




Mission  
Of The President Of Ukraine  
In The Autonomous Republic Of Crimea



CRIMEA  
PLATFORM

# KEY MESSAGES ON CRIMEA: WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW



*The proposed document constitutes a set of communication messages created for use by civil servants, Members of Parliament, media representatives, human rights defenders, public figures, and others. Given Ukrainians' just expectations regarding the prompt de-occupation of the peninsula and the actualisation of the topic of Crimea in socio-political discourse, these messages aim to minimise disinformation, manipulation, and other malign influence on the Ukrainian State. To a certain extent, this document will shape the perception of Ukrainian Crimea, its place, and its role, particularly in the future. The messages below are proposed for use in domestic Ukrainian socio-political discourse. The document will be used in communication with the professional community and the general public, both in government-controlled and temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, primarily in Crimea. The document cannot be published in full; instead, specific messages are proposed for use as needed.*





## The Path to Victory Lies Through the De-occupation of Crimea

- 01.** A peace in which Crimea is “deferred” or “left out of the equation” is not stable: it rewards the aggressor and increases the risk of new attacks — both against Ukraine and other states.
- 02.** Ukrainians are united in their desire for the liberation and de-occupation of Crimea. Our unity, as a guarantee of victory, is also reflected in this aspiration; the majority of Ukrainian citizens consider Crimea’s de-occupation a personal priority. The return of Crimea is possible when we are united in our visions.
- 03.** The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine began on 20 February 2014, with the armed invasion and subsequent occupation of Crimea.
- 04.** Territorial concessions to the aggressor do not stop the war — they prolong it. Compromising with occupation turns into an invitation for new attacks.
- 05.** Ukraine remains committed to diplomatic solutions; however, Russia’s full-scale aggression has proven that the path to peace lies through the realisation of the state’s inherent right to self-defence and the liberation of all territories, including by military means, in accordance with the UN Charter.
- 06.** Crimea is a territory of Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian occupation of Crimea is not recognised by international law.
- 07.** The de-occupation of Crimea is a prerequisite for new security in the Azov-Black Sea region: fewer military risks and greater predictability for trade and maritime routes.

- 08.** Any agreements that effectively legitimise the occupation change the rules of the game globally: they encourage the forcible redrawing of borders and lower the cost of violating international law.
- 09.** Sanctions pressure by the international community on Russia works and is one of the necessary instruments for the prompt de-occupation of the Crimean Peninsula.
- 10.** For Ukraine, the priority is human life: the liberation of Crimea is not merely the return of territories, but primarily the rescue of our citizens from the occupiers' repression and terror.
- 11.** The issue of Crimea is not a "territorial dispute", but a matter of international law, human rights, and regional security; therefore, it must be part of any framework for a just peace.
- 12.** Crimea is its people. Renouncing Crimea means renouncing their rights.



## The Crimea Platform — An International Mechanism for Promoting the De-occupation of the Peninsula and Strengthening European and Global Security

13. Crimea cannot be an “exception” in international law. If aggression is rewarded or “frozen”, it destroys security rules for everyone.
14. The Crimea Platform is a format that transforms the principle of non-recognition of occupation into coordinated international decisions.
15. Decisions of the Crimea Platform are coordinated steps by partners, not general statements: synchronisation of sanctions, restriction of occupation instruments, support for bringing perpetrators to justice, support for humanitarian tracks, and documentation of crimes.
16. Ukraine is working on expanding the circle of Crimea Platform participants, especially among countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. One of the practical meanings of the Platform is to prevent “fatigue from the topic” and situations where Crimea disappears from the negotiation agenda: excluding Crimea from the peace process undermines the international order and creates a dangerous precedent.
17. Without a European Crimea, there is no European Ukraine. Ukraine’s European integration is impossible without the de-occupation of Crimea, as Europe cannot be complete where occupation, repression, and a legal vacuum persist.
18. Crimea is a test for European rule of law. How Ukraine prepares for the de-occupation and reintegration of Crimea will show whether European values — human rights, justice, and accountability — are capable of working after the war.

## The Occupied Crimean Peninsula — A Constant **Source of Threats**

- 19.** Russia has turned occupied Crimea into a military base, and uses the civilian population of the peninsula as a human shield and “cannon fodder”, illegally mobilising Ukrainian citizens for the war.
- 20.** Crimea is used by Russia for military and hybrid operations that increase the level of global security risks.
- 21.** Russia uses the territory of occupied Crimea for the spreading of aggression, danger, and violation of international law.
- 22.** Due to the temporary occupation of Crimea, the Russian Federation has significantly limited freedom of navigation in the Black and Azov Seas.
- 23.** The Russian occupation has caused an environmental catastrophe of regional scale: from the destruction of protected zones to the consequences of the militarisation of the Black Sea, which threatens the safety of the entire Azov-Black Sea basin.
- 24.** The occupation creates long-term threats to freedom of navigation, maritime trade, and food/economic security in the wider region.



## Consequences of the Occupation of Crimea: Human Rights Violations, Destruction of Cultural Heritage, and Devastation of the Peninsula

- 25.** Russia brought politically motivated persecution, enforced disappearances, murders, deprivation of freedom of speech and religion, militarisation of childhood, destruction of Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar cultural heritage, and environmental danger to Crimea.
- 26.** Ukrainian citizens in occupied Crimea constantly face oppression for their pro-Ukrainian position and are subjected to politically motivated persecution.
- 27.** As a result of the Russian occupation of Crimea, the Indigenous people of Ukraine — the Crimean Tatars — have become the object of persecution and oppression on ethnic grounds by the Russian occupation authorities.
- 28.** The occupation of Crimea closes opportunities for the development of Crimean youth, narrows options for choosing a place of study and work, deprives them of a sense of safety, and militarises the youth.
- 29.** Russia systematically destroys and loots cultural heritage in Crimea. Illegal archaeological excavations, destruction of cultural monuments (in particular, the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai), placement of military facilities on them, and removal of museum collections are publicly known crimes of Russia against heritage in Crimea.
- 30.** The transformation of the peninsula into a military training ground, as well as the construction of infrastructure facilities, in particular the so-called Kerch Bridge and the Tavrida highway, poses a threat to the biodiversity and ecosystem of the peninsula.

- 31.** Living under occupation is not a crime, but a trauma. Ukrainian citizens under occupation are hostages and victims of the regime. Those who received a passport of the aggressor country under duress had no choice and were forced to do so.
- 32.** Ukrainian citizens in temporarily occupied Crimea continue to offer non-violent and lawful resistance, preserving their Ukrainian identity and connection with Ukraine.
- 33.** Ukrainian citizens in Crimea, under conditions of occupation and constant repression, resist the occupiers, contributing to the restoration of a just peace and international law.
- 34.** Human rights violations in temporarily occupied Crimea are recorded and considered by international judicial institutions, in particular the European Court of Human Rights and the UN International Court of Justice.
- 35.** Education in the Ukrainian language in Crimea has been systematically curtailed and effectively eliminated as a full-fledged component of the educational system.
- 36.** The Russian Federation is conducting cognitive terror, attempting to erase Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar identity through total propaganda and the distortion of history in education.
- 37.** The appropriation and removal of cultural property from Crimean museums is systemic looting, for which Russia will bear responsibility in international courts.



## Ahead of De-occupation

- 38.** The State distinguishes between people who lived under occupation and persons who committed crimes; responsibility is individual, for specific actions, with legal guarantees.
- 39.** Citizens of Ukraine residing under occupation should avoid so-called evacuations arranged by the Russian army, so as not to become hostages and leverage for pressure on Ukraine.
- 40.** Citizens of the Russian Federation who moved to Crimea illegally during the occupation must leave the peninsula voluntarily, or they will be forced to leave the territory after verification of involvement in international crimes — through the adoption of individual decisions and taking into account international standards.
- 41.** Aiding the establishment of the occupiers' policy of destroying Ukrainian identity undermines freedom and democracy, creating obstacles for the future development of the region.
- 42.** We call on residents of Crimea not to cooperate with the Russian army and occupation authorities, so as not to become accomplices in the crimes of the Russian occupation regime.

## Recovery of Crimea

- 43.** Preparation for the recovery of Crimea is carried out through the coordinated work of the Mission and a number of state bodies — a visionary document of the Strategy for the Economic Recovery of Crimea has been developed, and consultations are being held with relocated businesses, all-Ukrainian and international networks.
- 44.** The recovery of Crimea after de-occupation means the restoration of security and human rights, the launch of state services and the economy, and the modernisation of infrastructure according to transparent rules.
- 45.** The reconstruction of Crimea after de-occupation will be carried out according to the “build back better” principle. Infrastructure recovery will not be “as it was”, but better: energy independence, water security, resilient networks, modern communications and cyber defence, safety and quality standards.
- 46.** The recovery of Crimea must be built on three pillars — security, human rights, and economic viability, as well as on the GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) principle, restructuring the economic production sector according to modern environmental and climate standards.
- 47.** Ukraine strives to promote the development of the business environment and investment climate in Crimea to ensure sustainable economic growth and prosperity.
- 48.** A priority aspect is the restoration of maritime transport and the maritime economy in the Azov-Black Sea region.
- 49.** Environmental safety is part of the recovery. In particular, it is necessary to conduct an audit of damage to the environment, ensure the safe disposal of military/industrial risks, and restore natural territories and the coastal zone.



- 50.** Upon the instruction of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a special working group was established at the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which developed proposals for the State's priority steps after the de-occupation of Crimea. These steps will allow for the implementation of reintegration and the sustainable development of the peninsula's territory and its residents, laying the foundation for restoring the development of socio-economic potential.
- 51.** The concept of priority steps for the reintegration of Crimea covers a wide range of issues: restoration of public authority, holding perpetrators accountable for crimes committed due to the occupation, verification of occupation documents and decisions of occupation courts, protection of property rights, humanitarian policy, demilitarisation, etc.
- 52.** The restoration of Ukrainian authority in Crimea means a return to dignity, democracy, equality before the law, observance of human rights, restoration of local communities, and European development.
- 53.** As a candidate country for EU membership, Ukraine consistently implements reforms that contribute to a decent socio-economic life for citizens, stability, and the development of all regions.
- 54.** Ukraine aims to build a European Ukraine together with Crimea, as this ensures common security, restoration of justice, and stability for all of us.
- 55.** Ukraine will ensure the gradual restoration of democratic institutions in Crimea.
- 56.** Ukraine is already forming a personnel reserve for the functioning of Ukrainian state bodies and institutions, which will start working immediately after the de-occupation of Crimea.

- 57.** The integration and recovery of Crimea will take place with the attraction of investments, including international ones, and the application of environmental approaches to recovery and the development of logistics with European countries. These are new opportunities for stable development and growth, which Crimea has not had until now. This is a chance for stability and law.
- 58.** While Russian lawlessness and excessive centralisation were implemented in occupied Crimea, significant changes took place in Ukraine, in particular the decentralisation reform. Today, any community in Ukraine has sufficient powers and opportunities for local development.
- 59.** After the de-occupation of Crimea, Ukraine will take measures to preserve, restore, and renovate cultural and historical heritage sites. There will also be a return to museums, archives, and libraries of the collections stolen and removed from the mainland of Ukraine to Crimea.
- 60.** Ukraine will insist on bringing the Russian Federation to international legal responsibility, in particular regarding the payment of reparations for the damage caused. Compensation payments from Russia will be directed towards the reconstruction of Ukraine and the restoration of the violated rights of victims of aggression.
- 61.** Life under occupation is not a crime: the State deals with the consequences of occupation, rather than “punishing for the fact of residence”.
- 62.** After the de-occupation of Crimea, support and financial assistance will be provided, business incentives will be introduced, and recovery and reintegration will be launched.
- 63.** Ukraine is introducing support programmes for youth from Crimea.
- 64.** A transitional period will be established for the gradual and comfortable restoration of the full functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language in all spheres of public life on the peninsula.
- 65.** After de-occupation, Crimea must become a priority destination for state financial assistance.



## Ensuring Human Rights, Freedoms, and Human Security. Justice and Restoration of Fairness

- 66.** The de-occupation of Crimea is primarily the return of rights and guarantees: a safe life, access to justice, freedom of speech, conscience, and peaceful assembly, and the restoration of dignity.
- 67.** Citizens of Ukraine, illegally imprisoned by the occupiers in Crimea for political reasons, will be released from places of detention and will receive medical, psychological, and other assistance from the State.
- 68.** Ukrainians understand that for years, residents of Crimea were forced to survive under Russian occupation.
- 69.** Ukraine supports cooperation and interaction of all its regions for building a dignified and stable common future.
- 70.** Citizens of Ukraine who ended up under occupation as a result of Russian aggression have the same rights as residents of territories controlled by Ukraine.
- 71.** Peace cannot be built on the preservation of occupation. A stable peace is possible only where the law works, and human rights are protected by the State. Without the de-occupation of Crimea, millions of people remain in the system where there are no real guarantees of rights, freedom, and justice.
- 72.** By closing independent media and restricting access to truthful information, Russia destroyed freedom of speech in Crimea. Instead, it totally launched its own propaganda, built exclusively on the language of hostility towards Ukraine. Ukraine is capable of ensuring freedom of speech and access to independent information for people in Crimea. Crimea is its people. Renouncing Crimea means renouncing their rights.

- 73.** The Ukrainian authorities, with the support of the international community, will ensure a fair investigation of crimes committed during the occupation.
- 74.** The restoration of justice includes: the release of those illegally detained, the recording and investigation of crimes, compensation mechanisms, the return of property in a legal manner, and the restoration of cultural and educational rights. Responsibility is individual, with guarantees of the right to defence, transparent procedures, and protection of victims and witnesses.
- 75.** Holding elections in Crimea after de-occupation will be possible only after the implementation of stabilisation and reintegration measures.
- 76.** To implement reintegration measures in Crimea after de-occupation, a transitional period must be introduced. This will allow for the neutralisation of all consequences of the prolonged occupation.
- 77.** Citizens of Ukraine in Crimea are not collaborators merely because they lived and survived under occupation.
- 78.** Citizens of Ukraine from different regions of our State are ready for full cooperation and interaction with Ukrainian Crimea after the de-occupation of the peninsula.



## **Respect for Diversity: Guaranteeing and Observing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine and National Minorities (Communities)**

- 79.** Illegal restrictions by the occupiers on the representative institutions of the Crimean Tatars — the Kurultai and the Mejlis — must be lifted, and self-government mechanisms restored. The diversity of Crimea is a resource for peace and development, not a source of conflict.
- 80.** Crimea is the home of Crimean Tatars, Karaites, and Krymchaks, the Indigenous peoples of Ukraine; the reintegration policy must take into account the linguistic, cultural, religious, and educational needs of these communities.
- 81.** After de-occupation, Crimea will again become a place of peaceful coexistence of people of different ethnicities and faiths, views, and beliefs.
- 82.** The Ukrainian State guarantees support, preservation, and development of the national, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity of the Indigenous peoples of Ukraine and national communities.
- 83.** The Crimean Tatar language and culture are an integral part of Ukraine's cultural heritage, which we strive to protect and develop.
- 84.** Representatives of the Indigenous peoples of Ukraine will be involved in decision-making regarding the recovery of Crimea, as well as in the activities of public authorities in the de-occupied territory.
- 85.** An important step in restoring justice will be the decolonisation of the peninsula's toponymy — the return of historical names, in particular Crimean Tatar ones, to settlements and geographical objects.