

Role of church in peace promotion

Oh, so controversial



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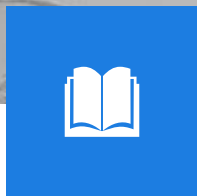


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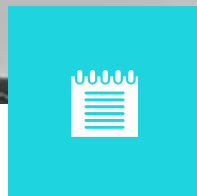


The main objective is to understand the abilities and limits of church to play a role in promoting peace in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Russia

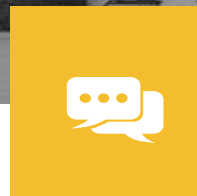




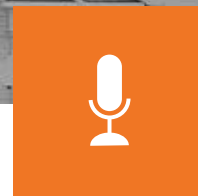
Official position and reaction of church on hate speech and discrimination against LGBT, religious and ethnic minorities, as well as its relation with far-right groups



Messages in relations to frozen and current geopolitical conflicts



Official relations between and within different churches in a country



Church reaction on disinformation and fake news





Challenges

Time management

Choice of the topic

Not enough face to face discussions

Peer review





Results



3 draft papers and
1 ready in July



1 published article in
3 languages
1 to be published
soon





Outcomes

For the group: Improved knowledge on the topic - about Orthodox churches in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Russia, their roles in social-political processes and attitudes to current affairs

01

For the group: Better understanding of the role of church in societies of the researched countries

02

For the group: Discussions and exchange on different viewpoints

03

For the audience: Article on the issue of Ukrainian Autocephaly from side of the Georgian Orthodox church published in English, Russian, Ukrainian and Georgian languages contributed to the hot issue and brought understanding of the issue to wider public

04

05

For the audience: Our upcoming project publications will contribute to higher awareness on the role of church and show how church often incites conflict.





Ukraine

- The autocephaly of the UOC will impact profoundly the EaP region and the Orthodox community generally and provoke the Kremlin for harsher actions and manipulations
- The position of the church towards the LGBT minority in Ukraine is not a radical one, but it is based on the Holy Writing and strictly condemns homosexuality
- Regarding the transition of churches of various ethnic minorities to the UOC in Western Ukraine, this process is peaceful
- The situation in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea is still influenced by Russia, and the process of such transition is based on intimidation and hate speech that flow from the Russian authorities
- The role of the UOC in mediating conflicts upon the ground of the hate speech is very limited in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea







Russia

The ROC could not be named a factor strengthening harmony in Russia.

Admitting a sharp difference between what is proclaimed in the ROC's documents along with its conservatism and what the ROC is actually pronouncing.

Instead, the ROC's activity provokes irritation, hate moods and grief in the Russian society, and it instigates to hostility from the side of Russian people and justify repressions from the side of law enforcement bodies towards disliked by the ROC groups or events.

The ROC accepts and even calls for discrimination on the base of people's relation towards religion, "historic tradition", gender and sexual definition







Moldova

Orthodox Church of Moldova mostly fosters polarisation in the society, instigates to conflict (especially towards LGBTQ, but also religious minorities) and takes a stand in political questions and geopolitics, portraying the EU as spreading decadent values and Russia as the keeper of traditional values.

There are no known cases where the OCM took a stand for tolerance, unity in a situation with conflict connotations.





Alla Ceapal (RFE/RL)



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Thank you

