"Legislation of Ukraine on Education and the Church"
January 19-20, 2006

One of a series of public meetings, entitled:
"Religion and Education: Contemporary Models of Relationship"

Day 1: Thursday January 19, 2006
Arrival of seminar participants

9.00-11.00 – Registration of seminar participants
Presentations of schools and display of curricular materials, exchange of information and informal interaction among participants.

10.30-11.00 Tea, coffee

11.00-14.00 **Plenary Session 1**
Introductory remarks:
Ministry of Education and Science
Parliament of Ukraine
Administration of the President of Ukraine (Academic Consultant, Dr. O.Sagan)
Ukrainian Association of Religious Scholars (President, Prof. A. Kolodniy).
State Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine
Association of Christian Schools International (President, Dr. K. Smitherman)
European Association for Education Law and Policy (Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Jan De Groof, Belgium)

Reports
"Ukrainian Legislation on Education and Freedom of Conscience" (Ministry of Justice)
"Legal Problems of Establishing Schools by Religious Organizations" (Ministry of Education)
"European Experience in Education" (Jan De Groof, Belgium)

14.00-15.00 Lunch

15.00-16.00 **Discussion Session: "The Ukrainian Experience of Establishing Non-governmental Educational Institutions in the Context of European Integrative Processes in Education."**

16.20 – 16.40 Tea, coffee

16.40 - 18.00 **Choice of Discussion Sessions: 1.) "Distinctive Features of Elementary and Secondary Education Functioning in Ukraine in the Context of Freedom of Conscience" OR 2.) "Institutions of Higher Education on the Way to Organizational Transformation and Ensuring Freedom of Conscience."**

Questions for discussion:
- Does Ukrainian law allow the existence of schools established by religious organizations?
- Are there conflicts in Ukrainian Law concerning the establishment of educational institutions at the initiative of religious organizations? If so, what is the nature of these conflicts?
- Is it possible to resolve these conflicts at the present time?
- How can these conflicts be resolved practically?
- What specific steps need to be taken by society, certain institutions and government officials for establishing alternative schools and ensuring their equal rights with state schools?
- What specifically needs to be changed in the legislation and which laws should be changed?
- Is it sufficient to change laws that would allow the establishing of educational institutions by religious organizations? What can be done to ensure implementation and observance of these laws? How should they be implemented practically?
- Considering the protracted process of introducing change to legislation, is it necessary to have any transitional (temporary) measures taken by the government (e.g., an explanatory letter by the Ministry of Education and Science in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, instructives/ recommendations, directives by the President or Minister of Education, etc.)?
- Is it necessary to have a legislative formulating process to create an agency that would license and accredit such schools? If so, what kind of agency should it be and how should the control of establishing and functioning of such schools be carried out?
- Should revised legislation stipulate the financing of the practical implementation of the chances to the law?

Day 2: Friday January 20, 2006

9.00-11.30 Second Plenary Session

Reports
"Ukrainian Realities" (O. Sagan, Ukraine)

“An Overview of the American Experience” (K. Smitherman, USA)
“The Experience of Protestant Churches in Establishing General Education Schools” (Y.Reshetnikov, Ukraine)
“Education in the UK” (J. Shortt, UK)
“Contributions of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches in the Improvement of the System of Education in the Area of Spiritual Formation of the Person” (Ukraine)

11.30 – 12.00 Tea, coffee

12.00- 14.00 **Discussion Session “Uniting the Efforts of Educators, Lawyers, Churches and the Government in Improving the Ukrainian System of Education.”**

14.00-15.00 Lunch

15.00-16.30 Discussion and formulation of an open letter or joint resolution by seminar participants

16.30-17.00 Seminar closing

17.00–18.00 Press conference for representatives of the mass media on the outcomes of the seminar

Departure of seminar participants