

HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES AS A NEW PHENOMENON OF THE MODERN MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Natalia V. Bocharova, Doctor of Legal Sciences, Associate Professor, Professor of the Department of Law, Political Science and International Relations, Alfred Nobel University (Ukraine).

E-mail: olip@duan.edu.ua

DOI: 10.32342/2709-6408-2021-2-3-5

Key words: *human rights, local self-government, city government, human rights activities.*

This article is devoted to the one of the significant phenomena of recent decades in the area of municipal government has been the emergence on a global scale of cities that have declared themselves human rights defenders or of human rights cities. Scientific understanding and analysis of the process of emergence of human rights cities began in parallel with the emergence of this paradox of urban development in foreign countries. One of the first European cities where human rights became part of municipal politics was Barcelona. It was here that the position of Commissioner for Civil Rights was founded, which later became the Barcelona Department of Civil Rights. The initiative was carried out in order to overcome the effects of «new» waves of migration and the growing racial, ethnic and religious diversity in the city. New perspectives on human rights cities were defined at the latest World Urban Human Rights Forum (WHRCF), an annual event in Gwangju, the Republic of Korea. This year the Forum was held from 7 to 10 October with the theme: «Human rights in times of challenge: a new social contract». In total, 3012 participants from 76 countries and 322 cities from all over the world took part in the event. The Final Declaration of the 11th Forum of WHRCF expresses deep concern about the diverse threats to human rights and democracy due to violence, discrimination, inequality, sustainable development, climate change and environmental disasters and identifies five areas for further work.

The article examines the use in the practice of municipal administration of foreign countries for the protection of human rights, defined in international human rights documents at the global and regional levels. The reasons and factors for the involvement of cities in human rights activities are analyzed, specific examples of the work of local governments to ensure both the entire spectrum of internationally recognized human rights and certain areas of combating racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion are given. The examples given in this article testify to the presence of a steady trend of involving modern cities in human rights activities. This world experience needs to be carefully studied and implemented in the practice of municipal government in Ukraine. Modern crisis phenomena, such as the coronavirus pandemic or the migrant crisis in Europe, make this task even more relevant. It is concluded that this world experience requires careful study and implementation in the practice of municipal government in Ukraine. Modern crisis phenomena, such as the coronavirus pandemic or the migrant crisis in Europe, make this task even more relevant.

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Одержано 29.10.2021.