

## LAW OF UKRAINE

### «On the Protection of Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Religious Organizations' Activities»

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,

based on the principles of Article 35 of the Constitution of Ukraine, Articles 9 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which provide for the rights to freedom of conscience, religion, and association in religious organizations, and the possibility of limiting these rights by law in the interests of national or public security and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others,

recognizing the state's duty to protect the right to freedom of conscience, religion, and association in religious organizations, including the right of citizens to change their religion and beliefs and the right of religious organizations to change their subordination to religious centers (authorities), from unlawful encroachments by any persons, religious or other organizations, or foreign states,

in view of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the support of this aggression by the Russian Orthodox Church, and noting that numerous unlawful actions by the Russian Orthodox Church and its subordinate religious organizations in Ukraine pose a threat to national and public security, as well as to the rights and freedoms of Ukrainian citizens, considering the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine on specific aspects of the activities of religious organizations in Ukraine and the application of personal special economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions), hereby enacts this Law.

#### Section I. Specific Features of Activities of Foreign Religious Organizations in Ukraine

##### Article 1. Scope of the Law

1. This Law, for the purpose of protecting national and public security, as well as human rights and freedoms, defines the specific features of the activities of foreign religious organizations in Ukraine.
2. No provision of this Law may be interpreted as a restriction on the freedom of religion or belief, the right to observe religious practices, or perform religious rites and ceremonies.

##### Article 2. Organizational Principles for the Operation of Foreign Religious Organizations

1. For the purposes of this Law, a foreign religious organization is a religious organization (including a religious administration, association, or center) as a legal entity that is established and/or registered in accordance with the legislation of another state and has its headquarters outside of Ukraine.

Foreign religious organizations may carry out activities in Ukraine, provided that their activities do not harm national or public security, public order, health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of others.

2. The activities of foreign religious organizations that meet the following criteria simultaneously are prohibited in Ukraine:

- 1) They are located in a state recognized as one that has committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory;
- 2) They directly or indirectly (including through public statements by their leaders or other governing bodies) support armed aggression against Ukraine.

Foreign religious organizations located in a state recognized as having committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory include foreign religious organizations (including religious administrations, associations, or centers) whose governing center (administration) is located outside Ukraine in the respective aggressor state.

3. Foreign religious organizations whose activities are prohibited under this Article are determined by Article 3 of this Law.

If the activities of a foreign religious organization meet the criteria defined in the second part of this Article, and this becomes known after this Law enters into force, the prohibition of such a foreign religious organization's activities is implemented by amending part one of Article 3 of this Law.

The lifting of the prohibition on the activities of foreign religious organizations in Ukraine, established by this Law, is carried out by amending this Law.

#### Article 3. Foreign Religious Organizations Whose Activities are Prohibited in Ukraine

1. Considering that the Russian Orthodox Church is an ideological continuation of the aggressor state's regime, an accomplice in war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the name of the Russian Federation and the ideology of the "Russian world," the activities of the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine are prohibited.

2. The activities of religious organizations affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine under part one of this Article, including directly or as part of another religious organization, or in the presence of other signs as established by Article 51 of the Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations," are not allowed, and such religious organizations shall be terminated in the manner prescribed by law.

The list of religious organizations in Ukraine affiliated (connected by one or more features defined in Article 51 of the Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations") with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine shall be approved by the order of the central executive authority that implements state policy in the field of religion and shall be published on its official website.

In the case established by law, the activities in Ukraine of a foreign religious organization located in a state recognized as having committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory, and whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine according to the Law, shall be terminated from the day this Law or the law introducing relevant amendments to this Law comes into force.

#### Article 4. Consequences of Prohibiting the Activities of a Foreign Religious Organization in Ukraine

1. Foreign religious organizations whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine are subject to consequences established by law.

The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine applies restrictive measures (sanctions) to foreign religious organizations whose activities are prohibited in accordance with Article 3 of this Law, in the manner prescribed by the Law of Ukraine "On Sanctions" and the regulatory legal acts adopted in its implementation.

2. From the date of prohibition of the activities of a foreign religious organization in Ukraine:

1) The activities of the foreign religious organization defined in part one of Article 3 of this Law are considered terminated with the consequences established by law;

2) Transactions related to the use of property (lease, rental, leasing, or other forms of use of third-party property), whose term has not expired, conducted between residents of Ukraine and the corresponding foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine, as well as with legal entities registered in Ukraine, whose owner or participant is such a foreign religious organization that has not brought its activities into compliance with this law within the period specified in part three of this Article, shall be terminated prematurely;

3) Other consequences apply in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations."

3. A foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine cannot be the owner or participant of legal entities registered in Ukraine. Such legal entities must bring their

membership structure into compliance with this Law within three months from the date of prohibition of the activities of the respective foreign religious organization in Ukraine. If a legal entity does not bring its membership structure into compliance with this Law within the established period, such a legal entity shall be terminated based on a court decision following the consideration of a lawsuit by the central executive authority that implements state policy in the field of religion.

4. Relations and/or connections, and/or communications of religious organizations, including religious communities and other private legal entities, with foreign religious organizations whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine, are not allowed unless they are carried out with the approval of the central executive authority that implements state policy in the field of religion.

To obtain approval, a person planning relations and/or connections, and/or communications with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine, shall apply to the central executive authority that implements state policy in the field of religion with an appropriate application. The application must include information explaining the necessity of relations and/or connections, and/or communications with the foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine.

The procedure for providing individual approval for relations and/or connections, and/or communications with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine, the application form for obtaining approval, the list of information and additional documents to be attached, the grounds for granting and refusing approval, and the procedure for monitoring the connections and contacts with the foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine, shall be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

5. A religious organization operating in Ukraine cannot have a governing center (administration) outside Ukraine in a state recognized as having committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory, nor can it be part of (or belong to) the structure of a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine according to Article 3 of this Law or be otherwise affiliated with such a religious organization.

#### Article 5. Specific Features of Terminating a Religious Organization for Propagating the Ideology of the "Russian World"

1. The use of religious organizations for the propaganda of the "Russian World" ideology, including the promotion of this ideology in any manner and/or by any means, contradicts the interests of national and public security, territorial integrity of Ukraine, and is prohibited. When applying the provisions of the first paragraph of this part, consideration is given to instances of propagating the "Russian World" ideology directly by the religious organization, its statutory or other governing bodies, and other persons acting on their behalf by assignment or with permission, or in accordance with any other form of approval, regardless of the form of such approval.

2. The issue of confirming the facts of using a religious organization to propagate the "Russian World" ideology is considered by the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion in the manner established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The review may involve the conclusions of religious studies, information from other central executive authorities, data from public electronic registers, as well as information received from individuals and/or legal entities, the media, and other open sources.

#### Section II. FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

This Law shall come into force 30 days after its publication, except for:

1) subparagraph "2)" of paragraph 2 of this section, which shall come into force 9 months after the day following the day of publication of this Law;

2) paragraph 6 of this section, which shall come into force the day following the day of publication of this Law.

2. Amend the following legislative acts of Ukraine:

1) Section XIII "Transitional Provisions" of the Civil Procedure Code of Ukraine (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2017, No. 48, Art. 436) shall be supplemented with paragraph 2 as follows:

"2. Civil cases concerning the termination of a religious organization, for which lawsuits were filed before the Law of Ukraine 'On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations' came into force and which have not been concluded by a relevant court decision in the court of first instance, shall continue to be considered (concluded) according to the rules that were in effect before the Law of Ukraine 'On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations' came into force.

The consideration of appeals and cassation complaints, as well as other applications provided for by this Code, in such civil cases that were filed before the Law of Ukraine 'On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations' came into force, shall continue and be concluded according to the rules that were in effect before the Law of Ukraine 'On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations' came into force.";

2) In the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2017, No. 48, Art. 436):

a) Part two of Article 22 shall be supplemented with paragraph 4 as follows:

"4) on the termination of a religious organization, as provided by Article 2899 of this Code";

b) Part two of Article 245 shall be supplemented with paragraph 82 as follows:

"82) the termination of a religious organization, as provided by Article 2899 of this Code, and the transfer of property, funds, and other assets owned by it, except for religious property, into the ownership of the state";

Paragraph 2 of Chapter 11 of Section II shall be supplemented with Article 2899 as follows:

Article 2899. Specific Features of Proceedings in Cases on Administrative Claims for the Termination of a Religious Organization.

1. The provisions of this article apply to the consideration of administrative cases on the termination of a religious organization as provided by law.

The right to file an administrative claim for the termination of a religious organization belongs to the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion or to the authority authorized to register the charter (statute) of the relevant religious organization.

2. Administrative cases referred to in part one of this article are considered as the court of first instance by the court specified in part two of Article 22 of this Code.

3. If proceedings are initiated in an administrative case referred to in part one of this article, or appellate proceedings are initiated in such a case and a court hearing is scheduled, the relevant court shall, within three days, notify the plaintiff and require them to publish the relevant notice in the manner prescribed by part five of this article.

4. If the court of first instance issues a ruling in an administrative case provided for in part one of this article that is subject to appeal, or if the case is concluded by issuing a court decision, the court of first instance, after preparing the full text of the relevant court decision, shall immediately, but no later than ten days from the date of preparing the full text of the decision:

1) Send electronic copies of the case materials to the court of appeal to ensure the possibility of promptly considering any appeals against such a court decision if they are filed;

2) Notify the plaintiff to publish the notice in the manner prescribed by part five of this article.

5. A notice of the initiation of proceedings in an administrative case referred to in part one of this article, or appellate proceedings in such a case, and the scheduling of a court hearing, the issuance by the court of first instance of a ruling subject to appeal, or the conclusion of the case by issuing a court decision, along with a copy of the relevant court decision or court summons, shall be published on the web portal of the Judiciary of Ukraine, as well as on the official website of the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion or the authority authorized to register the charter (statute) of the relevant religious organization.

Three days after the publication of such a notice, it is considered that the parties to the case and all interested persons have been properly informed about the court proceedings in such a case, the scheduling, date, time, and place of the court hearing, as well as the issuance and content of the published court decision.

The failure of individuals duly notified about the date, time, and place of the hearing according to the procedure established by this part to appear at the court session in the court of first or appellate instance does not prevent the consideration of the case.

6. An appeal against a court decision in an administrative case provided for in part one of this article must be filed within twenty days, and an appeal against a court ruling within ten days from the date of its publication in accordance with part five of this article.

The appellate court in an administrative case provided for in part one of this article is the Supreme Court, composed of a panel of the Administrative Cassation Court of no fewer than five judges. The court decision of the Supreme Court in such cases is final and is not subject to further cassation appeal.

7. An administrative case based on a claim for the termination of a religious organization shall be resolved by the court of first instance within one month after the initiation of the proceedings. The appellate court shall consider the case within one month after the initiation of appellate proceedings.

8. Court fees are not charged for filing claims and appeals in cases specified by this article.

Section VII "Transitional Provisions" shall be supplemented with paragraph 43 as follows:

"43. During the martial law introduced by the Decree of the President of Ukraine "On the Introduction of Martial Law in Ukraine" dated February 24, 2022, No. 64/2022, approved by the Law of Ukraine "On the Approval of the Decree of the President of Ukraine 'On the Introduction of Martial Law in Ukraine'" dated February 24, 2022, No. 2102-IX, administrative cases against the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Administrative Court with territorial jurisdiction extending to the city of Kyiv."

3) In the Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR, 1991, No. 25, Art. 283, as amended):

Article 51 shall be supplemented as follows:

"Article 51. Restrictions on the Activities in Ukraine of a Religious Organization Affiliated with a Foreign Religious Organization Located in a State Recognized as Having Committed or is Committing Armed Aggression Against Ukraine and/or Has Temporarily Occupied Part of Ukraine's Territory"

The activities of a religious organization in Ukraine are not permitted if it:

- 1) Is affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations";
- 2) Is affiliated with a religious organization that is affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations."

A religious organization is considered affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations" if one or more of the following features are present:

- 1) The religious organization, either directly or as part of another religious organization, is included in the structure (or is part of) a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations" and/or is affiliated with a religious organization that is affiliated with the aforementioned foreign religious organization;
- 2) Official documents and/or decisions of the governing bodies, and/or in the charter (statute), and/or in documents provided for by the charter (statute) of the religious organization operating in Ukraine, there are signs of being included in the structure of the relevant foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations," and/or of a religious organization that is affiliated with the specified foreign religious organization;
- 3) In official documents and/or decisions of the governing bodies, and/or in the charter (statute) of the foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations," there are indications of the inclusion in its structure of a religious organization operating in Ukraine, or provisions regarding the right of the statutory governing bodies of the specified foreign religious organization to make decisions on canonical and organizational issues that are binding for the religious organization operating in Ukraine.
- 4) Official documents and/or decisions of the governing bodies, and/or the charter (statute) of a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations" provide for the mandatory inclusion of leaders and/or authorized representatives of a religious organization operating in Ukraine in the statutory governing bodies of the said foreign religious organization;
- 5) A foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations" has the ability, through subordination in canonical and/or organizational matters, to influence the decision-making and/or activities of a religious organization operating in Ukraine;
- 6) A foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations" appoints, elects, approves, endorses (or performs another administrative or canonical procedure related to the assumption of powers) the leader of a religious organization operating in Ukraine;
- 7) A foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations" adopts, approves, endorses, blesses, or authorizes (or performs another

administrative or canonical procedure related to the validation of) the charter (statute) of a religious organization operating in Ukraine.

Paragraph 4 of part two does not apply if the persons, leaders, and/or authorized representatives of religious organizations mentioned in this paragraph have publicly declared, either orally or in writing, their disagreement with the appointment to the governing bodies of the said foreign religious organization, and have taken the necessary actions, including preparing relevant statements and/or other documents to terminate their powers and sever ties with such a foreign religious organization.

Part three of Article 8 shall be amended to read as follows:

"The state recognizes the right of a religious community to its subordination in canonical and organizational matters to any religious centers (administrations) operating in Ukraine or abroad, except for those governing centers (administrations) located outside Ukraine in a state recognized as having committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory, whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine, and religious organizations whose activities are not permitted in accordance with the requirements of Article 51 of this Law, as well as the free change of this subordination by making the relevant amendments to the charter (statute) of the religious community. The decision to change subordination and to amend the charter is made by the general assembly of the religious community. Such a general assembly of the religious community may be convened by its members.";

Article 9 shall be supplemented with parts four and five as follows:

"The state recognizes the right of a religious center (administration) to its subordination in canonical and organizational matters to any religious centers (administrations) operating in Ukraine or abroad, except for religious organizations whose activities are not permitted in accordance with the requirements of Article 51 of this Law, and/or foreign religious organizations located in a state recognized as having committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory, whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine 'On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations.' The state recognizes the right of religious organizations to freely change this subordination by making the relevant amendments to the charter (statute) of the religious center (administration). The decision to change subordination and to amend the charter (statute) is made by the general assembly of the governing body of the religious center (administration)."

Article 10 shall be supplemented with parts three and four as follows:

"The state recognizes the right of monasteries, religious fraternities, missionary societies (missions) to their subordination in canonical and organizational matters to any religious centers (administrations) operating in Ukraine or abroad, except for religious organizations whose governing center (administration) is located outside Ukraine in a state recognized as having committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory, whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine 'On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,' and religious organizations that fall under the scope of Article 51 of this Law, as well as the free change of this subordination by making the relevant amendments to the charter (statute) of the monastery, religious fraternity, or missionary society (mission). The decision to change subordination and to amend the charter (statute) is made by the general assembly of the respective monastery, religious fraternity, or missionary society (mission).";

In Article 12:

In part three:

Paragraph 1 shall be amended as follows:

"1) the name, type of religious organization, its religious affiliation, and location";

It shall be supplemented with paragraph 11 as follows:

"11) the governing bodies of the religious organization, their competence, and the procedure for their decision-making";

Paragraph 6 shall be amended as follows:

"6) the procedure for resolving property and other issues in the event of the termination of the religious organization";

Parts seven and eight shall be excluded.

In Article 14:

Part one shall be supplemented after the words "charter (statute)" with the words "in three copies";

In part two:

- In the first paragraph, the words "duly certified copies" shall be excluded;
- In the second paragraph, the words "decision (excerpt)" shall be replaced with the words "original decision";
- The third paragraph shall be supplemented before the words "document of ownership" with the words "duly certified copy";
- The third paragraph of part three shall be supplemented after the words "in the new edition" with the words "in three copies";

In part four:

- In the second paragraph:
  - The words "duly certified copy of the protocol (or excerpt from the protocol)" shall be replaced with the words "original protocol";
  - The words "and amendments" shall be excluded;
  - The word "these" shall be replaced with the word "such";
- In the third paragraph, the words "and amendments" and "and the original certificate issued by the registration authority (if such was issued)" shall be excluded;

Part eight shall be supplemented after the words "center (administration)" with the words "in three copies";

In the second paragraph of part nine, the words "duly certified copy of the decision (excerpt)" shall be replaced with the words "original decision";

Part twelve shall be supplemented after the words "religious educational institution" with the words "in three copies";

In part thirteen:

- In the first paragraph, the words "duly certified copies" shall be excluded;



- In the second paragraph, the words "decision (excerpt)" shall be replaced with the words "original decision";
- The third paragraph shall be supplemented before the word "charter" with the words "duly certified copy";
- The fourth paragraph shall be supplemented before the word "document" with the words "duly certified copy";

In part sixteen:

- The first paragraph shall be amended as follows:  
"The charter (statute) of a religious organization in the new edition shall additionally include:";
- In the second paragraph, the words "decision (excerpt)" shall be replaced with the words "original decision";
- The third paragraph shall be supplemented before the words "current edition" with the words "original or duly certified copy";

Part twenty-one shall be amended as follows:

"Exceeding the deadlines established by this Law for making decisions on the registration or refusal to register the charter (statute) of a religious organization may be appealed in court in the manner prescribed by law.";

Part two of Article 15 shall be amended as follows:

"A decision to refuse the registration of a religious organization's charter (statute) or the registration of the charter (statute) of a religious organization in a new edition, with an indication of the reasons for refusal, shall be communicated to the applicants in writing within ten days. Such a decision may be appealed to a higher administrative authority. In the absence of a higher administrative authority, the complaint is submitted to the same administrative authority that issued the administrative act, performed the procedural actions, and/or made the procedural decision or allowed the inaction that is being appealed, provided that a complaints commission has been established. If such an administrative authority has not established a complaints commission, a lawsuit challenging the administrative act, procedural decision, action, or inaction of the administrative authority shall be filed with the court in accordance with the law.";

Article 16 shall be amended as follows:

Article 16. Termination of a Religious Organization

A religious organization may be terminated:

- 1) due to its reorganization or liquidation;
- 2) by a court decision in case of violation of this Law.

A religious organization may be terminated through legal proceedings only in cases of:

- 1) actions by the religious organization deemed unacceptable under Articles 3, 5, and 17 of this Law;
- 2) combining the ceremonial or preaching activities of the religious organization with acts that infringe upon the life, health, freedom, and dignity of individuals;
- 3) systematic violation by the religious organization of the established legal procedure for conducting public religious events (worship services, rituals, ceremonies, processions, etc.);
- 4) inducing citizens to disobey their constitutional duties or engaging in actions accompanied by gross violations of public order or encroachments on the rights and property of state, public, or religious organizations;

- 5) the conviction of its authorized representatives for committing a crime against the foundations of Ukraine's national security or for committing a criminal offense specified in Articles 161, 190, 209, 258–2586, 436–438, 442, 447 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine;
- 6) failure to comply within the period established by this Law with the order provided for in Article 30 of this Law regarding the elimination of a violation;
- 7) the discovery of repeated instances of using the religious organization for the purposes of spreading the propaganda of the "Russian World" ideology according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations";
- 8) the discovery of violations of the requirements regarding the establishment and activities of a religious organization whose governing center (administration) is located outside Ukraine in a state that has committed or is committing armed aggression against Ukraine and/or has temporarily occupied part of Ukraine's territory, as established by the Constitution of Ukraine, this Law, and other laws of Ukraine.

The court shall consider the case regarding the termination of a religious organization in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law.

If grounds for the termination of a religious organization established by this Law are identified, the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion or the authority authorized to register the charter (statute) of the respective religious organization shall promptly file a lawsuit with the court for the termination of the religious organization.

By a court decision on the termination of a religious organization, a commission for the termination of the religious organization (liquidation commission) is appointed.

The examination of the issue regarding the presence of signs of affiliation of a religious organization operating in Ukraine with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations," as established by Article 51 of this Law, is conducted by the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion, either on its own initiative or based on a request from a state authority, a local government body, a civic association, or other persons.

A notice about the commencement of the examination of the issue regarding the presence of signs of affiliation of a religious organization operating in Ukraine with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations," as established by Article 51 of this Law, is published by the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion on its official website.

After the publication of the notice on the commencement of the examination, the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion may request information, explanations, documents, and extracts from public electronic registers from state authorities, local government bodies, legal entities, and individuals that are necessary to conduct the examination and determine the presence or absence of signs of affiliation as defined by Article 51 of this Law.

To determine the signs of affiliation of a religious organization with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations," the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion may use the conclusions of religious studies, information from other central executive authorities, data from public electronic registers, as well as information received from individuals and legal entities, from the media, and other open sources.

When assessing the presence or absence of signs of affiliation as defined by Article 51 of this Law, the relevance, admissibility, and reliability of each fact, conclusion, argument, and other evidence obtained during the investigation are considered separately, as well as the credibility and interrelation of the evidence as a whole. The existence of a circumstance on which any interested party relies as the basis for their arguments or objections is considered proven if the

evidence provided to support such a circumstance is more credible than the evidence provided to refute it. The reasons for recognizing certain evidence as more credible concerning each circumstance on which the presence of signs of affiliation is established may be communicated to the religious organization simultaneously with the issuance of the order.

If signs of affiliation of a religious organization with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations” are established, the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion issues an order to eliminate the violations and sends it to the religious organization. Simultaneously with sending the order to eliminate the violations, the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion compiles a list of religious organizations that are part of (or affiliated with) the structure of the religious organization for which the order to eliminate violations was issued and publishes it on its official website. The specified list may be modified, supplemented, or clarified in accordance with information received by the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion.

Within 30 days from the date of receiving the order to eliminate violations, the religious organization is obliged to eliminate the violations specified in the order and submit a report on the elimination of the violation, along with the relevant supporting evidence, to the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion. Along with the report, objections regarding the established signs of affiliation that served as the basis for issuing the order may also be submitted. The deadline for submitting the report may be extended by the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion, upon a substantiated request from the religious organization, but not for more than 60 days.

A religious organization that is part of (or affiliated with) the structure of another religious organization for which a decision has been made recognizing it as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations” may also submit objections along with the report on the elimination of the violation, contesting its affiliation with or connection to the structure of, or its affiliation in any other way with, the specified religious organization.

Based on the materials collected during the investigation, including the report and other documents provided by the religious organization, the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion determines whether there are grounds to conclude that the violation has been eliminated or that the issued order was incorrect. An order to eliminate violations that was issued incorrectly is withdrawn, and the religious organization is informed of this.

When determining whether there are grounds for concluding that the violation has been eliminated or that the issued order was incorrect, the rules for assessing the presence or absence of signs of affiliation established by this article are applied.

If the religious organization does not submit a report on the elimination of the violation within the period established by this article or if the submitted report does not confirm the elimination of the violations specified in the order to eliminate violations, and in the absence of grounds for withdrawing the order, the relevant religious organization is recognized as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations.” The central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion makes the appropriate decision, notifies the relevant religious organization in writing, and publishes an announcement on its official website.

After making a decision to recognize a religious organization as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,” the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion:

1. Issues an order to eliminate violations to religious organizations that show signs of affiliation with the religious organization recognized as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,” and/or to religious organizations that are part of (or affiliated with) the structure of such a religious organization recognized as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations”;

2. Sends a notice about the recognition of the respective religious organization as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations” to the State Property Fund of Ukraine, local government bodies, and other legal entities and individuals for which there is information about providing property for use by the respective religious organization, for the early termination of property rights, including the early termination of lease agreements for the relevant property concluded with the religious organization, and the revocation (early termination) of decisions on providing the respective property for use;

3. Files a lawsuit with the court for the termination of the religious organization based on paragraph 6 of part two of this article.

A religious organization, at any time after being recognized as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,” may submit an application to the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion to revoke the decision recognizing its affiliation due to the independent elimination of the signs of affiliation established by Article 51 of this Law. Such an application must be accompanied by a report on the elimination of the violation along with the relevant supporting evidence. The application and the attached report are reviewed according to the general procedure established by this article.

In Article 17:

After part two, eight new parts shall be added as follows:

“State and/or municipal property, including religious buildings, structures, and assets, cannot be used or transferred to a religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,’ as well as to religious organizations whose activities are not permitted under Article 51 of this Law.

The right to use state or municipal property granted to religious organizations whose activities are not permitted under Article 51 of this Law, and contracts concluded with such religious organizations related to the use of state or municipal property (lease, rental, leasing, or other forms of using third-party property) shall be terminated early, 60 days from the date of the decision to recognize the respective religious organization as affiliated with a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations.’ Contracts related to the use of state or municipal property by a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection

of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations 'shall be terminated early, 60 days from the date of the enactment of the mentioned Law.

Transactions conducted in violation of part three of this article are void.

A religious building or structure is a real estate object specifically designated to satisfy religious needs through the conduct of worship services, religious rites, ceremonies, processions, rituals, prayers, services, religious gatherings, and the facilitation of other types of religious practices.

A complex of religious buildings is a topographically defined collection of separate or interconnected religious buildings, structures, as well as other objects necessary to ensure the religious practices of a religious organization.

Religious property refers to property designated for conducting worship services, religious rites, ceremonies, processions, rituals, prayers, services, religious gatherings, and the facilitation of other types of religious practices.

In case of doubt regarding whether a building, structure, or property belongs to religious property, the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion may appoint a religious studies expert examination.

Religious organizations have the right to receive religious buildings, structures, and property that are state or municipal property for free use for the purpose of conducting worship services, religious rites, ceremonies, processions, rituals, prayers, services, religious gatherings, religious education, and the facilitation of other types of religious practices according to the internal guidelines of the religious organization in the manner prescribed by law.

In this regard, parts three to ten shall be renumbered as parts eleven to eighteen, respectively.

Part eighteen shall be amended as follows:

“Decisions of state bodies regarding the possession and use of religious buildings and property may be appealed in the administrative procedure in accordance with the Law of Ukraine ‘On Administrative Procedure ’and/or in court as provided by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine.”

Part two of Article 18 shall be amended as follows:

“It is prohibited to perform any actions that may result in the alienation of religious organization property, including its sale, exchange, transfer as collateral, establishment of a mortgage, or free transfer into the ownership or management of other persons, until the procedure for changing its subordination in canonical and organizational matters to any religious association operating in Ukraine or abroad is completed by registering a new version of the charter (statute) in the manner prescribed by this Law and by registering changes to the information about the legal entity in the manner prescribed by the Law of Ukraine ‘On State Registration of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs, and Public Formations.’”

In Article 20:

The title shall be amended as follows:

“Article 20. Disposal of Property, Funds, and Other Assets of Terminated Religious Organizations”;

In part one, the word “activities” shall be excluded;

In part two, the words “activities” and “former” shall be excluded;

In part four, the words “terminated its activities” shall be replaced with “terminated”;  
In part five, the word “activities” shall be excluded;

In Article 24:

After part two, a new part shall be added as follows:

“Relations and/or connections and/or communications of religious organizations with foreign religious organizations whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations ’are permitted with the presence of individual approval from the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion and are subject to monitoring in the manner prescribed by law.”

In this regard, parts three and four shall be renumbered as parts four and five, respectively.

In part one of Article 30:

It shall be supplemented with paragraphs eight to thirteen as follows:

“Conducting research on the presence of signs of affiliation of a religious organization with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations, ’in the manner prescribed by law;

Recognition of a religious organization as affiliated with a religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations’;

Issuing a mandatory order to eliminate violations of legislation on freedom of conscience and religious organizations, the form of which is approved by the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion;

Providing individual approval for relations and/or connections and/or communications with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations ’and monitoring connections and contacts with such a foreign religious organization;

Filing a lawsuit to terminate a religious organization in cases established by law;

Carrying out other actions defined by this Law.”

4) In the third paragraph of part three of Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Prosecutor’s Office” (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2015, No. 2-3, Art. 12, as amended), the words “religious organizations” shall be excluded.

5) In the Law of Ukraine “On State Registration of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs, and Public Formations” (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2016, No. 2, Art. 17, as amended):

a) The third paragraph of point 14 of part one of Article 1 shall be amended as follows:

“the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion, in the case of state registration of legal entities - religious organizations (religious centers, administrations, monasteries, religious fraternities, missions, and religious educational institutions); the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional, Kyiv, and Sevastopol city state administrations - in the case of state registration of legal entities - religious organizations (religious communities)”;

b) Part two of Article 4 shall be supplemented with a fourth paragraph as follows:

“State registration of legal entities - religious organizations (religious communities) based on documents submitted in paper or electronic form is carried out regardless of the location of the religious organization (religious community). In the case of the termination of a legal entity - a religious organization (religious community) based on a court decision regarding the termination of such a religious organization (religious community), the state registration of the termination is carried out by the registration entity at the location of the respective legal entity”;

c) The third paragraph of point 6 of part one of Article 15 shall be amended as follows:

“The provision of the second paragraph of this point regarding the notarization of the authenticity of the signature does not apply to the state registration of changes to information about a state body, local government body, civic association, charitable organization, or religious organization contained in the Unified State Register, as well as to the state registration of changes to information about a legal entity made based on a dispositive act of a state body or local government body.”

6) In Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Lease of State and Communal Property” (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020, No. 4, Art. 25):

Part two shall be supplemented with the words “except for the transfer of state or communal property that is religious property, including religious buildings and structures, to a religious organization for free use or loan for the purpose of conducting worship services, religious rites, ceremonies, processions, rituals, prayers, services, religious gatherings, religious education, and facilitating other types of religious practices in the manner prescribed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine”;

After part two, a new part shall be added as follows:

“3. It is prohibited to transfer state or communal property for free use, loan, or lease to a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,’ and to legal entities whose owner or participant is such a foreign religious organization, as well as to religious organizations whose activities are not permitted under Article 51 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations. ‘If the signs of affiliation, as defined by the specified article, are detected after the transfer of property for free use, loan, or lease, the corresponding agreement shall be terminated early, and the decision on the transfer shall be revoked based on the relevant notification from the central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the field of religion.”

In this regard, part three shall be considered part four.

7) Part eight of Article 51 of the Law of Ukraine “On Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Criminal Proceeds, Financing of Terrorism, and Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction” (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020, No. 25, Art. 171; as amended by the Law of Ukraine of September 6, 2022, No. 2571-IX) shall be supplemented after the words “engaged in professional self-regulation in the notarial field” with the words “religious organizations.”

8) In part one of Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Prohibition of Propaganda of the Russian Nazi Totalitarian Regime, Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State against Ukraine, and the Symbolism of the Military Invasion of the Russian Nazi Totalitarian Regime in Ukraine” of May 22, 2022, No. 2265-IX (Official Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2023, Nos. 47-50, Art. 120):

Shall be supplemented with paragraph 11 as follows:

“11) ‘Russian World’ ideology – a Russian neo-colonial doctrine based on chauvinistic, Nazi, racist, xenophobic, and religious ideas, images, and goals, including the destruction of Ukraine, the genocide of the Ukrainian people, and the denial of the sovereignty of Ukraine and other states, which aims at the violent expansion of the Russian supranational imperial space as a means of exercising a special civilizational right of Russians to mass killings, state terrorism, military invasions of other countries, occupation of territories, and the extension of the canonical territory of the Russian Orthodox Church beyond the borders of the Russian Federation”; Paragraph 3 shall be supplemented with the words “promotion of the ‘Russian World’ ideology in any way and/or by any means.”

3. Sixty days after the enactment of this Law, contracts for free use, loans, or leases of state or communal property concluded with a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine shall be terminated early.

4. Religious organizations that, as of the date of the enactment of this Law, have registered their charters (statutes) in accordance with the legislation on freedom of conscience and religious organizations, are required to bring their activities and charters (statutes) into compliance with the requirements of this Law within three months from the date of its enactment.

5. Any activities of legal entities owned or participated in by a foreign religious organization whose activities are prohibited in Ukraine are prohibited. Such legal entities must bring their activities into compliance with the requirements of this Law within three months from the date of its enactment.

6. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall:

1. Within three months from the date of publication of this Law:

- Ensure the adoption of regulatory legal acts necessary for the implementation of this Law;
- Align its regulatory legal acts with the requirements of this Law;
- Ensure that ministries and other central executive authorities review and align their regulatory legal acts with this Law;
- Take the measures prescribed by law to return state property from the use of a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations,” and religious organizations whose activities are not permitted under Article 51 of the Law of Ukraine “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations”;

2. Within six months from the date of publication of this Law, take the measures prescribed by law to return state property from the use of legal entities owned or participated in by a foreign religious organization whose activities in Ukraine are prohibited under Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Protection of the Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations.”

Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine