

## **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN UKRAINE: HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR**

The ongoing war in Ukraine has resulted in one of the largest internal displacement crises in Europe, creating profound humanitarian, economic, and environmental challenges. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) face immediate threats to their safety, access to basic services, and realization of fundamental human rights. Beyond the human toll, displacement exacerbates socio-economic pressures in host regions, affects labor markets, and poses risks to public infrastructure and the environment [1].

The relevance of this study lies in the intersection of armed conflict, mass displacement, and human rights protection. IDPs are particularly vulnerable to violations of their rights to housing, health, education, and social protection, which are further intensified by environmental hazards resulting from warfare, including damaged infrastructure, polluted water and air, and disrupted waste management systems [2]. The scale of displacement and the associated socio-economic strain require a comprehensive approach combining human rights law, environmental protection, and economic recovery policies [3].

Internally displaced populations face structural barriers to economic participation, including limited access to formal employment, insufficient social support, and exclusion from local decision-making. These obstacles reduce self-sufficiency, increase dependency on humanitarian aid, and may result in social marginalization [4]. European integration and globalization offer potential avenues to mitigate these challenges by providing access to international funding, institutional support, and frameworks for legal protection and social rights harmonization [5].

From a legal perspective, the protection of IDPs is guided by international humanitarian law, human rights law, and national legislation. Key instruments include the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which affirm the rights of displaced persons to adequate housing, healthcare, education, and protection from discrimination [6]. Nevertheless, implementation gaps, particularly in the context of ongoing military operations, leave many IDPs exposed to multiple vulnerabilities, including environmental hazards such as contamination of water and soil, destruction of energy infrastructure, and increased health risks [7].

Environmental degradation caused by warfare directly affects the well-being of displaced populations. The destruction of urban and industrial infrastructure, along with the disruption of ecosystems, not only endangers

human health but also complicates post-conflict recovery and resettlement processes. Addressing these risks requires integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian aid and development strategies, as well as strengthening accountability for environmental violations under international law [8].

In conclusion, the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine exemplifies the complex interplay between human rights, economic challenges, and environmental threats in the context of modern armed conflicts. Effective protection and support for IDPs necessitate integrated policies that combine legal safeguards, socio-economic inclusion, and environmental management. International cooperation, European integration mechanisms, and adherence to human rights standards are essential for ensuring that displaced populations can access their rights, rebuild their livelihoods, and contribute to sustainable post-conflict development [9].

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