

His Excellency Petro Poroshenko  
President of Ukraine  
Presidential Administration Building  
Bankova St, 11  
Kyiv 01220  
UKRAINE

14 September 2017

## OPEN LETTER ABOUT THE LAW ON EDUCATION

**Dear Mr President,**

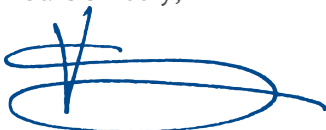
The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) expresses its deep concern about the adoption of amendments to the Law on Education by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. These amendments have the effect of depriving the national minorities in Ukraine of the possibility to receive proper education in their mother tongue, other than in nursery schools and elementary classes.

In the view of FUEN, this new Law on Education is in contravention of the Constitution of Ukraine, which states that the free development, use and protection of languages of the national minorities of Ukraine is guaranteed. The law is also in breach of Ukraine's international commitments to uphold the rights of national minorities and to promote the regional and minority languages within its territory.

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is the largest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous, national minorities in Europe, with more than 90 minority organisations from 32 European countries. In Ukraine, FUEN has 8 member organisations.

On behalf of FUEN, we request you to do everything within your powers to protect the language rights of the national minorities in Ukraine and prevent the entry into force of the parts of the new Law on Education that deny them the chance to learn their mother tongue appropriately.

Yours sincerely,



Loránt Vincze  
FUEN President

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