



## **DECR representative takes part in a round table on religion-state relations at the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation**



### **DECR Communication Service, 04.03.2024.**

On March 4, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation hosted a Roundtable on the topic “The Religion-State Interaction during Special Military Operation: Topical Issues, Problems, Tasks” The event was organized by the Civic Chamber Commission on Interethnic, Interreligious Relations and Migration, the Russian Association for Protection of Religious Freedom, and the Synodal Department for Church’s Relations with Society and Mass Media.

Among the participants were hegumeness Ksenia (Chernega), head of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Legal Administration; Pavel V. Lebedev of the Synodal Department for Church’s Relations with Society and Mass Media in charge of work with state structures; representatives of other religious communities, academic circles, and public and human rights organizations. Taking part in the meeting with the blessing of Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations (DECR), was Rev. Ilya Kashitsyn, DECR secretary for Interreligious

Relations and executive secretary of the Interreligious Council of Russia.

The participants discussed a number of practical issues pertaining to the interaction of state with communities of traditional religions in protecting traditional morality, strengthening the institute of family and marriage, the plight of the faithful in Ukraine, the problem of adaptation of migrants, the status of military clergy and volunteers from religious organizations, as well as educational activities and countering destructive phenomena in social and religious life.

The speakers more than once paid special attention to the considerable contribution made by the Russian Orthodox Church and by the communities of other traditional religions and confessions to social work being done during special military operation. In his address, Rev. Ilya Kashitsyn spoke about the position of religious communities, which are members of the Interreligious Council of Russia, on the topical issues on public agenda. He underscored the importance of common work during the Year of the Family in Russia and noted a noticeable extension of influence of traditional values in the relationships of the Russian Federation with the countries of the so-called "Global South" and Asia.

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