive in Moscow than in whole Russia. The scale of violent crime against women in Russia and in Moscow was diminishing at a quicker rate than against minor children and men. A steady tendency of numerical declining of sex crimes against women in Moscow was shown though the number of such crimes grew in Russia on the whole. The number of violations of women was decreasing but violent sex crimes against men grew numerically more than by 1.5 times. The work discusses the situation of family violence against women and the issue of adopting the Draft Act on prevention of family everyday violence. It was shown that mass media published unverified and contradictory information systematically. As result the perception of this information by the society is ambivalent. The investigation showed on the whole that the problem of family violence existed in Russia and in Moscow but its scale was not so catastrophic

as it was stated in the society. One must unconditionally struggle against this phenomenon but by way of preventive measures par excellence and not of chastising ones.

An analysis of the Federal and Regional gender statistics was carried out; resources of developing gender statistics were shown; the sources were both long-existing and those that appeared during the past years.

A system of indications that might reflect the peculiarities of the situation of men and women in the socio-economical space on the regional level including the capital's region has been mapped out. It is possible to elaborate the indications at present already. Suggestions concerning the creation of a system of monitoring gender problems have been elaborated on the regional level.

The results of the present investigation testify to absence of global problems in this sphere of public legal relations but they also indicate the necessity of improving the situation of women of all ages in the domain of healthcare, labour and employment, education, prevention of social troubles in women's life and of violence against women and children.

The investigation's materials are presented to the legislative and executive authorities of Moscow City in the established procedure for possible use while forming the capital's plan of realising "The National Strategy of Actions in the Interests of Women for 2017-2020".



13. Conclusion

Moscow is a Russian supercity establishing social and interethnic peace and concord, maintaining and steadily developing spiritual, cultural and international traditions.

Year 2018 was marked with milestone events on the international, All-Russian and regional level.

The active civic position of Muscovites plays a substantial role in forming programs of the city authorities' actions meant for further development of the supercity.

Large-scale works are conducted to improve the city ambient. The rates of the transport infrastructure development of the capital's region are unprecedented. Moscow social projects are being realised, find support of the capital's inhabitants and are noted at the Federal level.

The project "Moscow Electronic School" won the All-Russian Skills Competition of Practices and Initiatives of Russia's Socio-Economical Development in the nomination "Creation of Conditions Meant for Augmenting the Informational-Technological Potential of the Region". "The Moscow Longevity" Program won the highest award in the nomination "Creation of Necessary Living Conditions and Improvement of the Population's Life Quality", the Resource Centre "Moscow Volunteer" has been declared to be the winner in the nomination "Creation of Conditions for Developing Volunteer Activities".

The fact that the RF President declared 2019 to be a Year of Theatre being taken into account, the cultural life of Muscovites and the community of theatre-goers and theatre professionals will inspire the city's atmosphere organically with freshness of ideas and brightness of the world outlook.

And the forthcoming tours of theatrical companies from the whole world will become a new international event in the capital.

Issues of observing the Muscovites' social, housing, economical rights, protection of chil-

dren's rights, liberties and legal interests will remain in the focus of our attention in the current year as it was in the past year.

The elections of deputies of the Moscow State Duma will become an important political event for the capital's inhabitants in 2019.

The Moscow Ombudsman will render assistance to securing the citizens' electoral rights in terms of interaction with the city electoral commission.

2019 is the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City as institution; the institution has superseded that of the Children's Rights Commissioner of the capital. A museum display showing the history of appearing and developing the institution of the Moscow Ombudsmen is planned to be created.

Close attention will be paid to protection of the labour rights of citizens at the pre-retirement age, issues of refusing to grant working places to them or groundless dismissals – these activities will be continued in terms of the pension reform.

The topicality of the integration of citizens with restricted mobility into the society, of forming a barrier-free space for independent life activities being taken into account, the Commissioner's Staff will continue the monitoring of improving the accessible ambient for handicapped persons in Moscow City and will concentrate special attention on the problem of rendering rehabilitation services to handicapped persons on a continuous basis.

Special attention will be paid to interaction with interested parties on the following issues beside the questions of observing minors' rights and legal interests that have been marked in the report:

improvement of organising and quality of catering at educational organisations of the capital including creation of conditions of providing pupils with food corresponding to their individual peculiarities;



organisation of children's recreations in the summer of 2019;

reception of education by children in the form of family education.

The monitoring of realising the Renovation Program in Moscow City as well as "The Moscow Longevity" Program (especially for persons older than 80 years) will be continued besides the foregoing.

I want to conclude with words of gratitude to the executive authorities of Moscow City for mutual work for solving problems that agitate Muscovites.

I appreciate highly the prospects of co-operation with the Council of Developing the Civic Society and Human Rights affiliated with President of the RF,

with the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation, the Children's Rights Commissioner affiliated with President of the RF.

I hope for further fruitful interaction with the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for Moscow City, the Federal Penitentiary Service Administration of Russia for Moscow City, Directorate of the Federal Service of Court Bailiffs of Russia for Moscow City and other territorial power bodies on the ground of agreements of co-operation in the domain of observance of citizens' rights and liberties.

"We shall be able to achieve the set goals only having united our efforts, that goes without saying, only together in the cohesive society, on condition of the readiness of us all, all the citizens of Russia to achieve success in concrete actions". *From the Message of Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation to the Federal Assembly from 20.02.2019.*

*Human Rights Commissioner
in Moscow City*



T.A. Potyayeva





Report
**on the Activities of the Human Rights Commissioner in Moscow City,
on Observance and Protection of Rights and Liberties
of Man and Citizen in 2018**

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