Round table on law-application practice in the sphere of freedom of conscience takes place in Lugansk



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On December 22, the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation held a Roundtable teleconference with the Public Chamber of the Lugansk People's Republic on "The Issues of Law-Application Practice in the Sphere of Freedom of Conscience: Regional Aspect."

The initiative was launched by the Commission of the RF Public Chamber for Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations, the Russian Association for the Protection of Religious Freedom, and the Synodal Department for Church's Relations with Society and Mass Media with support of the Presidential Grants Foundation, website of the Department reports.

Archpriest Sergy Zvonarev, secretary for far abroad countries, the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations; archpriest Nikolay Germansky, dean of the Rakityansky district of the

diocese of Gubkin, Belgorod region; and pastor Oleg Goncharov, secretary general of the Russian Association for the Protection of Religious Freedom and member of the Presidential Council for Cooperation with Religious Associations arrived in Lugansk.

Acting as moderators of the teleconference in Moscow were Vladimir Yu.Zorin, chairman of the Commission for Harmonization of Interethnic and Interreligious Relations; Sergey A. Melnikov, chairman of the Russian Association for the Protection of Religious Freedom; and Pavel V. Lebedev, responsible for the work with state structures, the Synodal Department for Church's Relations with Society and Mass Media. Alexey V. Karyakin, chairman of the Public Chamber of the Lugansk People's Republic, moderated the teleconference in Lugansk.

Invited to the teleconference were representatives of the federal and regional government bodies, experts in state-confessional relations, and religious leaders. Discussed were the development of dialogue among them, the integration of religious associations in the new regions of Russia into socio-cultural and legal space of the Russian Federation, and the implementation of the Presidential Decree No.809 dated November 9, 2022, "On the Approval of the Fundamentals of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values." Many participants presented reports and expert opinions.

The teleconference being over, archpriest Sergy Zvonarev, archpriest Nikolay Germansky, pastor Oleg Goncharov, and mufti Eldar Gambarov of the Lugansk People's Republic delivered humanitarian aid collected for children in Donbass by members of the Interreligious Working Group for Protecting Believers' Rights against Discrimination and Xenophobia under the RF President.

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