

THE CONCEPT “NATIONAL MINORITY”: PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION

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Despite numerous attempts of scholars to agree upon the definition of “minority”, they fail to reach a consensus either on the universal or regional levels.

Therefore, the purpose of the article is to analyze the international and national scientific documentation to find the optimal definition of “national minority”.

The conducted analysis suggests that the terms “religious”, “language”, “race”, “ethnic minority” are quite widely used in professional literature in the study of certain aspects of the national problem. However, with the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and

Linguistic Minorities of 1992, their use has become a common phenomenon, despite the fact that this document did not offer their determination. Given the lack of a definition of “minority”, some experts do not see any sense in trying to define “ethnic”, “religious” and “linguistic” minority because, in their view, the definition of adjectives will hardly contribute something to the absence of definition of the noun to which these adjectives belong. Other scholars continue to study the working formulation of the terms necessary to define objective scientific approaches to allocate such populations and empower them with certain rights under international and national law.