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**DECLARATION OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE "ON THE GENOCIDE COMMITMENT BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN UKRAINE": HISTORICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF CONTENT**

As a result of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine after 24 February 2022, massive crimes against civilians were committed, accompanied by the destruction of the infrastructure of both large cities and smaller settlements. In the first weeks of the war, it became apparent that this violence could not be explained by the accompanying risks that accompany any hostilities. The torture and murder of people who actively or passively resisted the Russian military, together with the destruction of schools, universities, museums, theaters, and other cultural sites that had no military significance, gave reason to talk about the special intent of such actions. Relying on the sources of International Humanitarian Law, in particular, the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine decided to approve the Declaration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the Genocide Commitment by the Russian Federation in Ukraine".

In the Explanatory Note to the Resolution, the Parliament identified five key aspects: justification of the need to adopt the Resolution; goals and objectives of the

Resolution; general characteristics and main provisions of the Resolution; financial and economic justification; justification of the expected socio-economic, legal and other consequences of the application of the Resolution after its adoption. In particular, considerable attention was paid to the characteristics of the policy of the Russian Federation towards Ukraine in recent years, which contributed to the rooting of hate speech against Ukrainians and led to an aggressive war. The continuity of this policy to the tragic events of the Soviet period of Ukraine's history, in particular the times of Stalin and his genocidal policy, was noted.

An important aspect was to note the prospects for which the investigation of the crimes of the Russian Federation in Ukraine is not limited only to the investigation of the crime of genocide. Also, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine were instructed to take measures to properly document the facts of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious crimes on the territory of Ukraine. This will allow for a more flexible policy in the course of investigations initiated both in Ukraine and abroad.

### **List of references**

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