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THE ROLE OF DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS IN THE FORMATION OF THE RULE OF LAW

The development of a modern state requires observance of universal values, the observance of which will ensure the formation of a modern state in accordance with modern socio-cultural trends. This process must take into account modern challenges and the global development of states. Among the modern challenges are energy saving, dynamic development of high-speed communication, unification of the world economy, increased competition, aging of humanity, growth of the low-skilled stratum, changing forms of work, combination of large and small, joint entrepreneurship, opening of the amazing potential of the brain, growth of the service sector, especially educational, a new boom in self-education, the triumph of the individual.

The main mainstream of modern state-building is the introduction of democratic standards around the world. Democracy has become the most effective form of government, which is satisfactory. The global development of states has made democracy the most effective form of government. The main processes that can be characterized are the development of the rule of law, civil society, feminism, the spread of transparency in the activities of state bodies, and the involvement of the public in the adoption of state-management decisions. All of the above needs to be taken into account in the direction of building a democratic state.

Democracy is a universally recognized ideal, based on values common to people everywhere, regardless of cultural, political, social or economic differences:

- as an ideal, democracy aims to protect and promote the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, social justice and foster economic and social development. As a form of government, democracy is the best way of achieving these objectives; it is also the only political system that has the capacity for self-correction;

- democracy is based on two core principles: participation and accountability. Everyone has the right to participate in the management of public affairs. Likewise, everyone has the right to access information on government activities, to petition government and to seek redress through impartial administrative and judicial mechanisms;

- it therefore requires the existence of representative institutions at all levels and, in particular, a parliament in which all components of society are represented and which has the requisite powers and means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action;

- democracy is always a work in progress, a state or condition that is constantly perfectible;

- sustaining democracy means nurturing and reinforcing a democratic culture through all the means that education has at its disposal [1].

In 1995, the newly formed independent Committee on Standards in Public Life published a report setting out seven principles of public life, also known as the Nolan Principles. The descriptors to the principles were amended by the committee in 2013 and again in 2021. The principles and descriptors in place since 2021 are:

- Selflessness: holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

- Integrity: holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

- Objectivity: holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

- Accountability: holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

- Openness: holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

- Honesty: holders of public office should be truthful.

- Leadership: holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

The committee states that these principles apply to everyone who is a public office holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the civil service, local

government, the police, courts and probation services, non-departmental public bodies and in the health, education, social and care services. The committee says that holders of public office should “exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect”. They should also “actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs” [2].

The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers. **Just Law.** The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and procedural rights. **Open Government.** The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient. **Accessible and Impartial Justice.** Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve. These four universal principles constitute a working definition of the rule of law. They were developed in accordance with internationally accepted standards and norms, and were tested and refined in consultation with a wide variety of experts worldwide.

The development of democracy determines the need for the development of the rule of law, and vice versa, since these concepts are interdependent.

In summary, for the development of a democratic state of Ukraine and for the purpose of integration into the EU, the government of our country must adhere to the following principles: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership.

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GENDER EQUALITY IN UKRAINE: ANALYSIS OF LEGAL ACTS

Over the past decades, the problem of gender equality has become a common place in public discourse and politics. Governments, business community, trade unions, public organizations from different countries make many efforts to overcome discriminatory stereotypes, which create obstacles for ensuring equal legal status of men and women, as well as equal opportunities for its realization in public life.