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## **IMPROVEMENT OF MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

Since the start of Russia's war against Ukraine (February 24, 2022), according to official data from juvenile prosecutors, more than 525 children have been injured. At the same time, 183 children died and more than 342 were injured. These data are not final, as work is underway to establish them in places of active hostilities, in the temporarily occupied and liberated territories [6]. Children are afraid of shelling, afraid of their loved ones, afraid of death. To protect them from the horrors of war, parents and relatives are trying to take their children to safe countries. Today, about every second Ukrainian refugee is a child.

The occupiers do not stop rocket fire on residential buildings, kindergartens, schools, children's hospitals. They are brutally and arbitrarily blocking our children from dying of dehydration, starvation and without the necessary medical care and medication.

But the worst thing is that according to information from various sources, more than 121,000 children have already been forcibly deported to the Russian Federation. These are both orphans and those who have parents, and their exact whereabouts are unknown [7]. The Russian military can keep them for the exchange fund.

We are in a situation where in a country located in the heart of Europe, and where no mechanisms of international legal protection of children's rights work, international organizations are also powerless, some European countries have exchanged the lives of Ukrainian children for cheap gas.

That is, another type of crime of the occupiers in Ukraine is being opened: the abduction of our children. They are first forcibly deported to the territory of the DPR and LPR, and then they are going to be taken to Russia and distributed to Russian families.

This was announced by Darya Herasymchuk, Adviser to the President of Ukraine on the Rights of the Child and Child Rehabilitation, on her Facebook page.

She spoke of numerous signals that the Russian authorities are preparing changes to the law that will allow Russians to adopt Ukrainian children under a simplified procedure [5].

Indeed, the Russian media is already actively disseminating such information. The State Duma is preparing to amend the "road map" of adoption by April 13. Meanwhile, a temporary guardianship scheme is in force in Russia.

According to cynical Russian information circles, there is a high "demand" in Russian families for children «from Luhansk and Donetsk». Ukraine cannot help but react to such criminal intentions. Such «adoption» is a violation of the rights of the child, in particular, the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [4]. And the forced deportation of civilians (because in this case no one asked the children about their desire to relocate) is prohibited by the 1949 Geneva Convention.

It should also be reminded that – in accordance with the requirements of Article 283 of the Family Code of Ukraine – adoption by foreign citizens of children of Ukraine must be with the consent of the central executive body implementing state policy in the field of adoption and protection of children's rights. In Ukraine, such a body is the National Social Service of Ukraine. Adoption by foreigners without the consent of the official bodies of Ukraine is illegal.

By the way, in 2014, Russia has already implemented a kind of project «Train of Hope», under the guise of which Ukrainian children could get to Russia. The idea of the «Train»: from Moscow to different regions of Russia sent a special train with those wishing to adopt a child. And just then, in 2014, this train came to the occupied Sevastopol and Simferopol.

Researching this issue will be useful experience and experience of foreign colleagues. In particular, Catherine Bailey Abidi (2021) studied the prevention, protection and participation of children affected by armed conflict [1]; Johnson D., Walsh A. (2020) looked at Gender, Peacekeeping, and Child Soldiers: Teaching and Research on the Implementation of the Vancouver Principles [2]; Mazurana D. and Carlson K. (2006) studied the role of girls in armed conflict: recognizing and eliminating serious violations of girls' rights to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls [3].

Therefore, the main task today is to develop effective mechanisms for the protection of children's rights during the full-scale war of Russia against Ukraine on the basis of international experience, we offer:

1. Create specialized units of the Armed Forces (namely the armed forces – volunteers can not work under fire without weapons and military equipment) to search for children in the conflict zone.

2. Create a single information resource to report on war crimes involving children. The Ukrainian government will use this resource to sue the European Court of Human Rights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will use it to sue in the International Court of Justice at the UN.

3. Provide for the right of children and their legal representatives to receive property compensation for damage caused to the child during the conflict, including the costs of treatment, rehabilitation and prosthetics.

4. Create an electronic repository for Ukrainian students, professionals and human rights defenders to protect certificates, academic documents, diplomas, transcripts, professional certificates and other confidential materials from loss. It is a tool that can be used by children and teenagers in dangerous and unstable situations around the world, as well as those in conflict zones.

Conclusions. Thus, there is no situation in which violence against children or their exploitation, recruitment or encouragement to take part in hostilities is justified. The military should not attack educational and medical facilities, specialized children's centers or other places where children gather.

The parties to an armed conflict must ensure the full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to help children, protect and meet the needs of children. Any assault or violation of a child's rights should be condemned immediately, repeatedly and openly.

We must urgently end this war and condemn the genocide of the Ukrainian people, recognize Russia once and for all as an aggressor country that ignores and cynically violates any laws, international acts, jurisdiction and decisions of international courts and deliberately denies world and European values such as human life, dignity, inviolability, freedom, independence, peace, private property, etc.

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## **UZEWNĘTRZNIANIE PRZEKONAŃ RELIGIJNYCH W CZASIE WOJNY**

Prawo do wolności religijnej, przysługujące każdemu człowiekowi, wywodzi się z uznanej przyrodzonej godności i ma ono charakter niezbywalny [5]. Gwarancje wolności religijnej znajdują się nie tylko w prawie statutowym danej wspólnoty religijnej (kościół lub inne związku wyznaniowego), lecz również w międzynarodowym, europejskim oraz krajowych systemach prawnych. Każde państwo ma własne normy prawa wyznaniowego, czyli regulacje prawne w odniesieniu do ogólnie rzecz ujmując zjawiska religijności. Kluczowe znaczenie w zakresie rozumienia wolności religijnej ma Deklaracja Soboru Watykańskiego II o wolności religijnej „*Dignitatis humanae*”, w której czytamy: „Strzeżenie i wspieranie nienaruszalnych praw człowieka jest istotnym obowiązkiem każdej władzy państwowej. Powinna więc władza państwowa przez sprawiedliwe prawa i inne odpowiednie środki otoczyć skutecznie opieką wolność religijną wszystkich obywateli i stwarzać dobre warunki do rozwoju życia religijnego, aby obywatele naprawdę mogli korzystać z praw religijnych i wypełniać wyznaczone przez religię obowiązki (...)”.

Wolność myśli, sumienia i religii obejmuje zarówno wolność wyznawania lub przyjmowania religii według własnego wyboru, jak również wolność zmiany religii lub wyznania. W doktrynie prawa wyznaniowego podkreśla się, że wolność myśli, sumienia i religii w zakresie *forum internum* stanowi prawo absolutne i nie może być ograniczane [1, s. 61]. Wolność religii obejmuje także prawo do uzewnętrzniania