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Patriarch Kirill meets with Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

In Strasbourg, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill, this week met with Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Dunja Mijatović.

The Russian Patriarch referred to the significant role played by the Council of Europe as a safeguard for human rights.

During the talks, His Holiness Kirill cited his deep concern, as he said, over the discrimination faced by members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, a situation caused by the intervention of former Ukrainian leaders in Church affairs, as he underlined.

According to reports, the Russian Patriarch said "… recently, as you know, significant events occurred: a new president was elected in the Ukraine, and we hope the state's policy on human rights will change, as the previous government had openly engaged in the discrimination of people based on their religious affiliation."

Moreover, Kirill said two bills were passed under the administration of former Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko essentially violated the rights of the

canonical Ukrainian Church, he charged.