

Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

Human rights during pandemic

The 2nd International Interdisciplinary Conference PLACES Rīga, 25.03.2021

Human rights principles must be always present and understandable

If civil and politic rights are being restricted, it can become a <u>serious threat</u> <u>to democracy</u>



Information has not been <u>precise</u>, <u>clea</u>r and <u>timely</u> from the government

Lack of important crisis management information available for <u>people with visual</u> and hearing <u>impairments</u>



Restricted accessibility of public libraries <u>limits</u> <u>availability</u> of state and local government's services

Often librarians served as social workers and councillors



It is crucial that **emotional and psychological support** is available to all groups of the society

- >working people
- > children and young people
- > the elderly and people with disabilities



Freedom of speech provides wide spectrum of <u>reception</u> and <u>distribution</u> of information.

Spread of disinformation can <u>harm democratic values</u>, discredit the state and professional journalism.

In certain cases, freedom of speech leads to hate speech and might lead to hate crimes



The state must ensure <u>strong</u>, <u>independent</u> and <u>sufficiently</u> funded public <u>broadcasting</u> - to provide the society with significant information



Unemployment and limited support from the State, drive many people and many families into **poverty and misery**



State and local authorities <u>must find solutions</u> to provide students <u>with learning possibilities</u>:

- > technical means such as computers and access to internet
- ➤ allow students or their parents to receive information about study process otherwise



There are still many people struggling to enjoy all rights each and every of us deserve





Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia

Thank you for your attention!