

Poverty as a Violation of the Right to Life

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The problems associated with poverty, are extremely important for the population in most countries of the world. The author concludes that the violation of the right to life and health takes place for the people living in poverty. At the same time, the standards which were elaborated for the evaluation of the poverty level, do not respond to the science-based requirements for a man's income which is required to meet his minimum needs. In this connection, an emphasis is placed on the introduction of the concept of "real living wage" for the definition of the poverty line of a particular country and creation of a single site for monitoring state living wage, real subsistence level, distribution of the population by income, poverty line set by state and independent experts, prices on basic food products arranged by countries. The author concludes about necessity of introducing payment for labor on the basis of a real living wage level (and if this minimum is below 50% of the average wage then on the amount of 50% of the average wage in the country) and the tariff scale which should take into account social usefulness of a profession and qualification of an employee. At the same time a particular level of wages must not be lower than the amount established by a tariff scale. Payment for labour in the USSR with wages in Ukraine during the transition to the market economy is compared. The conclusion is made about the growth of poverty in Ukraine in three times during transition to the market economy, and concealment of poverty increasing by reducing official poverty line in three times in connection with the normative decrease of an allegedly "scientifically based" consumption. The article points out that in order to implement international principles guaranteeing sufficient wages, adequate social protection, Ukraine has adopted a number laws and bylaws which comply with international human rights standards, but the current amount of the subsistence minimum which is determined on the basis of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of food products sets, non-food items sets and sets of services for main social and demographic groups of the population" and the lack of indexation of population's income in the past two years lead to the violation of a human right to life. The author makes an attempt to analyze whether the current standards of guaranteed right of everyone to an adequate standard of living in Ukraine correspond to the Ukrainian Constitution and applicable laws of Ukraine.