



STATEMENT

The Ukrainian Language Law Effectively Bans Use of the Hungarian Language

The Ukrainian Rada has tabled new legislation effectively prohibiting the use of minority languages in local government, cultural life in general and the media, greatly restricting thereby the freedoms of non-Ukrainian speakers. The authors of this law seek to criminalize the „public neglect” or „contravention” of the Ukrainian language, making such supposed crimes punishable with jail. If this legislation is accepted, the freedom of language use in Subcarpathia (Zakarpattia Oblast) will be essentially restricted to religious services and private meetings.

It is our view that the assistance of Subcarpathian Hungarians has never been as important as presently. Ukraine has shown repeatedly that it does not take minority rights seriously, in fact actually violating such basic human rights whenever possible. The Community of Hungarian Patriots will continue its work in helping Hungarians in Ukraine to achieve their goals.

Additionally, it must be emphasized that there is much work to be done on the part of European institutions and NGOs, now that the Hungarian minority and all local, non-Ukrainian speaking ethnic minorities have come under fire from Kiev. Similarly to the Education Law accepted last year, the new Ukrainian Language Law is in clear violation of Kiev’s international obligations vis-a-vis the international community.

Budapest, 5th October, 2018.

Community of Hungarian Patriots