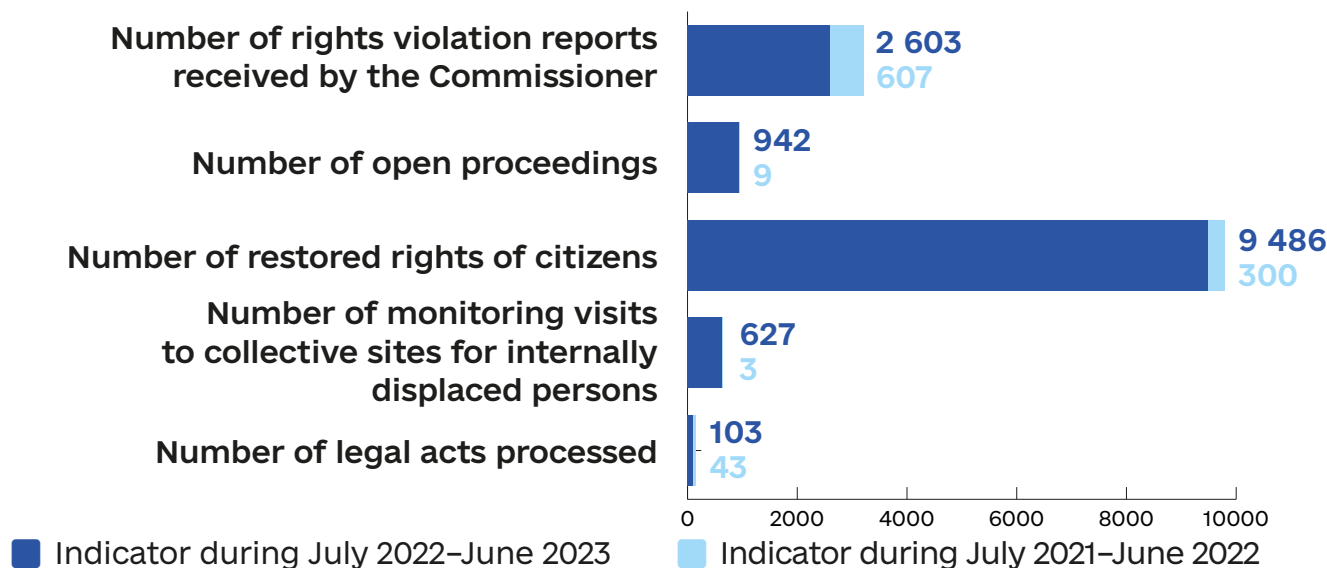


**A Year of Activities  
of the Ukrainian Parliament  
Commissioner for Human Rights  
in Protecting of the Rights  
of Citizens Affected by the Armed  
Aggression Against Ukraine**



Омбудсман України  
Ombudsman of Ukraine

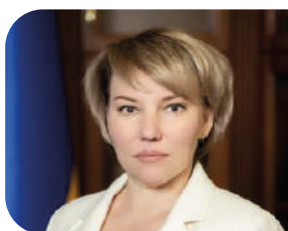
Dmytro Lubinets was appointed to the position of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights by the Resolution 2353-IX of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of 1 July 2022. This document covers the activities of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights for one working year, from July 2022 to June 2023, in the area of protection of the rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine.



## The structure of the Commissioner’s Office is adapted to the conditions of armed aggression against Ukraine

In the context of a full-scale war, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights faces an important task – to monitor observance of the rights of citizens affected by the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine and prevent violations of such rights.

Taking into consideration the new challenges and to ensure the best protection of citizens’ rights during the war, a resolution has been made to review the structure of the Commissioner’s Office. Therefore, the position of the Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens Affected by the Armed Aggression Against Ukraine was created.



### Olga Altunina,

Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens Affected by Armed Aggression Against Ukraine

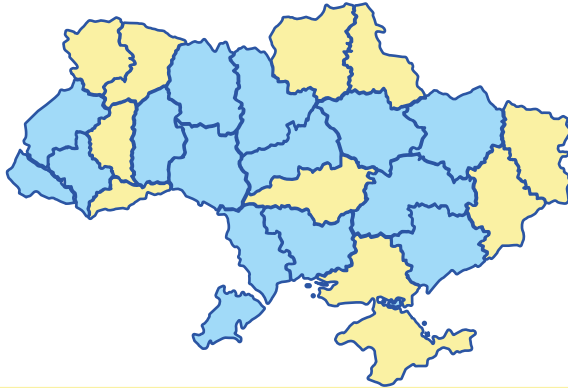
✉ [altuninaom@ombudsman.gov.ua](mailto:altuninaom@ombudsman.gov.ua)


Also, a separate structural unit was created, the Department for Monitoring the Observance of the Rights of Citizens Affected by the Armed Aggression against Ukraine, which includes four divisions:

- Division for the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
- Division for the Rights of Forcibly Deported Persons and Persons Displaced Outside the Territory of Ukraine
- Division for the Rights of Citizens Affected by the Armed Aggression Against Ukraine
- Division for the Rights of Citizens in the Temporarily Occupied Territories

# The Ombudsman's Office has expanded the network of its regional offices

The team of the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights has been enhanced by regional coordinators in **14** regions of Ukraine in the area of protection of rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine:



 regions where relevant coordinators are represented

To assist individuals affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine, the regional coordinators visit places of collective sites (CSs) of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to carry out monitoring and provide legal advice on:



financial aid to internally displaced persons



registration for pension payments and receipt of pension certificates



ensuring acceptable living conditions in collective sites



other issues related to the violation of the rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine

All the necessary help and advice can be procured by contacting the coordinator.

This initiative was made possible through a joint project with the Stabilisation Support Services Charitable Foundation, which is supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

# Ensured restoration of rights of citizens applying to the Commissioner

Between July 2022 and June 2023, the Commissioner received **2,603** reports of rights violations from citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine.

In their appeals, citizens reported violations of the rights to:



Social security – 2 116



Freedom of movement – 90



Right to petition – 71



Housing rights – 168



Employment rights – 23



Restoration of documents and/or paperwork (passports, birth certificates, certificates to return to Ukraine, etc.) – 75



Freedom from discrimination – 11



Other rights – 49

During the same period (July 2021–June 2022), the previous Ombudsman received **607** reports of rights violations from citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine, which is three times less than the latest figure.

The growing number of appeals to the current Ombudsman indicates both an increased level of trust in the institution as a guarantor of rights and an aggravation of the situation with ensuring the rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine.

Based on the information about violations of the rights and freedoms of individuals affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine, received through citizens' appeals and reports from public authorities, the Commissioner opened **942** proceedings between July 2022 and June 2023. Meanwhile, the previous Commissioner opened **9** proceedings during the same period (July 2021–June 2022). Based on the results of consideration of appeals and measures taken during the year of the Commissioner's work, the rights of **9,486** people were restored. For instance, between July 2021 and June 2022, the rights of approximately **300** people were restored in this area.

That is, the number of opened proceedings and restored rights of the war-affected population has multiplied by **100** and **30**, respectively, compared to the same period of the previous year.

## Several examples of the restoration of the rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine

### The issue of massive delays in the payment of housing allowances was resolved

*During the second half of December 2022–early January 2023, a number of IDPs from Bucha District of Kyiv Region appealed to the Ombudsman regarding their and their family members' failure to obtain financial aid to cover living expenses for a long period of time (between 2 and 6 months). When IDPs applied to the structural units of social*



protection, they were informed of the impossibility to accrue financial aid to them due to technical reasons.

Thus, on the initiative of the Ombudsman and coordinated work of all involved bodies, it was possible to eliminate the problem with processing IDP cases, including technical issues, and ensure payment of accommodation allowance arrears to **1,671** individuals..

### **Inspections of IDPs' actual place of residence have been suspended**

In October 2022, the Government introduced a mechanism for random inspections of the actual place of residence/stay of IDPs. Since this was unfounded under martial law, the Ombudsman received numerous appeals from citizens.

As a result of the Commissioner's response to the Prime Minister of Ukraine and the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine on the need to revise/cancel the rule on inspections of the actual place of residence of IDPs, random inspections of the IDPs' actual place of residence/stay were suspended in March 2023..



### **The right to receive a living allowance for an IDP family with many children has been restored**



The Ombudsman received an appeal from an IDP mother with many children. She had not received financial aid to cover her living expenses. The woman applied to social protection authorities for assistance. However, as she did not have a taxpayer registration number and also due to technical problems, the mother and her children were not paid UAH **17,000** per month from March 2022 to April 2023.

As a result of the Ombudsman's response, the competent authorities accrued the applicant an IDP allowance of UAH **238,000**, which is a significant support for the family in the current difficult circumstances. Therefore, the right of a mother of many children to receive IDP financial aid was restored.

### **The issuance of IDP pension certificates has resumed**

The Ombudsman learned of the impossibility to obtain electronic pension certificates for IDPs who had been displaced before 24 February 2022, as the institution that produced such certificates had been evacuated and temporarily ceased its operation. However, as established by the law, IDPs who were displaced before 24 February 2022 were also unable to obtain a pension certificate in paper form. That is, such persons did not have a single document confirming the assignment of a pension allowance. Therefore, during the current year alone, the Commissioner received **25** appeals on this issue.

Based on the results of the Commissioner's response acts, the Ministry of Social Policy and the Pension Fund of Ukraine developed a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Several Matters of Issuing Pension Certificates to Internally Displaced Persons", which provides for the issuance of pension certificates in paper form to IDPs upon their request.



### Implementation of the rights of state-supported IDPs has been ensured

The issue of assignment of housing allowance to internally displaced persons is under the Commissioner's permanent control, as such allowance is mostly the only source of income, especially for the elderly.



During the analysis of assignment of accommodation allowance to persons in geriatric boarding houses, psychoneurological boarding houses, orphanages, boarding houses for persons with disabilities and the elderly (39 institutions were covered), it was established that not all persons in these institutions had been informed about the option of receiving accommodation allowance.

As a result of the Ombudsman's response, 101 IDPs were granted accommodation allowance, including 6 residents of the municipal institution "Vyschetarasivskyi Psychoneurological Boarding House of the Dnipro Regional Council"; 49 residents of the municipal institution of the Sumy Regional Council "Atynskyi Psychoneurological Boarding House"; 46 residents of the Kyiv Nursing Home for Labour Veterans.

### Children from Kharkiv Region deported to the Russian Federation have been returned home

After the de-occupation of the Kharkiv Region, the Ombudsman learned of children who had been taken to the Russian Federation under the pretext of "rehabilitation" during the temporary occupation of the region.

To restore the right to family reunification, with the assistance of the Commissioner, the children's parents received financial support from the international charity foundation Caritas Ukraine. In addition, with the assistance of the Ombudsman and in close cooperation with the State Migration Service, the parents were promptly issued passports of Ukrainian citizens for



travelling abroad; and together with a charitable organisation, the logistics of a centralised trip of these families to Russia to pick up their children and back to Ukraine were planned. Therefore, 3 more children illegally taken to Russia were returned to Ukraine as a result of the Commissioner's response

### **A deported family has been returned to Ukraine**

*A citizen appealed to the Ombudsman for assistance in issuing a certificate of return to Ukraine for his wife who had been deported to Russia with their child.*

*At the Commissioner's initiative, measures were taken to facilitate the woman's receipt of the certificate and her return to Ukraine with her child. After verifying the information about the applicant and his family members, the State Migration Service issued a certificate in the name of his wife, which was subsequently handed over to her with the assistance of a non-governmental organization; then a safe evacuation was arranged through the Kolotylika-Pokrovka checkpoint to Kharkiv.*



## **The Ombudsman issued a Special Report on the observance of the rights of persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, covering the period from 24 February to 31 October 2022**

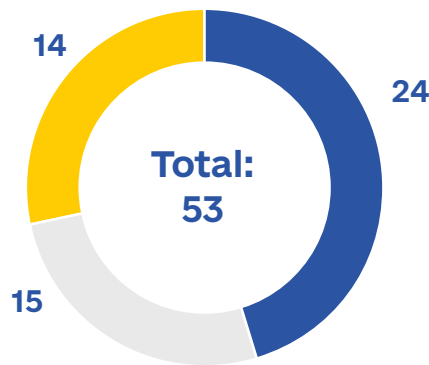
Considering the scale and systematic nature of human rights violations, for the first time in 9 years of war the Ombudsman prepared a Special Report on the observance of rights of persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, covering the period from 24 February 2022 to 31 October 2022. The Special Report was presented to the Members of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine at the meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, De-occupation and Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine,





## National Minorities and Interethnic Relations.

In the Special Report, the Commissioner proposed measures aimed at ensuring the observance of rights of this category of citizens pursuant to respective European and international standards, including **53** recommendations to state executive authorities, of which **14** have already been implemented and **24** are in the process of implementation.



■ 14 have already been

■ 24 are in the process of implementation



Download the Special Report

Thus, as part of the implementation of the said recommendations reflected in the Special Report, the authorities, among other things, have implemented the following recommendations:

**1.** On April 18, 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution No.339 Some Issues of Protection of Individuals, Including Children, Deported or Forcibly Displaced in Connection with the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine.

According to this resolution, the National Information Bureau collects and enters information about individuals, including children, deported or forcibly displaced in connection with the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, into the Unified Register of Individuals.

**2.** Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.1231 of 01 November 2022 On Amending Clause 2 of Resolution No.170 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 28 February 2022 introduced amendments to the Temporary Procedure for Entering Information into a Passport of a Citizen of Ukraine for Travelling Abroad. These amendments provide that the information on the extension of its validity period shall be entered into a passport for travelling abroad free of charge on the day of application by the passport holder or his/her legal representative or agent.



3. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.340 of 18 April 2023 On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Provision of Certain Types of Financial Aid, Benefits and Housing Subsidies, provides Ukrainian citizens with the option to apply for aid in connection with the birth of a child who has a foreign birth certificate.

4. By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.312-p of 07 April 2023, the Strategy of the State Policy on Internal Displacement for the period up to 2025 and the Operational Plan to Implement the Strategy of the State Policy on Internal Displacement for the period up to 2025 were adopted. With this document, the Government reviewed the guidelines for protecting the rights of IDPs in the wake of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation.

5. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Draft Law of Ukraine On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding Specifics of State Registration of Civil Status Acts that Occurred in the Territory of Ukraine Temporarily Occupied by the Russian Federation and Outside of Ukraine, which was registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (registration number 9069 of 28 February 2022). In particular, this document provides for the establishment of the facts of birth and death without petitioning the court.

6. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted Law of Ukraine No. 3048-IX On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Certain Specifics of the Organization of Enforcement of Court Decisions and Decisions of Other Bodies during Martial Law of 11 April 2023. In particular, the amendments stipulate that during martial law all individuals, without exception, shall be able to make expenditure transactions from accounts the funds on which have been seized by the state executive service and private enforcement officers; however, the aggregate amount of such transactions shall be no more than three minimum wages per month (the minimum protected amount). The said accounts may also be used to pay taxes and fees without consideration of such seizure..

7. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted Law No.3022-IX On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts on Simplifying Access to Free Legal Aid of 10 April 2023. This law, among other things, provides for application to receive free legal aid by means of electronic communication and the use of e-mail addresses for communication, which, in the context of the cessation of the functioning of courts and law enforcement agencies in the temporarily occupied territories, are the only effective mechanisms for obtaining legal aid for citizens under temporary occupation.

8. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted Law No.2923-IX On Compensation for Damage and Destruction of Certain Categories of Real Property as a Result of Hostilities, Acts of Terrorism and Sabotage Caused by the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the State Register of Property Damaged and Destroyed as a Result of Hostilities, Acts of Terrorism and Sabotage Caused by the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine of 23 February 2023. This Law, for the first time in the 9 years of war, defined the principles of state compensation for damage and destruction of certain categories of real estate affected by the military aggression of the Russian Federation.



## Monitoring of living conditions of IDPs in collective sites has been carried out

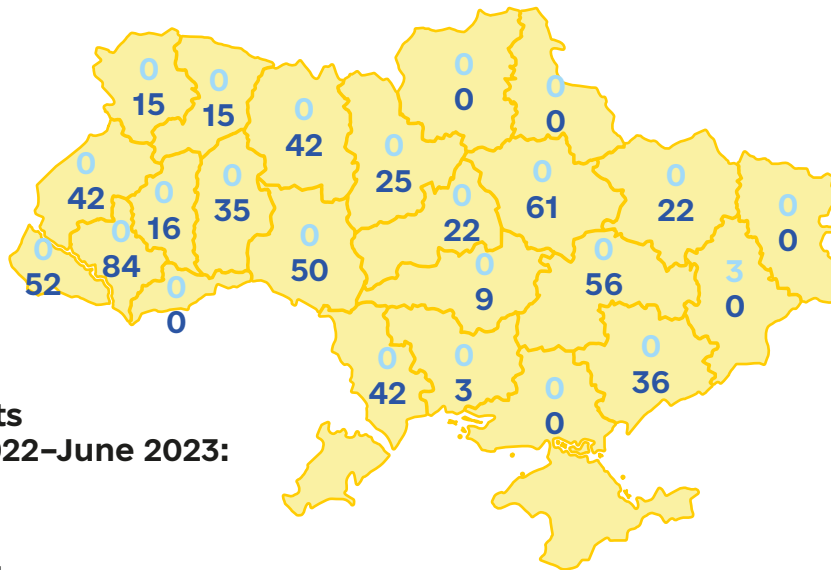
Internally displaced persons living in places of collective sites are considered one of the most vulnerable groups among displaced persons, as they cannot rent housing on their own or have to rely on the help of family or friends.

They are often forced to live in conditions that fail to meet even the most basic principles of dignity. One issue in particular is lack of personal space – women and children are forced to share rooms with men, which creates discomfort and deprives them of a sense of safety and security.



More than **4,000** collective sites have been identified throughout Ukraine, mostly in state-owned and municipally owned buildings, including schools and kindergartens, as well as dormitories of higher education institutions and secondary schools. More than **100,000** people live in such places of collective sites.

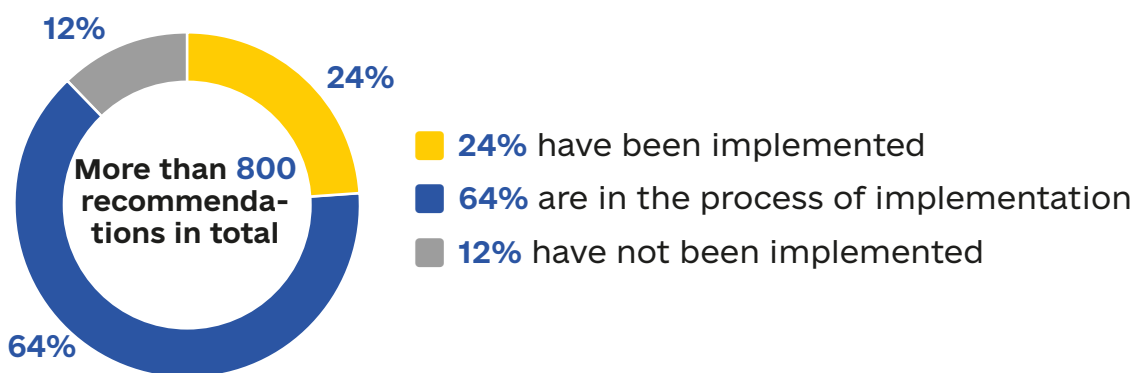
Therefore, the Commissioner pays special attention to this issue. During the year of activity, **627** monitoring visits to the collective sites were conducted.



**Total visits**  
In July 2022–June 2023:  
**627**

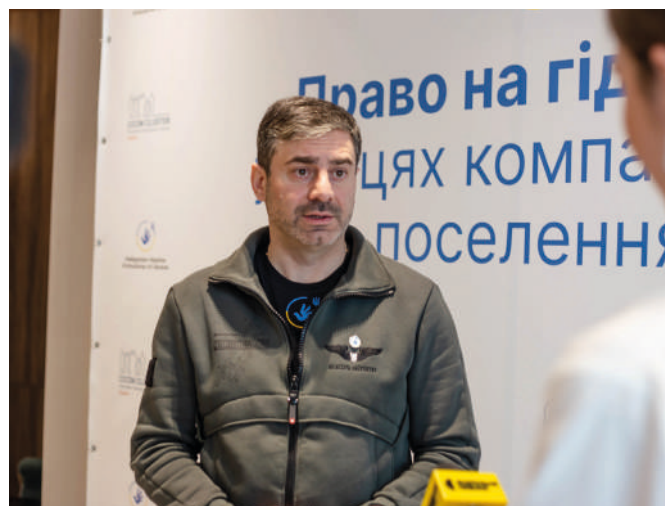
**Total visits**  
In July 2021–June 2022:  
**3**

All the information collected during the monitoring visits was summarized and thoroughly analysed by the Ombudsman’s Office, and the relevant response acts with proposals for improving living conditions in collective sites were sent to the authorities. In total, **800** recommendations were developed, which have been partially implemented or are in the process of implementation.



Meanwhile, during the same period in the previous year (July 2021–June 2022) only **3** monitoring visits were carried out.

Moreover, to highlight and focus attention on the issues of CSs, the Commissioner organized and held a conference “The Right to Dignity in Collective Sites”, attended by experts from a wide range of international and national organizations, as well as representatives of state bodies.





The conference resulted in the Commissioner's initiative to define the status of CSs and minimum standards of living conditions in them by law.

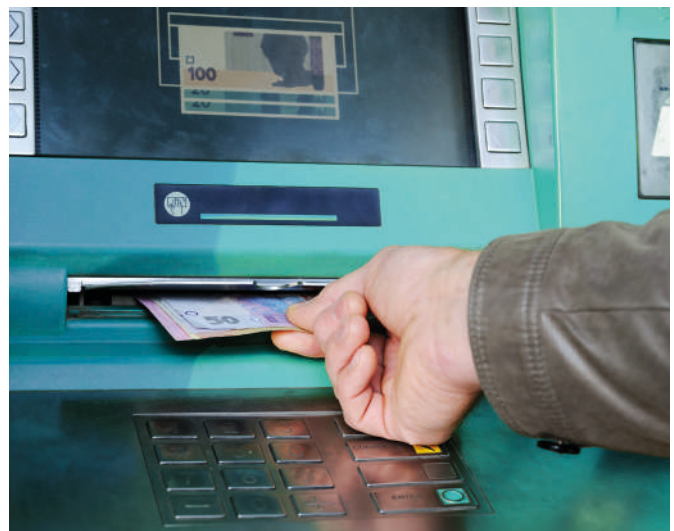
Currently, the draft procedure for the functioning of places of collective sites is at the final stage of development before being presented to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for review.

## Support to residents of the liberated territories was provided

Unemployment, destroyed houses and infrastructure, lack of medical care, mined areas and constant shelling are the consequences of the Russian occupiers' presence in Ukraine that residents of the liberated settlements have to face. Financial aid for the residents of these territories is mainly provided by international and national non-governmental organizations.

### **At the initiative of the Ombudsman, the right to receive financial aid was restored for citizens in de-occupied territories**

*Due to the tense security situation (constant shelling by the Russian Federation and land mining) which prevented the mobile units from reaching some of the de-occupied communities in Mykolaiv Region, more than **7,000** residents of such communities faced the risk of not receiving assistance.*



Due to the Commissioner's quick response and the joint efforts of the National Committee of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the International Organization for Migration, JSC Ukrposhta, Mykolaiv Regional State Administration and territorial communities of Mykolaiv Region, funding in the amount of UAH **14,000,000** was allocated and 7,289 Ukrainian citizens were granted the right to receive social aid.

## Assistance from international organizations has been engaged

To support individuals who lost their homes or were evacuated from the combat zone, a humanitarian project was implemented at the initiative of the Commissioner and in cooperation with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), which delivered **2,750** modular houses and 4,000 beds to Ukraine for the war-affected regions, with a total cost of USD **22.6 million**.

### For Bucha :



**300** modular houses



**1000** beds

### For Bucha District:



**250** modular houses



**1000** beds

### For Mykolaiv Region:



**500** modular houses



**2000** beds

### For Kharkiv Region:



**600** modular houses

### For Kherson Region:



**600** modular houses

### For Rivne:



**500** modular houses





In winter, these modular houses were used to create heating stations and keep our citizens warm. Now local authorities started to hand them over to the people whose homes have been damaged by the war, to deploy on their backyards.

## Monitoring the situation in the TOT has been ensured

Despite the fact that the Ombudsman is not directly able to perform his functions to prevent violations of the rights of residents of the temporarily occupied territories, he constantly monitors the observance of the rights of such persons, including through cooperation with international organizations and civil society representatives, as well as performs analysis of media reports, social media posts and reports of witnesses to events.

Recently, the Ombudsman has been receiving appeals regarding the facts and circumstances of forced Russian passportization. To ensure protection of the rights of such persons, these appeals were forwarded to law enforcement agencies to document the facts of forced passportization and to record information in the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations into Criminal Offences Committed by the Occupation Authorities.

It is worth noting that reporting the forced passportization to the relevant Ukrainian authorities is necessary, as recording such facts will confirm that an individual was forced to obtain a Russian passport, as well as that the Russian occupation authorities in these territories violate international norms by using all kinds of means to force receipt of Russian passports.

Considering that Article 25 of the Constitution of Ukraine grants everyone the right to change citizenship, which excludes the possibility of recognizing the result of a forced change of citizenship, the Commissioner has repeatedly drawn public attention to the fact that if obtaining a Russian passport is necessary for one's own survival – to obtain medicines or food, to leave the temporarily occupied territories, etc. – then obtaining a Russian passport is not a crime and must not be subject to criminal prosecution.

Obtaining a Russian passport is in no way a reason to lose Ukrainian citizenship. This position is based primarily on the provisions of Article 4 of the European Convention on Nationality on the principles of avoidance of statelessness and inadmissibility of arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

### **The Ombudsman informs law enforcement agencies about cases of obtaining Russian passport documents by citizens in the TOT against their will**

*The Ombudsman received an appeal from an applicant from the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk Region, who reported that she was forced to obtain a Russian passport to receive medical services, including medical care during childbirth.*

*As the woman was afraid for her life and the life of her unborn child, she applied to the Ombudsman to record the fact of forced acquisition of Russian citizenship.*

*The Ombudsman's Office sent an appeal to the Prosecutor General's Office for response, which resulted in the Donetsk Regional Prosecutor's Office entering the data into the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations.*



## **Monitoring the observance of the rights of Ukrainian citizens in the EU countries has been carried out**

As of 06 June 2023, **6,280,000** Ukrainian citizens have left the territory of Ukraine, including almost 6 million who fled to the EU countries. Women and children make up more than **85%** of the total number of refugees.

While temporary protection programs provide social and legal aid and opportunities to exercise rights for many refugees, some face practical administrative and legal barriers that limit their access to education, social protection, housing, decent work, and healthcare, among other things.

To prevent tension between refugees and the hosting communities, the Ombudsman's Office employees monitored the observance of the rights of Ukrainian citizens abroad and assisted in their restoration.

In addition, the Ombudsman's Office Secretariat receives numerous requests from Ukrainian citizens who have been granted asylum abroad regarding the possible period of stay in the asylum and the rules of residence there.

The Ombudsman also receives appeals regarding the improper organization of the educational process and the impossibility of finding employment for our citizens in host countries, all of which restricts their rights to proper living conditions and an adequate standard of living.



Considering that such situations required an immediate response and communication with foreign diplomatic missions and local authorities of the host countries, in 2022 and 2023 a number of monitoring visits abroad were carried out with the support of international organizations, including visits to Ireland, Poland, Sweden and Germany.

### **The right of Ukrainians to housing in Germany has been ensured**

*In March 2023, a citizen of Ukraine who was forced to leave his hometown in Kirovohrad Region and move to Germany as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, applied to the Ombudsman.*

*As the man had health issues (I Group disability) and needed outside care, he asked for help with accommodation in an institution for people with special needs.*

*To assist in resolving the issue, requests were forwarded to the Embassy of Ukraine in Germany and the Consulate General of Ukraine in Hamburg to explore the possibility of providing our citizen with appropriate living conditions and necessary care.*

*Due to joint efforts and cooperation with the German authorities, the man was placed in an institution with all the necessary conditions for the accommodation of persons with disabilities.*





## Collection of information on the problems of Ukrainians who fled abroad due to the war has begun

The Ombudsman's Office in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council has launched an important work in the field of researching the living conditions of Ukrainian refugees abroad. This joint initiative is aimed at identifying the problems faced by our citizens in order to find solutions that will ensure their proper living conditions and protection of their rights. This process involves collecting data, analysing issues, and identifying urgent needs that have to be addressed immediately.

The survey examines various aspects of living conditions of Ukrainian citizens, including access to housing, education, medical care and other social services. The data collected in the course of the survey will allow us to understand the problems faced by Ukrainians in the host countries.

The outcome of this work will be the comprehensive reports containing recommendations for improving the living conditions of Ukrainian refugees. These recommendations will be submitted to the Ukrainian Government and the governments of the countries where Ukrainian refugees reside in order to ensure their guaranteed rights.

## Expert council has been established under the Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights for the Rights of Citizens Affected by Russia's Armed Aggression against Ukraine

To provide expert and advisory support of the activities of the Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens Affected by the Armed Aggression against Ukraine, an expert council was established, consisting of leading specialists and experts dealing with the protection of the rights of people affected by the war.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, **the expert council held 4 meetings.**

**The main tasks of the expert council are:**



systematic analysis of the observance of rights and freedoms of the affected population



submitting proposals to improve legislation



preparation of proposals and recommendations to prevent violations of human rights and freedoms



submitting proposals to regulatory acts



## Working to establish and strengthen cooperation with the international community

We work in the international arena to find ways to ensure human rights in Ukraine and for citizens who have taken temporary refuge abroad, fleeing the war.

**September 2022, Reykjavik:** During participation in the 26th Annual Conference and General Assembly of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC), the Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens Affected by the Armed Aggression against Ukraine informed the international community of the current situation with children's rights in Ukraine. The issue of deportation of Ukrainian children to the territory of the Russian Federation and their adoption was emphasized. As a result of such work, representatives of various ENOC member states expressed their support and readiness to cooperate to facilitate the return of deported Ukrainian children to the territory of Ukraine.

**October 2022, Berlin:** During the visit to the Republic of Germany, the Representative of the Commissioner held a number of meetings with experts in the field of politics, business and civil society, in particular, Katrin Göring-Eckardt, Vice President of the Bundestag; Renata Alt, Member of the Bundestag, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid; Anton Hofreiter, Member of the Bundestag, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs; Luisa Amtsberg, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office; Britta Behrendt, Head of the Department for Ukrainian Refugees at the Federal Ministry of the Interior (Germany).

**October 2022, Warsaw:** The Representative of the Commissioner delivered a speech at the OSCE Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw. The speech concerned the humanitarian situation in the context of Russian aggression.

**January 2023:** The Ombudsman of Ukraine and the Representative of the Commissioner held meetings with high-level Council of Europe officials during a visit to France.



**January 2023:** The Representative of the Commissioner spoke at a meeting of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag, during which she provided information on the protection of the rights of Ukrainians in Germany, as this country is the second largest country to receive Ukrainian refugees since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation.

**May 2023:** The Representative of the Commissioner spoke at the ENOC Spring Seminar in Stockholm. The main topic of discussions and research at the event was the role of independent human rights institutions in crisis and emergency situations.

During the event, separate meetings and discussions on protection of children's rights during armed conflicts were held with the Minister of Social Services of Sweden Camilla Waltersson Grunwall, Children's Ombudsman of Sweden Elisabeth Dahlin, Head of ENOC Caroline Vriens, Senior Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia at UNICEF Anna Knutzen, as well as representatives of National Human Rights Institutions from different countries.

**June 2023:** The Representative of the Commissioner spoke at the Interregional Forum on Implementation of Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement, held in San Remo, Italy, at the invitation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ukraine.

The main goal of the forum was to bring together representatives of Ombudspersons and state authorities from different countries to discuss issues related to the implementation of laws and policies on internal displacement. Best practices in the field of institution building to respond to internal displacement were presented along with the data that helps shape state policies and budgets to meet the needs and rights of internally displaced persons, as well as to achieve local integration of IDPs as a possible long-term solution.

During the visit, the Representative of the Commissioner organized bilateral meetings with international experts, including Paula Gaviria Betancur, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons, and Walter Kälin, the Chair of the Swiss Platform on Disaster Relocation.

## Monitoring and analysis of legislation has been ensured

An equally important area of the Ombudsman's activity is the analysis of both currently effective legislation and draft legal acts in the field of ensuring the rights of citizens affected by Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine.

During the period from 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, more than **103** legal acts concerning protection of the rights of citizens affected by the armed aggression against Ukraine were processed. The Ombudsman submitted comments or suggestions to the said acts.



The Russian Federation and all the war criminals it has sent to Ukraine will be held accountable in the most severe manner for the evil they have committed.

Ukraine is carefully documenting every crime and every atrocity.

All those responsible will certainly be punished.

We will never forgive nor forget. Neither will the world.

**#StandWithUkraine**



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