



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

WITH A SHIELD TO VICTORY: NO RIGHT TO DEFEAT!



The Ukrainian Peace Formula – is the Restoration of Justice, Ensuring the Observance of Human Rights and Fundamental Values of the Democratic World

Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, worked as part of the Ukrainian delegation led by the head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, **Andriy Vermak**, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The key issue is a stable and just peace for Ukraine.

First, there was an important meeting of diplomatic advisers on national security and political directors of foreign policy departments of the leading countries of the world regarding the key principles of restoring a stable and just peace for Ukraine.

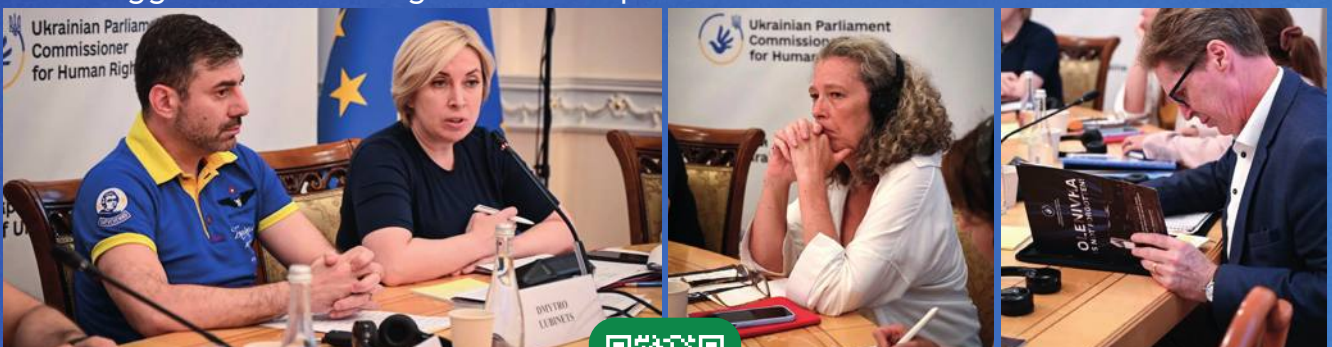


Representatives of more than 40 countries, including the EU member states, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain, UAE, South Africa and others, came to Jeddah. Among them were those who consistently support Ukraine in matters of territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty. At the meeting, each one had the opportunity to express their position, all having agreed with devotion to the principles of the UN Charter, **upon which the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is based.**

Subsequently, a series of bilateral negotiations were held. During his visit to Jeddah, the Ombudsman of Ukraine focused on humanitarian issues and the horrific crime of the Russian Federation - the deportation of Ukrainian children. Currently, Ukraine needs assistance and support from third countries in their return, as, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia, Ukraine has severed diplomatic relations with the terrorist state.

Ukraine is ready to work for peace and calls on the leaders of countries and international organizations to condemn the crimes of the Russian Federation and comprehensively support the observance of the rights of Ukrainian citizens, which Russia violates on a daily basis.

The Russian Federation is not only Ukraine's enemy - it is an enemy of the whole democratic world. And the fact that a large number of countries were represented in this meeting clearly shows that more and more nations understand the real threat of the aggressor and the global consequences of the war in Ukraine.



The Peace Formula – is a global initiative aimed at restoring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, achieving a sustainable and just peace in Europe, and preventing the crime of aggression in the future by coordinating the efforts of the international community.

The Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for the implementation of point 4 of the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy - the release of all prisoners and deportees, especially the return of illegally deported children.

So Dmytro Lubinets met with ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic missions and discussed specific initiatives to that end.

Regarding the return of children, the Ombudsman:

- asked to participate in the collection of information regarding the whereabouts and condition of children in the territory of the Russian Federation, Belarus and the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, in order to obtain lists of all children held by the aggressor country;
- offered the participants that their states become protecting powers in the issue of returning Ukrainian children;
- suggested to participate in documenting the facts of the deportation of Ukrainian children, which constitutes a war crime and a component of genocide;
- asked for assistance in creating psychological rehabilitation centers for children who experienced the horrors of deportation and war.

Regarding the return of civilian hostages, the Ombudsman:

- called upon the participants to find a mechanism for the Russian Federation to return all civilians to the Motherland through a third country, international organization or another intermediary, because, according to the Geneva Conventions, its actions constitute a gross violation;
- offered to establish an international working group that could receive access to places of detention of Ukrainian defenders and civilian hostages;
- asked to set up the opening of humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of the Ukrainian civilian population from temporarily occupied territories or zones of hostilities.

Regarding the return of prisoners of war, the Ombudsman:

- asked for assistance in verifying and checking the conditions of detention of Ukrainian prisoners of war;
- called upon the participants to facilitate the repatriation of seriously wounded prisoners of war, as stipulated by the Geneva Convention;
- called upon the participants to find an algorithm that would force the Russian Federation to comply with the Geneva Conventions.

The Ombudsman separately emphasized that the UN should resume the mission to investigate the cynical premeditated murder of Ukrainian prisoners of war held by the Russian Federation in the Olenivka colony.

He also offered to help in the creation of the International Center for Conflict Resolution (a center for the formation of rapid response to emergency situations) in Ukraine.

Ukraine is open to new approaches, initiatives and ideas that will have the most valuable result - saved people's lives!

The Russian Federation Continues Its Brutal Shelling of Peaceful Ukrainian Cities

Through August (as through previous months), Russia continued to bombard Ukraine with various missiles and bombs.

For instance, on August 7, the Russians hit a 9-story building in Kherson. A woman died. There were also injured among the firefighters.



On the same day, the occupiers shelled the city of Pokrovsk in Donetsk Region. Five people died and 18 were wounded. And during the repeated shelling, the deputy chief of the Main Directorate of the State Emergency Service in the Donetsk region was killed. Another 4 rescuers, 8 policemen and 3 civilians were injured.



The Russian Federation also shelled the Kupiansk District in Kharkiv Region. 2 people died and 5 were injured. The enemy used guided aerial bombs and cluster munitions against the civilian population.



On August 9, the Russians continued to take away from Ukrainians the right to life! This time, as a result of «Russian roulette» in **Zaporizhzhia**, civilians were hit by rockets near a church and shopping pavilions in a residential district.



On August 10, the city of **Zaporizhzhia** came under fire again. As a result of the attack, cars parked nearby caught fire, the blast wave and fragments partially destroyed the civil infrastructure object. One person died, 16 others were injured, including 4 children.



Photo by Oleksandr Oliynyk

On August 11, a Russian aeroballistic missile hit a residential building in **Ivano-Frankivsk Region**, where a family with three children lived. An 8-year-old boy died.



On August 15, the enemy hit the **Dnipro, Lviv, Lutsk, Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytskyi, Kramatorsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Cherkasy Regions** with cruise missiles.

In Lviv, a kindergarten and residential buildings became a target. Many of them were damaged. People were wounded.



In Dnipro, an enterprise and a sports facility where all-Ukrainian competitions were held, became targets. There were victims.



In Lutsk, an industrial facility became a target, with three people dead.
In Cherkasy region, the targets were a medical institution and a private enterprise.
In Kramatorsk, a warehouse became a target, with one person dead and one injured.

On August 19, the Russian Federation shelled **Chernihiv** - missiles hit objects in the center of the city. It was a festive day of Transfiguration (the so-called Apple Feast of the Saviour), when people with baskets returned from churches and strolled around the city.

As a result of the shelling, 7 people died, including a 6-year-old child. 156 people are known to have received injuries of varying severity.

The drama theatre was hit, due to the blast wave, a fire broke out in the premises of the local commercial court and the building of Chernihiv Regional Administration was damaged – as well as the other buildings, shops, cafes in the city center and around... There was also a public transport stop nearby, a regular bus stopped at it to pick up and drop off passengers. Many victims in this very place. On a day off, the central part of the city was always crowded.



There should be punishment for these crimes. Russia is evil! We will not forgive!

We are Working to Liberate Every Ukrainian From Prisons, Torture Camps and Enemy Camps!

On August 7, 22 more Ukrainian soldiers returned home! These are the defenders of Ukraine who took part in battles in different directions. The youngest fighter is only 23 years old. There are wounded among them. Rehabilitation awaits the soldiers ahead. So far, 2,598 Ukrainians have returned home. This is the 48th successful exchange.

Ukraine is taking all possible steps to bring its citizens home. And every repatriation is the result of painstaking work. Welcome home!



Communication with Families of Prisoners of War and Missing Persons

In the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, weekly meetings are held with the families of soldiers who were captured by Russia. Relatives ask frank questions that concern them most, clarify the details of negotiations with the enemy side regarding the repatriation of Ukrainian military personnel, and express interest in the fate of those currently being held by the Russians near the combat zone.

They were informed that Ukraine had already notified the ICRC about the possibility of such a fact. They were also reminded that, according to Art. 12 of the Geneva Convention, the detaining state is responsible for the treatment of prisoners of war.



In addition, the soldiers' mothers were informed that the Russian Federation does not follow the principles of logic when negotiating or organizing the return process, which it wants to turn relatives against state authorities.

«They will not succeed. We are resilient and strong. We believe that our children will return», said the mother of one of the soldiers currently held in captivity.

Evidence of War Crimes Committed by the Belarusian Authorities Was Handed Over by the Office of the Ombudsman

A meeting was held between the deputy head of the United Transitional Cabinet, the Head of the People's Anti-Crisis Office, the former ambassador of Belarus to Poland, the representative of the Belarusian opposition, Pavel Latushka, together with the Representative of the Commissioner in the System of Bodies in Security and Defense Sector, Oleksandr Kononenko.

The meeting was dedicated to discussing the violation of the rights of Ukrainian children by the authorities of Belarus and its participation in the deportation of our young citizens. Pavel Latushka reported on additional evidence of war crimes committed by the Belarusian authorities.

An agreement on communication and joint work to establish the details of the involvement of Belarus in the criminal activities that Russia has deployed on the territory of our sovereign state was reached.



Ukraine Established Mixed Medical Commissions as an Additional Tool for the Release of Prisoners

Ukraine adheres to the Geneva Conventions, which stipulate that prisoner exchanges should be carried out after the end of hostilities. However, there is an exception - **the seriously wounded or seriously ill are subject to unconditional repatriation even during an armed conflict**. In order to objectively determine the state of health of military personnel, mixed medical commissions are established.

In Ukraine, a commission will consist of three experts, each of whom shall have a deputy. Its members shall put forward proposals regarding the repatriation of prisoners of war, their exclusion from among the repatriates, or the postponement of the decision until further review. The establishment of a mixed medical commission in Ukraine is the result of the interaction of the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Ukraine and other organizations.



What are the tasks of these commissions in Ukraine?

First - to verify all seriously ill and seriously wounded Russian prisoners of war for further repatriation or hospitalization in a neutral country, after its determination.

Second - to encourage the establishment of a similar mixed medical commission by the aggressor country to determine the state of health of Ukrainian prisoners of war, their number, and to make an independent decision on the repatriation and hospitalization of seriously wounded and seriously ill prisoners of war in a neutral country, after its designation.

«For us, compliance with this norm of the Geneva Conventions is fundamental. And from the first days of negotiations with the Russian side, we emphasize and take all possible steps to return seriously wounded and seriously ill Ukrainians. In particular, I personally handed over the list with the names of such our citizens to the Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation in Turkey in January. In addition, I informed her that Ukraine has created a mixed medical commission recently», Dmytro Lubinets noted.

The Office of the Ombudsman protects the rights of people regardless of their citizenship. Therefore, the Commissioner welcomes the establishment of mixed medical commissions, which will allow joint assessment of the state of health of Russian servicemen in Ukraine.

«I will certainly raise this issue at the international level as well. After all, our goal is to provide proper medical care and effective treatment as soon as possible to all Ukrainian prisoners of war who need it, as well as to improve their conditions of detention in the Russian Federation», noted the Ombudsman of Ukraine.

The current establishment of a mixed medical commission is the third time in history that such an initiative has been implemented!



Oleksandr Kononenko

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Protecting Children's Rights Means Protecting the Future of Ukraine

Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets met with the head of UNICEF Ukraine, Murat Sahin

Murat Sahin visited the Child Rights Protection Center for the first time and evaluated it, as the UNICEF was involved in its creation and a large-scale development. During the tour, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights showed how modern and convenient the Center is for children and visitors. He sincerely thanked his colleagues from UNICEF and Mr. Sahin, in particular, for their involvement in projects important to Ukrainian children.



Subsequently, a delegation from UNICEF, led by the Regional Director of UNICEF, Regina De Dominicis, visited the Child Rights Protection Center.



Dmytro Lubinets informed her that the Office of the Ombudsman is using all available means to return children to their homes in Ukraine who were deported and forcibly resettled from the temporarily occupied territories to Russia.

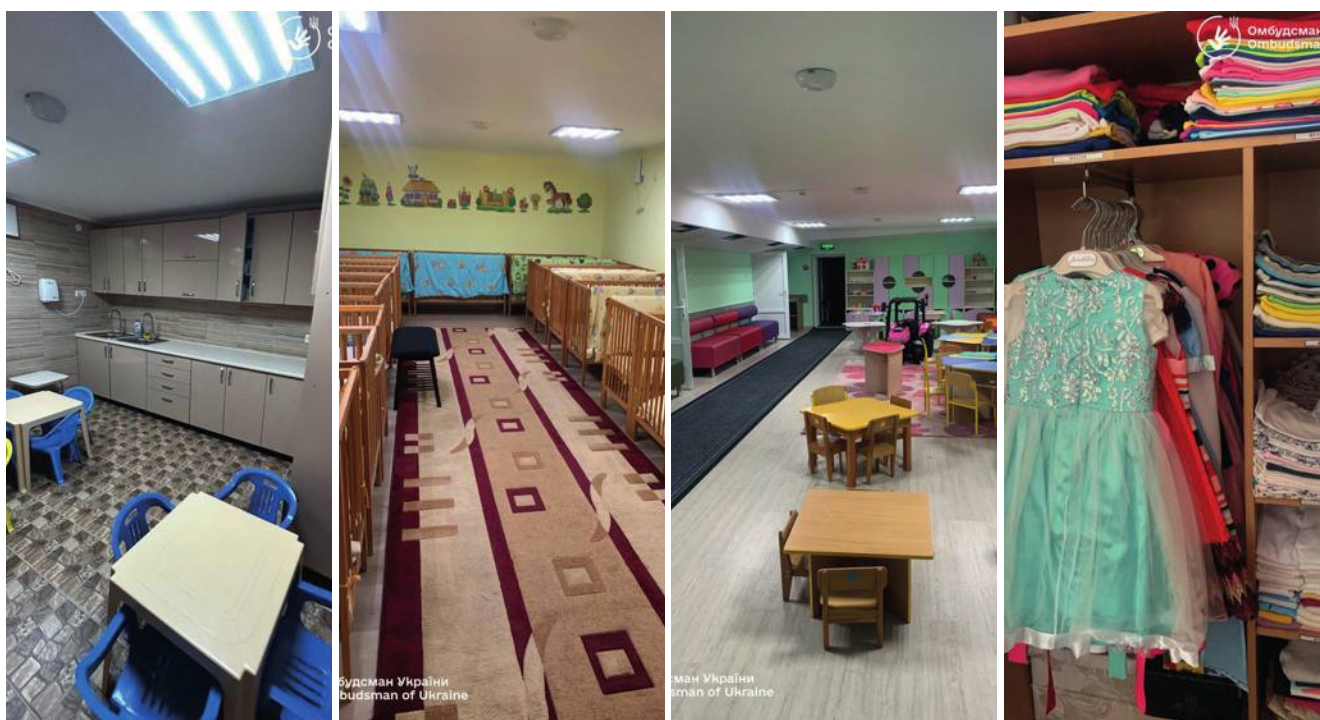
«We are pleased to have like-minded people who are also interested in ensuring that Ukrainian children who suffered in the war started by Russia have a dignified childhood and protected rights. Thank you, UNICEF!», Dmytro Lubinets said.

Children in Wartime Need a Lot of Support, Attention and Care from Us Adults

Pictured below is the Zhytomyr Regional Specialized Children's Home for Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care, which was visited by employees of the Ombudsman's Office on a monitoring visit.

There is a wide range of services, in particular, medical, psychological, pedagogical assistance, social rehabilitation for children from birth to 6 years old. There is a department for those born prematurely or those born sick, as well as inpatient and palliative care.

On the day of the inspection, there were 60 children in the institution, of which 13 were infants, 37 were aged from one to three, and the rest were aged 3 and over.



Good living conditions have been created for children:

- they are provided with clothes, shoes, personal hygiene products;
- the sanitary and hygienic, light and air regime is maintained, a power generator is available;
- the staff takes care of the supply of food and water, there are no expired food products;
- pupils of the institution use a specially equipped Montessori room, a psychological relief office, sports and music halls, work with a speech therapist and in an interactive game room;
- the shelter has separate rooms for each department, conditions have been created for carrying out certain rehabilitation services, there is a supply of water, a kitchen and a sanitary room.

There are no “others’ children” in peacetime, even more so in times of war!

International Partners Are Ready to Assist Ukraine in Protecting Children's Rights

In August, the Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets held two meetings with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Ukraine **Kim Hyung-Tae**.

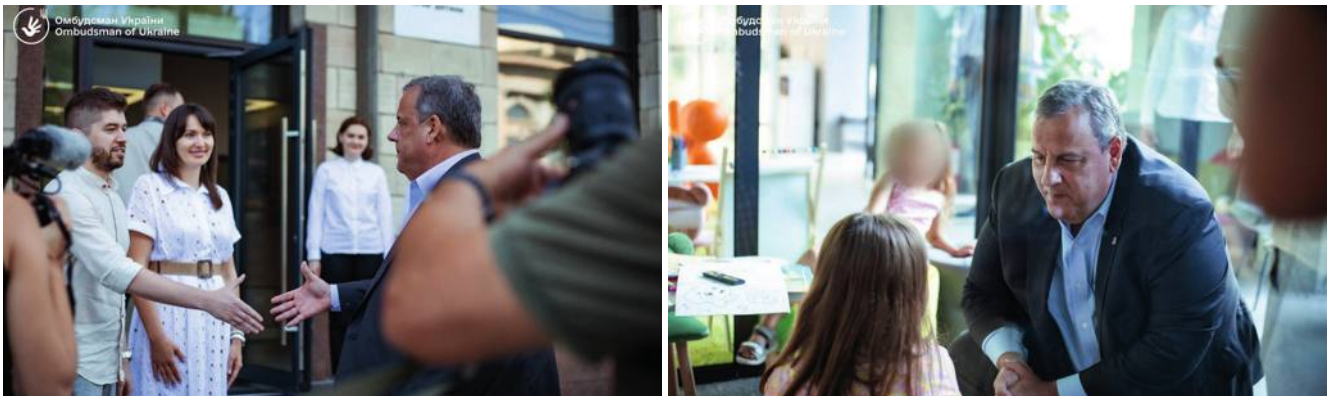
They talked about cooperation and the implementation of future projects. The focus is on protecting the rights of Ukrainian children and helping them in this difficult time for the country. In particular, it is about psychological and social rehabilitation. The foreign delegation was impressed by the work of the Child Rights Protection Center.



«I am convinced that very soon we will have concrete results of our interaction», said Dmytro Lubinets.

Ukraine and South Korea understand that the main responsibility is to protect the rights of children. Therefore, after the negotiations, the delegations will commence their work on the implementation of useful projects.

Christopher Christie, a member of the United States Republican Party, the governor of New Jersey in 2010-2018, also visited the Child Rights Protection Center.



He inspected the Center and talked with the children who were there. During the mini-excursion, Christopher Christie discovered how the Center provides psychological and legal support to children.

Mr. Christie also inquired about the fate of Ukrainian children deported to Russia. He was interested in what happens to children who are forcibly transported to a foreign country. So he was explained about how Ukrainian children are transferred to new families, re-educated and taught to «be Russian».

The people of Ukraine express their sincere gratitude for the support of the United States of America and all the people of the United States.

All Children Shall Have a Happy Childhood

With the support of the Ombudsman's Office, the charitable organization «ICF Foundation of Friends of Ukraine» managed to implement the project «Tranquil Heart. A Summer of Limitless Possibilities».

During August, about 30 Ukrainian children who suffered from the war will spend a vacation in Portugal, accompanied by tutors and psychologists.

The goal of this project is to create a safe and reliable environment for Ukrainian children who experienced the horrors of war. To give the sincerest smiles and rest, which will dilute at least a little with bright colours in the memory what they had to experience.

The more such initiatives arise, the happier children will be in our country.



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Monitoring the Decent Living Conditions of Internally Displaced Persons

Employees of the Department for Monitoring the Rights of Citizens Who are Victims of Armed Aggression against Ukraine, with the involvement of the regional coordinator of interaction with the public of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and representatives of the «Right to Protection» Charitable Organization, monitored the living conditions of IDPs in compact settlements located in the liberated territories of Sumy region.

The following places where IDPs live have been visited:

1. Dormitory of the Separate Structural Subdivision of the «Okhtyrka Vocational College of the Sumy National Agrarian University».
2. The hotel of the subsidiary company «Elehiia» as a place of compact residence of internally displaced persons of the Trostyanets City Council of the Sumy Region.
3. Dormitory of the Communal Institution of the Trostyanets City Council «Football Club «Trostyanets»».
4. Center for Compact Accommodation of IDPs of the Trostyanets City Council of the Sumy Region.

During the visit of the IDPs located on the territory of the Trostyanets Municipal United Territorial Community, the living conditions of the IDPs are being actively improved.

Capital repairs have already been completed or are being completed in the PCS, including the renovation of the premises, which is financed with the funds of the territorial community and international donors.



The issue of the residence of internally displaced persons in places of compact settlement, in particular those living near the combat zone, is under the constant control of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

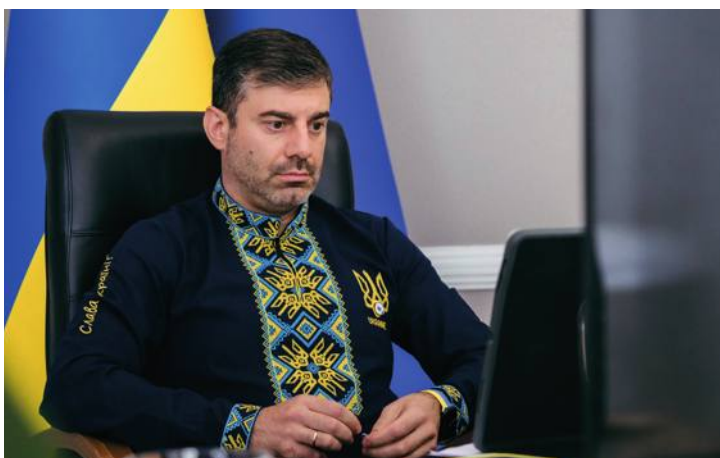
Ukrainians Abroad will be able to Receive Pensions and other Types of Financial Aid through an International Postal Transfer

The Ukrainian Government has approved a project developed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, which will allow Ukrainians living abroad to receive pensions and other types of financial aid through an international postal transfer.

JSC «Ukrposhta» will pay pensions and benefits abroad. The innovation will make it easier for citizens who previously received pensions by mail and did not have bank accounts to receive funds. To do this, everyone who needs it will only have to send an application to JSC «Ukrposhta» in paper or electronic form.

Ukrainians residing in the Republic of Poland will be able to use the service at first, and in the future - in other countries as well. **These services will be free of charge for citizens of Ukraine.**

The right to financial assistance was renewed



We received an appeal from a mother of six children. The woman said that after the outbreak of full-scale war, her husband was killed by shelling. To save the lives of her children, she moved from her hometown to a safer region, Zakarpattia.

There, a mother with many children applied to the social security authorities for an IDP allowance. However, due to technical problems, she was only partially paid.

The Ombudsman's Office immediately sent inquiries to the National Social Service of Ukraine, the State Enterprise «Information and Computing Center of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine» and the Department of Social Protection of the Population of Uzhhorod District State Administration to eliminate the violations.

As a result, the rights of the displaced mother and her six children were restored. They were paid an IDP allowance of UAH 92,000 for the previous period. This is a significant support for the family in the current difficult circumstances.



Olga Altunina

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The right of a citizen of Ukraine who did not receive a pension for almost 1 year was restored

The Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights was contacted by a man who is a ward of one of the geriatric boarding houses in Dnipropetrovsk region and a person with a disability since childhood.

The appeal referred to the illegal transfer of part of his pension during 11 months to the account of the institution where he was being cared for - in particular, even after the applicant voluntarily left that institution.

Previously, he turned to lawyers, but the case could not be moved. And only after applying to the Office of the Ombudsman, he was restored to the right to an adequate pension.

The employees of the Office established the reason for the termination of the pension payment to the applicant. It was a change in the method of pension payment, which subsequently led to its non-receipt.

According to the results of the provided recommendations, the Pension Fund of Ukraine took measures to renew the pension and ensure payment of the debt for 11 months. It will be counted already in August this year.

Museums, Theatres, Churches... What Did Cultural Objects Do to the Occupiers?

Every day, the regions of Ukraine come under aggressor state's fire. The targets of the occupiers are civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, museums, churches...

By such shelling of peaceful cities and civilian objects, the enemy violates the laws and customs of warfare and international humanitarian law. The intentional destruction of cultural objects is also a war crime.



Photo by Mykhailo Kuchnev

So far, the Russian Federation has damaged and destroyed 1,804 cultural objects. Among them are 763 objects of Ukrainian cultural heritage. There are damaged or destroyed objects in 15 regions of Ukraine. Ukraine cannot estimate the destruction on the temporarily occupied territories. It will be possible to give full estimations only after the liberation of these territories.

How does UNESCO, the UN and other international organizations react to these destructions?

The topic of the destruction of cultural heritage by the occupiers in Ukraine was raised at the UN Security Council during a meeting held under the Arria formula. The Director General of UNESCO also called for an end to attacks on Ukrainian cultural objects. And after the shelling of Odesa, **Denise Brown**, the coordinator of the UN system in Ukraine, visited the city.

In addition, a list of destroyed or damaged cultural objects in Ukraine can be found on the UNESCO website. However, is this type of reaction enough? What steps might be more effective?

Firstly, it is necessary to condemn Russia's crimes against the cultural heritage of Ukraine. After all, the destruction of cultural heritage objects is a war crime according to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Secondly, consider the issue of depriving the Russian Federation of its status as a member of UNESCO. And also - of excluding Russia from the UN Security Council.

Thirdly, promote and call on other international organizations to help rebuild and restore damaged monuments of history and culture in Ukraine, which are recognized as part of the UNESCO world heritage.

The world community must react strongly to the actions of the Russian Federation, which are aimed at destruction, not only by condemnation. After all, what the Russian Federation is doing is a violation of international humanitarian law. And there should be responsibility for this!



Olena Kolobrodova

Representative of the Commissioner for Social and Economic Rights

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Work in the International Sphere

The Ombudsman of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, held an online meeting with the President of the International Ombudsman Institute, the Ombudsman of Australia, **Chris Field**.

First of all, the Ombudsman of Ukraine thanked his colleague for the participation in the important human rights activities organized by the Ukrainian Office last year. They also discussed support for future conferences and his visit to Ukraine.

In particular, the future «Crimean Platform» event was discussed. Dmytro Lubinets invited Chris Field to be the keynote speaker at the Ombudsmen Conference within this year's event. His authority among human rights commissioners is significant, so an event with such a speaker would bring good ideas and solutions to human rights protection issues.



Visit of the Ombudsman of Ukraine to Qatar

During the visit, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets, had a number of bilateral meetings with:

- **Lolwah Rashid Al-Khater**, the State Minister for International Cooperation;
- **Dr. Mohammed bin Saif Al-Kuwari**, the Deputy Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee;
- **Nawaf Al-Hammadi**, Deputy Director General of Qatar Charity.

Among the main topics was the protection of the rights of Ukrainian children. One of the key vectors of work is the return of little Ukrainians deported and forcibly relocated by Russia and the illegal detention of civilians by the Russians in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.





The topic of humanitarian challenges and problems that appeared in Ukraine as a result of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation has also been raised.

The meetings in Qatar also served as **preparation for the implementation** of actions regarding the return of our citizens to their homes.

The Ombudsman of Ukraine Holds Meetings with High-Level International Delegations

On August 23, the Ombudsman of Ukraine met with the **President of Hungary, Katalin Novak**. Dmytro Lubinets gave a tour of the Center and told about its activities. He noted that this very place shall become a **center for restoring the rights of children who experienced the war**.



The Commissioner informed the guest that the Office of the Ombudsman **monitors compliance with the rights of representatives of the Hungarian national minority (community) in Ukraine at their place of residence in Zakarpattia region**.

He emphasized that he is ready to visit the region with the Hungarian Ombudsman and conduct joint monitoring there.

On the same day, Dmytro Lubinets had a **friendly and open conversation with the delegation of the Republic of Moldova headed by the Prime Minister Dorin Recean.**



During the delegation's visit, the space was visited by a boy who managed to be returned to Ukraine. He told the Prime Minister that Ukraine is great and he is glad to be here. The boy also mentioned his hobbies, in particular, that he likes mathematics and physical education. Foreigners were interested in talking with a little Ukrainian.

«Let me emphasize that we hold meetings with foreign delegations in order to defend the interests of Ukraine and tell the whole world the truth! I am grateful to the countries that support our state!», says Dmytro Lubinets.

On the Independence Day of Ukraine, August 24, the Ombudsman of Ukraine met with **the President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.**



Together they discussed, among other matters, the return of deported children, the Ukrainian Peace Formula, the interaction between the Office of the Ombudsman and the Portuguese delegation.

The President of Portugal invited Dmytro Lubinets to his country, and the Commissioner, in turn, offered the President or his representatives to join the annual conference dedicated to the World Human Rights Day.



Olga Strepochenko

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An important meeting with representatives of the Arab diaspora in Ukraine

Mykhailo Spasov, Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political Views and Religious Beliefs, held a working meeting with representatives of the Syrian, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Lebanese diasporas in Ukraine.

The meeting was also attended by Elvin Kadyrov, the Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Residents of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, members of the Expert Council on National Minorities and Indigenous Peoples under the Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, the Rights of National Minorities, Political Views and Religious Beliefs, **Ashot Avanesyan** (chairman of the NGO «Council of National Communities of Ukraine») and **Abu Alrub Emad** (president of the NGO «Ukrainian Center for Dialogue and Communications»).



They discussed cooperation on the protection of the rights of national minorities (communities) in Ukraine during the war. Mykhailo Spasov reported that the Commissioner's Secretariat, with the support of the Council of Europe, has started a study of the state of observance of the rights and freedoms of national minorities of Ukraine in wartime conditions. The purpose of the research is to obtain a picture of migration and the consequences that representatives of national minorities suffered due to the war.

The participants of the meeting shared their own stories of their life in Ukraine, talked about what they are doing for the faster victory of our state.

During the meeting, there was an atmosphere of patriotism, love for Ukraine and a feeling of home, which they found here.

Mykhailo Spasov thanked those present and emphasized that they can always turn to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in case of violation of the rights of national minorities (communities).



Mykhailo Spasov

Representative of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms, Rights of National Minorities, Political and Religious Beliefs

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Safeguarding the Protection of Personal Data

The applicant addressed the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights regarding numerous phone calls and SMS messages to the applicant's mobile phone number by representatives of a collection company regarding repayment of debt under a loan agreement of another person.

The applicant emphasized that such actions of the collection company caused interference in his personal and family life.

During the proceedings, the Commissioner managed to establish that no actual transaction was concluded between the applicant and the financial company.

Thus, measures were taken to stop interference in the personal and family life of the applicant/ thereby renewing his right to protection of personal data.

In particular, at the request of the Representative of the Commissioner, the responsible company carried out internal checks of the specified circumstances, as a result of which the processing of the applicant's personal data was terminated.

Training in the Field of Information Rights Protection

Employees of the Information Rights Monitoring Department conducted training on the peculiarities of handling complaints regarding violations of the requirements of the Law of Ukraine «On Access to Public Information» under martial law conditions for regional representatives of the Commissioner and employees of the Department for Supporting the Work of Regional Representations of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.



Speakers of the training were **Maryna Ostrenska** and **Oleksandr Yurchenko**, experts of the Unit for Rights to Access to Information. They talked about ensuring the right to access to public information under martial law, focusing on the specifics of considering requests for information, complaints about the violation of citizens' rights to information, in particular regarding the restriction of access to information under wartime conditions.

The participants were provided with practical recommendations and explanations regarding the realization of citizens' right to access public information.



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No Complaints Received: Employees of the Ombudsman's Office Visited the POW Camp «Zakhid 1»

In order to perform the functions of the national preventive mechanism, the employees of the Department for Implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, together with representatives of public organizations, visited the state institution «Camp for Prisoners of War «Zakhid 1».

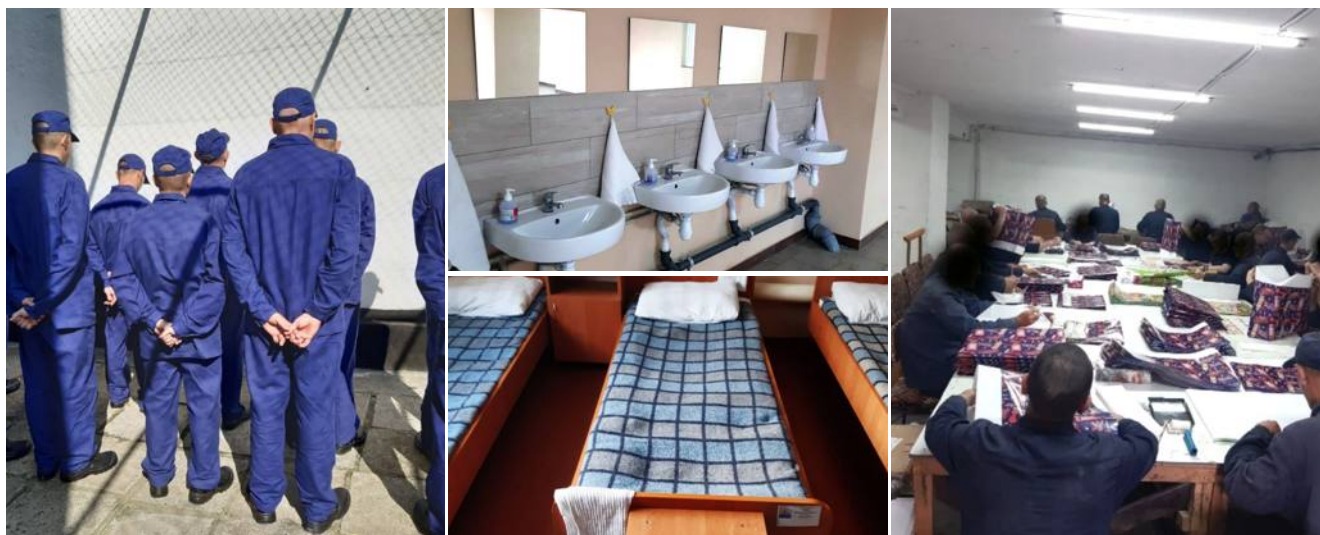
Representatives of the NPM group got to the place of detention **without any obstacles** and interviewed the prisoners of war.

There were no **complaints** from prisoners of war about conditions of detention, torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.

During the visit to the institution, the employees of the Office established that in the camp during 2022-2023, proper household and sanitary and hygienic conditions were created for prisoners of war. In particular, repair work was carried out in the building of the dormitory where prisoners of war live, in the premises of the food block, and on the roof of production shop No. 2.

In addition, the camp administration created jobs for prisoners of war.

Also, in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the camp administration ensures the right of prisoners of war to correspond and make telephone calls. By the time of the visit, there had been more than 2,000 telephone conversations. With the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Russian prisoners of war sent 430 letters and received 280.



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Compliance with Procedural Rights in Ukraine

Currently, children, disabled persons and victims of human trafficking can apply for free legal aid in Ukraine.

Amendments to the Law of Ukraine «On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Simplifying Access to Free Legal Aid» shall come into force in August 2023.

With the entry into force of the Law, children, incapacitated persons and persons whose legal capacity is limited will be able to independently apply for free primary legal assistance - to receive consultations and clarifications on legal issues. They also get the right to apply for free secondary legal assistance in person on issues that such persons are allowed to bring to court.

Victims of human trafficking are also entitled to free secondary legal aid. With the entry into force of the Law, those persons will receive the right to apply to the system of providing free legal aid on issues related to the protection of their rights as stipulated by the Law of Ukraine «On Combating Human Trafficking» and to receive the legal services such as representation in courts and drawing up procedural documents.



Also, the Law provides for the mandatory participation of a lawyer in the court consideration of cases regarding the limitation of the civil legal capacity of a physical person, his recognition as incapacitated, and the provision of psychiatric assistance to a person.

In the event that the holder of the right to free secondary legal assistance does not speak the state language and/or has a hearing impairment, centers providing free secondary legal assistance have the right to hire an interpreter through the funds of the state budget.

According to the new Law, the defining principles of providing legal aid guaranteed by the state are its availability and quality

The need to adopt this Law lies in the fact that since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, the number of migrants and internally displaced persons has increased and the risk of Ukrainian citizens falling into the situation of human trafficking has increased.

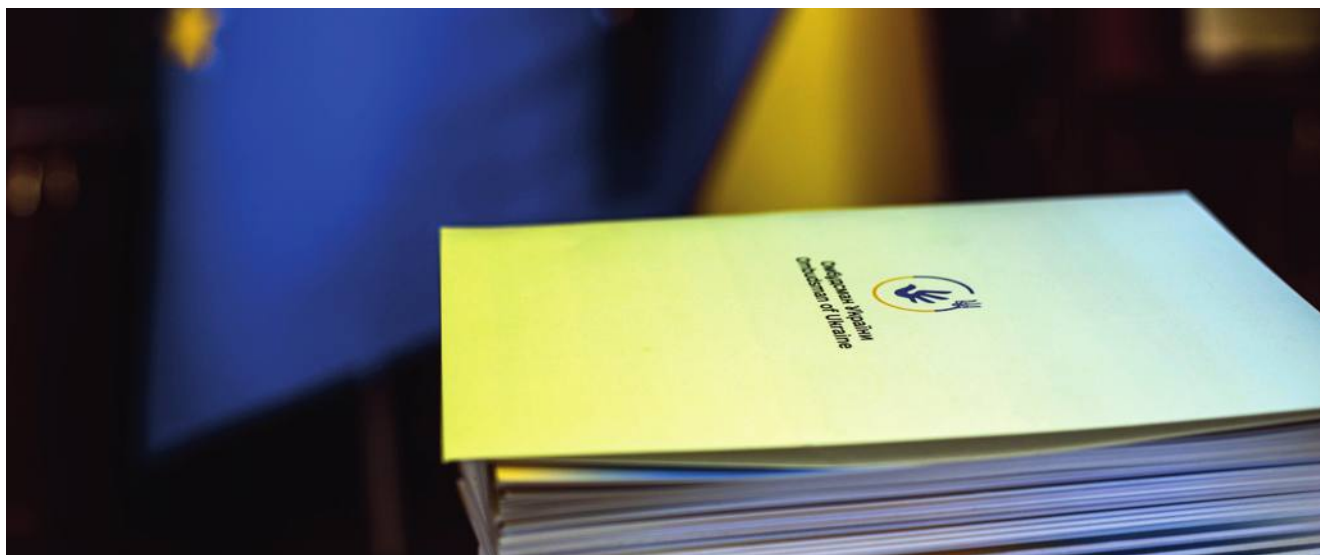
The implementation of the Law will allow, in particular, in the conditions of martial law, to carry out an appropriate response to cases of human trafficking, to protect the rights of persons who have suffered from human trafficking to free secondary legal aid, to ensure the effective implementation of the right to free legal aid, by improving the procedure for submitting and consideration of appeals of such persons.

The Office of the Ombudsman will play a critical role in monitoring and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Act.

The Violated Procedural Rights of the Victim Were Restored, and the Convict was Sent to Serve his Sentence

The victim appealed to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights with a request to restore her right to the execution of the sentence and to receive a copy of the decision of the appeal. The employees of the Commissioner's Office found out that the court of appeal delayed returning the materials of the criminal proceedings to the court of first instance for more than 8 months. Such a delay became an obstacle in enforcing the sentence, and also violated the victim's right to receive a copy of the court decision.

The Commissioner sent a request to the court of appeal to find out the reason for not returning the case file to the lower court. Later, the appellate court did return the case materials, and on the same day the court of first instance sent an executive order to the police. The victim received a copy of the decision of the court of appeal. However, solely because of the intervention of the Commissioner, the convict in this case was detained and sent to serve a prison sentence. The victim's right to execution of the sentence has been renewed!



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Human Rights in Ukraine

Since the Beginning of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

2 576

people released from Russian captivity

including →

144

civilians

≈

25 000

persons missing under special circumstances and illegally deprived of personal liberty as a result of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine

*According to the information of the state bodies involved in this issue

9 444

killed civilians

16 940

injured civilians

503

dead children

1 115

injured children

1 168

missing children

19 595

children forcibly taken to Russia

1.4 million

people without access to water due to the destruction of infrastructure

4.6 million

people with limited access to water

4.9 million

people now identified as IDPs

8.2 million

people receiving temporary shelter in other countries

≈ **700 thousand**

people in Ukraine were left without drinking water due to the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station

3 554

destroyed educational institutions

1 031

destroyed kindergartens

1 610

destroyed healthcare facilities

348

destroyed religious buildings

1 804

destroyed objects of culture

≈ **167 000**

destroyed houses

126

destroyed railway stations

346

destroyed bridges and bridge crossings

576

destroyed boiler houses

426

destroyed factories and businesses

* As of August 23, 2023

«Ombudsman of Ukraine» chatbot has been launched!



This is an opportunity to get answers to important questions quickly and conveniently. It contains important information divided into 17 categories.

In particular, servicemen, internally displaced persons, and families with children can receive answers about their rights here. There is also a category for people who are in the temporarily occupied territory or were forcibly deported.

The chatbot is available at
[@ukraine_ombudsman_bot](https://t.me/ukraine_ombudsman_bot)



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

The Russian Federation and all the war criminals it sent to Ukraine will bear the most serious responsibility for the evil they committed.

Ukraine meticulously documents every crime and every brutality. All those who are guilty will undoubtedly be held accountable.

We will never forget or forgive. And so is the world.

#StandWithUkraine



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